

earnestly. Indolence will never attain to the kingdom of heaven.

There is a phase of the human mind that is not sufficiently taken into account when we judge of motives. To make the best use of our experiences we should examine our motives, and try ourselves by the standard of impartial judgment, to which the final appeal must be made; and even then it is not always certain that we see the wrong in its wrongfulness, since he who is in the wrong is generally so from some deficiency in self-government or in moral perception, rather than from any wilful intention. There is not enough of the Christ spirit among us, praying: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." In other words, we do not enough consider the natural temperament, environment, and bringing up of those from whom we dissent. "To consider where it comes from," is a homely way of putting in a measure the same thought; but this phrase, as it is commonly used, oftentimes conveys a degree of contempt, which is not in consonance with the spirit of charity.

In regard to the almsgiving branch of charity I purpose not saying much, feeling that if we get the spirit and principle of the subject rightly installed in our hearts, that will naturally come right as fruit legitimately grown. One point, however, in relation to this is worthy of notice beyond that which is usually acted upon, and which is conveyed in the language of Jesus to his disciples as he sat over against the treasury and beheld the people casting in their contributions. Many that were rich cast in much, and a poor widow threw in two mites, of this observation Jesus says: "Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury; for all they did cast in of their abundance, but she of her want did cast in all she had, even all her living." There was no self denial or sacrifice in the offerings from out of abundance, though they gave largely. There is little virtue in giving that

which we do not need or do not want, or in giving what is not good enough to keep or that which we have tired of, though it may be of great value to the recipient. Yea, "it is more blessed to give than receive." But O, how we deceive ourselves, and lose the blessing after all our pride in bestowment. The blessing does not follow on account of the help the recipient received though he be made much more comfortable by our donation, but it is given according to the spirit that prompts the action. "See then that ye walk circumspectfully, lest the Lord say of any, I never knew you. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

GRIEF.

A guest at my door begged entrance,
I bade him begone from my gate,
But the hinges had long been rusted,
And grief tread my floor until late.

My soul grew humble before him,
For God seemed so close to my side
Whispering ever "Child trust me
The lover of *men* and not *pride*."

The lover who ever stands ready
To meet his sorrowing child,
And who so lovingly waits
To lead us through brake and wild.

I sometimes think God loves to play on
Broken harps; He seems to have the power
Of binding up the shattered strings, and
Out of them the sweetest music flings
On the cold hearts of men.

Affliction but digs deeper in the
Garden of men's thoughts, and thus calls
forth
That which the world had never known
Until the spade of sorrow claimed it
As its own great prize of life's great mold.

—[ELLA WEEKS.]