

### Letting Go is Taking Hold.

Giving is getting; letting go is holding on, in God's service. Not what we get, but what we give, is the measure of our possessions. As we let go of what we value, rather than as we hold on to it, it is made ours. Dr. Bushnell expressed this truth when he said, characteristically, "You never know a truth until you've told it to somebody else." And Browning illustrates it when he says:

"A poor man served by thee shall make thee rich;

A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong;

Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense  
Of service thou renderest."

And, most of all, St. Paul emphasizes the basal truth when he reminds us, "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

### The Influence of a Look.

Disappointment, ailment, or even weather depresses us; and our look or tone of depression hinders others from maintaining a cheerful and thankful spirit. We say an unkind thing, and another is hindered in learning the holy lesson of charity that thinketh no evil. We say a provoking thing, and our sister or brother is hindered in that day's effort to be meek. How sadly, too, we may hinder without word or act! For wrong feeling is more infectious than wrong doing; especially the various phases of ill-temper.—gloominess, touchiness, discontent, irritability,—do we not know how catching these are?—*Frances Ridley Havergal.*

### The Two Ways.

None of us can tell for what God is educating us. We fret and murmur at the narrow round and daily task of ordinary life, not realizing that it is only thus that we can be prepared for the high and holy office which awaits us. We must descend before we can ascend. We must suffer if we would reign. We must take the via crucis (way of the cross) submissively and patiently if we would tread the via lucis (way of light). We must endure the polishing if we would be shafts in the quiver of Emmanuel. God's will comes to thee and me in daily circumstances, in little things equally as in great; meet them bravely; be at your best always, though the occasion be one of the very least; dignity the smallest summons by the greatness of your response.—*Rev. F. B. Meyer.*

### Daily Readings.

|         |           |                                 |                  |
|---------|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Mon.,   | Mar. 21.— | Fishermen won                   | Matt. 4 : 12-22  |
| Tues.,  | " 22.—    | The end of the ungodly.         | Ps. 1            |
| Wed.,   | " 23.—    | Drawn unto death                | Prov. 24 : 1-12  |
| Thurs., | " 24.—    | Kind to the King.               | Matt. 25 : 31-40 |
| Fri.,   | " 25.—    | Beside all waters.              | Luke 8 : 14-15   |
| Sat.,   | " 26.—    | Surprises at last.              | Luke 13 : 24-30  |
| Sun.,   | " 27.—    | Topic—Missions among Lumbermen. | John 6 : 1-14.   |

Irresolution is a fatal habit; it is not vicious in itself, but it leads to vice, creeping upon its victims with a fatality the penalty of which many a fine heart has paid at the scaffold. The idler, the spendthrift, the epicurean and the drunkard are amongst its victims.

## Our Young People

### Missions Among Lumbermen.

John 6 : 14; March 27.

Each year an army of 100,000 stalwart men leave their homes in town and country and go forth to the lumber camps of Canada, most of them never seeing their homes again for many dreary months. The South African contingents were small in comparison with this annual departure. These brave men penetrate the deepest recesses of the forest from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. How many of us have stopped to wish God speed to this great host, or have done anything in the way of sending loving messages after them into the forest depths?

The last report of the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee states that "the Presbyterian Church is the only Protestant denomination which has thus far engaged in this branch of work systematically." About the time of the Union in 1875 of the various Presbyterian Churches in Canada, Rev. Dr. D. M. Gordon, then minister of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, now Principal of Queen's University, Kingston, along with a number of the wealthy lumbermen of his congregation and city, made a beginning in this work, which was placed under the care of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, and called the Mission to Lumbermen. The work, with very slight changes in administration, has been continued up to the present. The income of the Mission is derived from contributions of congregations and individuals.

In former days the great lumber forests were along the valley of the Ottawa and within the bounds of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa. But those days have passed, and the fields have widened over New Ontario and the far West. The Synod has asked the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee to take up the work and prosecute it on a scale corresponding to the needs of the whole country. This the Home Mission Committee are desirous of doing, and as thoroughly as their means will allow.

Missionaries in the districts lying near lumber camps are giving larger attention than ever to the spiritual needs of the men in these camps. Besides this, Mr. W. G. Brown, a graduate of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, spent the winter of 1902-03 as a missionary among the lumbermen along the line of the Canada Atlantic Railway, east of Scotia Junction, in the Presbytery of North Bay. In the Presbytery of Algoma, Rev. E. D. Pelletier was similarly engaged among the lumbermen in that region.

The great aim of the Mission to Lumbermen has been to furnish the men with good reading, and to place it in their hands through our ministers, missionaries, and collectors, who also conduct such religious services as time and circumstances permit. Large quantities of literature have been purchased, mostly from the Upper Canada Religious Book and Tract Society, from which valuable gifts have also been received year by year. In this way there are distributed annually about 25,000 books, pamphlets, and tracts amongst the various camps. Such publications as "The Sunday at Home," "Leisure Hours," are most eagerly welcomed by the men. After being read by them, they are often brought home and treasured and read for years. Thousands of papers and tracts in French and Gaelic

are also sent out. The Presbyteries of Algoma and North Bay have also engaged extensively in similar work, and the Mission to Lumbermen has often had the pleasure of helping them with literature.

The Canadian Reading Camp Association under the guidance of Rev. Alfred Fitzpatrick, of Niirn Centre, Algoma, has made an interesting departure in the way of building and furnishing reading rooms for the use of the men in the camps, and has been rewarded with considerable success.

A Reading Camp, it may be explained, is a separate building, erected in places where lumbering operations are being carried on, where books, magazines, and newspapers may be kept, and where the men may have a comfortable place to read. There are twenty-five such places in the lumber camps of Ontario. Last year the Ontario Government sent out thirty-one Travelling Libraries, containing fifty books each in a case, to the newer and more sparsely settled parts of the Province. Most of these were sent to mining and lumber camps. From thirty to seventy-five per cent. of the men take advantage of the provision thus made.

The Reading Camp is a school as well as a library. During the winter of 1902-03, ten qualified teachers, three of them being college graduates, gave instruction in reading camps. In one camp half a dozen French boys learned to read easy English, three boys learned to write, and about a dozen improved their arithmetic. In two others, twenty boys received instruction in reading, fifteen in arithmetic, two in book-keeping, and twenty in writing. The Reading Camp is used also for public worship. The income of the Reading Camp Association is derived chiefly from voluntary contributions. The Ontario Government aids it with a small grant, and the Home Mission Committee of our Church for two or three years past has given some financial assistance. The literature, in addition to the Travelling Libraries mentioned above, is supplied by congregations, Young People's Societies, Colleges, the Aberdeen Association, publishers, and others. Two manufacturing companies last year gave a stove each, and the Presbyterian Church, Weston, Ont., an organ.

There is no doubt that in sections near railways and villages, the work of the Association, with its reading rooms and evening classes, can be carried on with much success, but in the far distant camps an occasional visit from the missionary is the best services we have been able to render, and this we believe has been of inestimable benefit.

It is doubtful if there is in the world any similar class of men, toiling away from home and church and friends, who are on the whole more high-minded and pure in life than our Canadian shantymen. Very much of this happy and continually improving state of affairs is due to our mission to lumbermen, which, although it has been one of the smallest of our church schemes, has done a work which will tell upon the future of our country—East and West.

NOTE—The facts regarding the Mission to Lumbermen in the above article have been contributed by Rev. M. H. Scott, M.A., Hull, Que., who has charge of the Mission to Lumbermen under the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa.