

every scheme which takes from the people the exercise of generous feeling, tends to dwarf and cripple the manhood of the Church. In this view, as well as in many others, national ecclesiastical establishments prove a bane and a curse. The selfishness of our nature is subdued by the Gospel, and this is accomplished in part, by giving away. Nature itself conveys the lesson :—

“ See the rivers flowing
Downward to the sea,
Pouring all their treasures
Bountiful and free ;—
Yet to help their giving
Hidden springs arise ;
Or, if need be, showers
Feed them from the skies !

“ Watch the princely flowers
Their rich fragrance spread,
Load the air with perfumes
From their beauty shed ;—
Yet their lavish spending
Leaves them not in dearth,
With fresh life replenished
By their mother earth !

“ Give thy heart's best treasures—
From fair Nature learn !
Give thy love,—and ask not,
Wait not a return !
And the more thou spendest
From thy little store,
With a double bounty,
God will give thee more !”

The generous affections are strengthened, spiritual life is unfolded, and the soul is prepared for the joys of Heaven, by the exercise of this grace. It is the practical demonstration of sympathy with men and of faith in God : That we have heart enough to feel for the wants and woes of others, and faith to expect that scattering will increase our store. “ There is that scattereth and yet increaseth ; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat ; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.” The farmer who sows his seed with a niggardly hand is sure of a scanty harvest ; but he who generously supplies the furrows with what is meet, may confide in a gracious Providence : he seems to throw away his bread, yet it returns in golden harvests. Every act of faith in giving for Christ, shall be blessed. The penny of the poor becomes golden, in the sweet consciousness of doing good, and in the blessed approval of the Master. The cup of cold water only, given in the name of a disciple, shall in no case lose its reward, for as Christ changed the water into wine at the marriage feast of Cana, the smile of the Redeemer shall change the faithful, self-denying actions of time, into the wine of the marriage supper of the Lamb. “ Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

To give this subject a practical bearing among ourselves, will our Brethren think of some plans likely to bring out more of the Lord's money into the Lord's treasury ? The meeting of the Union will afford an opportunity for expressing them. We throw out, by way of suggestion, two thoughts. 1st.