

ing of spiritual life. If we contribute less than we ought to do, it will tend to poverty. That is sure; I say so deliberately. I have seen again and again, times without number, individuals who could not get on in business, because they refrained from giving,—because they lived for themselves. They retained the money they had made, and therefore their business did not prosper. The Lord could not entrust *them* with means as stewards, as otherwise He would have done. If we would not wish *our* lives to pass away without doing good, let us so act as to be in accordance with the mind of the Lord in this matter.

THIS GIVING PLEASANT.

While no command is given as to the proportion, yet it is desirable, on account of our weakness and infirmity, and of the love of money, to fix on some definite amount. Better fix on the smallest amount, in order to give systematically as the Lord prospers us, than to fix none at all.* Whether it be a tenth, a fifth, a third,—whatever it may be—let us decide as children in the fear of the Lord, and then, having decided,—gladly, joyfully *do it*. What will be the result? We shall find how true is that word, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” We shall find it so helpful, so beneficial every way, that we shall be glad to take a step forward and do more, and then another, and another. Nay, more than this, God will entrust us with more and more to give for Him. There is no conception what the carrying out of this principle would produce,—“Act as the Lord’s stewards.” As it is at present, all that is done by the Church of Christ is a mere trifle, compared with what would be done if this principle were carried out.” Take a man who earns five dollars a week: if he were to give one-twentieth part, there would be twenty-five cents a week for the Lord. Go on to those who have a larger income, and how great would be the amount that would be produced! I knew a servant of the Lord who began acting on this principle with an income of \$600 a year; and how God honoured that man, so much so, that in his lifetime he was enabled to give away more than \$150,000. He was not a man in business,—a simple servant of Christ. Because God pros-

*We cannot help noticing here, that what we believe prevents many a one from making this definite resolution is, that they are ashamed to own to themselves how little comparatively, they are doing for the Lord. They are ashamed to make even the mental resolution, “I will give this year \$ to the cause of God, and for the help of the needy;” while they may be very well aware, that if at the end of the year, all they have given should be added up, it would come to no more than that sum. They therefore make no resolution, and take no account of what they have given, thus altogether ignoring their position as stewards.