

Where A very important recommendation to **Give**, made by the F. M. Committee of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., in its last Report, and adopted by the General Assembly of that Great Church was the following :

"That the members of our churches be advised to send their gifts for missions through the Board rather than through independent channels, Especially at the present crisis does the Board claim the loyal support of all Presbyterians who would contribute to the world's evangelization."

The *Church at Home and Abroad*, the organ of that Assembly, speaks of the above, as follows: "The significance of this advice is becoming more and more manifest as the number of applications by wandering Orientals increases throughout the land. *Nothing is more attractive* to these visitors from foreign lands than to raise money under the plea of independent native missionary work among their own countrymen.

It is a grave question whether it is wise or safe to place funds in irresponsible native hands for missionary purposes. The temptation to misappropriation of such funds is almost irresistible, and experience testifies that there is an elasticity of conscience about these matters which should lead all who truly desire a sound and sober use of mission funds to be very cautious how they encourage individual applications on the part of Orientals, no matter how plausible the application may appear.

Even if the applicant is perfectly sincere in purpose, the difficulties in carrying into effective operation irresponsible native missionary operations are almost prohibitory, and money which is given with the best of motives, and perhaps received with the purpose of devoting it to mission work, will be very likely to be wasted through the irresistible force of untoward circumstances. All level-headed givers to mission work should give through the regular authorized and responsible channels.

One of the great complaints which are made by natives in their own countries against missionaries is that they hold the purse-strings too tightly, which simply means that they are honest and rigidly conscientious in the discharge of their financial trusts."

An Old Man's Recollections. From an old man of four score and five years, living in Douglass, Ont., come the following memories of other days.

I see a short piece in last RECORD about the Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, almost wholly negroes, whose parents once were slaves, and which has now more than 10,000 communicants. I am so thankful.

When a lad I left my father's croft in Peter-

head, Aberdeenshire, and went to sea in a West India trader, and have often witnessed the cruelties inflicted on the slaves, and it delights me to hear of such a church among them now.

Once when discharging gravel ballast at a wharf in Jamaica, there were twelve blacks chained together drawing the cart or waggon to carry the ballast where it was wanted in the town. An old man with a Scotch accent came on the wharf and asked one of the negroes whom he called praying Jamanie, if he had quit praying yet. "No massa, me pray for you every day, and night too." "I will keep you here chained while you live if you don't quit," said the owner.

On the plantation I have seen a hundred or more in a field, with hoes, planting or hoeing the sugar cane, men and women, naked except a breech cloth on them, a white driver, riding on an ass or mule, and a black, on foot with a long whip to keep up the rear. Young negroes would leap and squeal when the lash was laid on, but the old ones seemed to have lost feeling.

Most inhuman of all it seemed to me, was the manner in which their women were treated. To see them hoeing their row or cutting cane in the awful heat, with a child tied on their back all day, having to nurse it or give it food of some kind, and should they fall behind, the only assistance given was generally the whip. The cruel punishments given have often brought tears to my eyes. How I thank God for their liberty.

Then when slavery was abolished in the West Indies, missionaries were sent to instruct them and fit them for freedom, and when the poor creatures learned that they were to be considered and treated as human beings, they gathered courage.

I see in the same RECORD that there have been changes of an opposite character in Scotland. I am astonished and pained to learn that the fishing population of Banffshire and Aberdeen have in a measure fallen away from the ordinances of the Church. How different in my early days. My father lived near a large fishing town called Boddour, since named Buchanness, and the people walked three and a half miles every Sunday. Across the Bay to Peterhead by boat would have been much easier, but the custom of the country was for all who were able, to walk to the kirk. Wealthy farmers were to be seen regularly walking their three miles, leaving their chaise at home. Col. Hutchinson, a wealthy ship owner, lived near a mile from town, and himself, his lady, and twenty-one children were to be seen every Sabbath walking in regular procession to church, on other days carriages were always used. I trust that the efforts of the Church may result in winning back these fisher folk to the piety of their fathers in the days when I was young.