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WILLIAM E. DODGE AS A SYSTEMATIC GIVER.—II.

BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

In this second sketch of Mr. Dodge we shall consider his *habits of giving*, because the ministry of money is the great matter on which, particularly, disciples need education and transformation.

How much depends on a right beginning! When Dodge was yet a boy, Obookiah's short career and early death called attention to his native Hawaiian Islands, and William proposed to some companion boys a "missionary potato patch," and a piece of swamp land was cultivated for God; and tho' the season was exceptionally dry, that patch yielded abundance, and the proceeds went to Obookiah's education. It is doubtful whether a deeper thrill of joy ever passed through Mr. Dodge's heart in giving to God's work, than when he felt in his own palm the money he got for that first load of potatoes.

All his life Mr. Dodge remained loyal to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, with which from early manhood he had been officially connected. This again nourished his habits of giving, for he kept himself acquainted with missionary operations the world over.

The central secret of his large and versatile benevolence is to be found, however, in his deliberate *life plan*. As his main purpose was not to be rich, but to be useful, his wealth was regarded as an avenue to service. The hour when he began to have an income was the hour when he began to actively distribute, and this is with every true giver the basis of a habit of giving. Nothing is more illusive than the dream of *benevolence after accumulation*. Habit is ironclad for its fixedness, and habits of avaricious hoarding are practically immutable. He who defers his giving till he has done his hoarding, finds his wealth locked up in vaults of which a tyrannical and heartless selfishness holds the key. Such a man has already learned to get and keep, and to reconcile his mind, heart, and conscience to a course that is distinctly unscriptural and in a high sense immoral; and that lesson not one man in a million ever unlearns. No vice is more common, more