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**Systematic Beneficence.**

**O**UR Church needs that all her members and adherents should be diligently instructed in the duty of systematically "giving to the Lord." Our property is God's, and He gives it to us subject to all His claims upon it. He may take it all from us and entrust it to another, a more faithful steward. Or, He may patiently bear with us from year to year, waiting for ampler fruit from the vineyard which He has planted. The responsibility rests upon us, and we cannot shirk it without peril to our souls.

1. We must learn to give regularly. The rule laid down by the inspired apostle was : "Upon the first day of the week."
2. We must give "as God has prospered us." This also is the divine command.
3. We must give cheerfully, not grudgingly, for the "Lord loveth a cheerful giver," and His soul abhors the greedy, grumbling, heartless, hypocritical giver.
4. We must give remembering that the Master "sits over against the treasury" and takes note of all that is given,—of the widow's mite and the rich man's bountiful donation. He weighs and measures all.
5. Let us remember that we are to meet our gifts in the future. What we sow we reap. The cup of cold water is remembered. The widow's mite has borne compound interest and will continue to produce an ever-increasing stream of benefaction till the end of time.

Well-doing is its own exceeding great reward: yet there is nothing more certain than that God has appointed ample rewards, both in this life and that which is to come, to crown all deeds of true beneficence. Blessings come upon the individual, upon the congregation, upon the Church at large, in propor-

tion to the faithfulness with which God's gifts and talents are used in His service. Let us then teach and preach the privilege of freely giving of our substance to the Lord; and let us pray for the grace of liberality. Let that mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus, who freely gave Himself for us. The Lord has need of our gifts in all departments of the Church's work.

We have no right, neither have we any desire, to dictate to any man what proportion of his substance he ought to dedicate to the Lord's service. But we feel constrained to bring this subject before the notice of all classes of professing Christians—old and young, rich and poor alike, and earnestly invite them to give it their best consideration. Giving is truly an act of worship, implying love, faith and obedience. To regard it in this light (says Dr. Beatty) is to lift this whole department of Christian duty to a higher plane. It removes it from the region of beggary. God is no longer treated as if He were some Lazarus seeking the crumbs which otherwise we would give to the dogs. It makes giving a joyous service. It makes giving a means of grace. Great things have been accomplished by system in giving. John Wesley attributed the success of Methodism to "the Grace of God and a penny a week." Spurgeon's congregation raise almost \$10,000 yearly for his college by giving a penny a week towards it. There is a great deal of indiscriminate, injudicious giving that is injurious to both the giver and receiver. But money freely given, after careful consideration as to what it is given for, usually carries a blessing with it.

The opinion largely prevails that one tenth of a man's income is the correct proportion to devote to all missionary and benevolent purposes. But the Bible lays down no such rule. In point of fact, we find that every