

duty in regard to devoting a portion of your substance to his service. Much depends on the spirit in which you make your offering. Let it be in faith; let it be lovingly, cheerfully, humbly—for God accepts such gifts and has pledged his word to bless the giver! As the christian should perform other acts of worship without long intermissions, he should act in the same manner in regard to this duty. To make weekly offerings was the ancient Christian practice, and it is undoubtedly the best. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by in store as God hath prospered him." We know of at least one congregation in our own church where this rule is followed, and where it has been attended with eminent success. The church is free from debt, the minister's salary is never in arrears, the missionary contributions are large and regular, the poor are not neglected; and yet all the supplies are furnished by the weekly freewill offerings of the congregation. You may not be able to make large donations: then let them be frequent however small. The little drops of rain feed the mountain rills, and the little mountain rills flowing together, make the great rivers. The pennies of the poor are as acceptable to God as the thousands of the rich. The dew-drop on the tiny blade of grass is as beautiful and beneficent in its place as the swelling sea.

If it be so that giving systematically, liberally, and cheerfully, of our substance for religious purposes is as much a duty and a privilege as prayer or any other act of worship, how important is it that ministers of the Gospel, Sabbath School Teachers and any whose duty it is to instruct and educate others, should declare the whole counsel of God regarding this matter! The false delicacy which deters ministers at times from dealing with the consciences of the people in reference to this duty is very reprehensible. The ambassador of Christ must not be frightened from declaring the whole counsel of God by taunts about "begging" or "money sermons" or the "pocket." No intelligent Christian will indulge in such taunts, and certainly no minister should regard them. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. You deprive your people of a noble privilege when you neglect to afford them frequent opportunities for making sacrifices for Christ. How thankful should we be that he seeks our aid in carrying on the work of redemption, in extending the bounds of his kingdom, and gathering in his elect from the four winds of Heaven! Blessed Jesus! thou didst make thyself poor that I might be rich; thou didst shed tears of unutterable anguish, thou didst pour forth thy soul unto death, for me; thou didst endure the shameful cross, the curse of the law, the wrath of God for me; thou didst sleep in the grave, thou didst arise victorious from that sleep, and having ascended to Heaven thou dost still intercede, for me;—and can it be that I shrink now from placing myself and all that I possess, wholly and for ever at thy service!

COLPORTAGE.

A man is known by the books he reads, the literature he loves, as well as by the company he keeps. He who holds converse through the printed page with the good and great of our own age and of past ages, will gather at least a little of their wisdom and their spirit; but the mind that feeds on the miserable yellow-covered trash that issues so cheaply and abundantly from the American press, cannot but be weak, dissipated, corrupt. It is matter for