

THE  
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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VOL. XI.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1865.

No. 10.

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GOD'S TREASURY.

There is remarkable power in the brief narration of events peculiar to the Word of God: a whole subject is often vividly placed before the mind by a few words. "Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury; and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in than all they who have cast into the treasury: for all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

That humble action is made to live down through all ages. A picture that speaks in every line is hung up in the temple of truth. We may gaze on its beauty, and take on impressions of its meaning. Whatever hidden significance may lie deep in the theme, there are many practical lessons on the very surface. All can understand the commendation of an unselfish and generous action—an action, too, in connection with the cause of God.

We learn—that GOD HAS A TREASURY. Religion has always had a bearing on the consecration of our substance to the Lord. In every dispensation we have instances. Abraham gave a tenth part of all to the King of Salem, priest of the most high God. At Bethel, Jacob's vow closed thus—"And of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto thee." Under the law there were offerings; while the temple in its erection and repair required a large dedication of property. A treasury was maintained to meet expenses in the house of God. Christianity clearly makes giving a grace—the effect of liberality on the heart being to mould it to a divine tenderness. If in our practise giving has but little place, what correspondence is there between us and the New Testament? "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness." "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye: upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

We learn—that JESUS EXERCISES A SUPERINTENDENCE OVER THE TREASURY. He sat over against it, observing the givers, the gifts, and the spirit of the contributors; the poor widow and many rich men. Remarkably