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of life. In order to give forth we ourselves must first possess. We are so anxious to *do* that we sometimes forget that the first business of life is to *be*. Self-realization according to the Christ type of life is the first duty of every Christian. The surest and quickest way to serve others is by the attainment of a rich, deep personality of our own. The relation of character to service is most vital. What we really *do* in life is determined almost entirely by what we *are*. The teaching of Scripture confirms this principle again and again. The disciples were carefully instructed to *tarry* at Jerusalem before they went forth. They were to *attain* before they were to *achieve*. "Take heed, therefore, unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers" (Acts 20. 28). So Paul said to Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine" (1 Tim. 4. 16).

"Teach me, Father, how to be
Kind and patient as a tree.
Joyfully the crickets croon
Under shady oak at noon;
Beetle on his mission bent
Tarry in that cooling tent.
Let me, also, cheer a spot,
Hidden field or garden grove—
Place where passing souls can rest
On the way and be their best."

II. No man can help giving that which he himself possesses. "Such as I have give I thee." Our external possessions are subject to the control of our volition. We may give or not of money and such things as we wish. Not so with the spiritual qualities of the soul. In the sequel of the event here recorded we hear Peter and John say, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Conviction is sometimes so strong as to compel audible utterance. But the soul has other means of expression than by spoken language. It is under the law of necessity thus far at least that it *must* express itself. It does so as naturally and as inevitably as the sun gives forth the warmth of his rays. By the silent, subtle law of his being every man creates about him a miasma or an Eden. Which, is determined by the quality of his own soul—by his inner, secret character. The effluence of some personalities stifles us, while that of others makes us breathe a freer atmosphere. Nothing in this world is so contagious, so potential, so dynamic as strong Christian character. We give what we are always and inevitably.

Dr. Hugh MacMillan in a very suggestive ser-

mon on "The Action of Presence" says: "Not more constantly is the sun pouring forth its beams or a flower exhaling its fragrance than the Christian is radiating or exhaling influence from his character upon those around him. Wherever he is, whatever he does, this influence never ceases. It underlies all his actions; it runs side by side with all his words; it goes on when action ceases and words fail. What a man voluntarily chooses, says, or does is only occasional. He does not always think or always act. From pure fatigue he must, perforce, be silent and inactive at times. But what he *is*—that is necessarily perpetual, and coextensive with his being. The voluntary language of what I say or do is spasmodic, and liable to continual interruption; but the language of my character, of what I really am, is as continuous as my life itself, and suffers no more interruption than the beating of my heart or the breathing of my lungs. I cannot live at all without radiating this influence. Simply *to be* in this world is to exert an influence, compared with which mere words and acts are feeble."

III. The best gifts to our fellow-men are not material, but spiritual. If a man make this the occasion of an excuse for penuriousness he may very safely conclude that he has none of those larger and richer gifts herein referred to. Money is a great means of doing good, especially when the giver gives himself with his gift. But a man may render a high and holy service to his race who has not large means to use for the welfare of others. What, then, are some of these gifts?

(1) Truth. A new idea lodged in a mind may so broaden its horizon as to prove a blessing most valuable. A "knowledge which grows from more to more" saves life from its narrowness and brings the soul out into a larger place.

(2) A high ideal commended both by precept and example. "Ye are the salt of the earth," said Jesus. Moral inspiration is one of the great needs of the world. He is great in the true sense of the word who can impart it to his fellows.

(3) Sympathy. What a depth of meaning in the very word itself—*συμ* and *πασχω*, to suffer with! And no man ever really sympathizes with another unless he stands close enough by that other's side to feel the weight of a part of that other man's burden. What a practical expression of sympathy was this of Peter's, "and he took him by the right hand"! He did not merely touch his finger tips. But heartily and earnestly grasping his hand, "he lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones