

Judea. Now, it is quite true that this injunction was given under peculiar circumstances; but I judge it as to the *principle*, that holds good up to the present day. On the first day of the week—the Lord's day—we should seek, among other things, to get a blessing to our souls, by considering how good have been His dealings to us in temporal affairs, and by laying aside accordingly for the poor, or for the Lord's work. But one may say, "I do not know how I may have prospered till I take stock at the end of the year." True we may not know it exactly; but every good man of business knows, somehow, how he has been prospering. If you have not such a knowledge, I question whether you are acting properly as a business man. But suppose you do not know exactly, yet according to the judgment you are able to form, so contribute. If, when the balance of your books is struck, you find you have prospered to a greater extent than you had supposed, you will then have it in your power to make up the deficiency. In most cases, persons with a regular income know how much they can afford. But where there is a difficulty, just do according to the best of your judgment.

RULE OF GIVING.

But it may be asked, "What proportion ought I to give?" Nothing can be laid down as a rule. Under the old dispensation, it was one-tenth of all that was earned from the produce of the land, or from other sources. But under the present dispensation no such commandment is given.* It is left to ourselves, because God delights to have His children acting as constrained by His love. He wants to have the service of love—the service of freedom. It should be the constraint of love. We should give joyfully. He delights in the cheerful giver. But whilst no express commandment is given, let us take heed lest we should give less than the Israelites did. Let us take heed, with the full revelation which God has made of Himself as our Father, and with the love of Christ to constrain us, let us see to it that we walk influenced by that precious love of Christ, and consider everything that we have as not our own. Let us see that we do not do less than Jacob did, under the influence of the first dawn-

* We differ here from Mr. Muller. It is true there is no explicit command given to Christians on this point. Nor is there on the subject of the Sabbath. It is not necessary. From the beginning, as the foundation of revealed religion, four things were established. That God should get (1) the whole heart, (2) the tenth of the income, (3) the seventh of the time, and (4) the first-born of the sons. These God claims to the end of the world. And as continent after continent is opening up to Christ we can perceive that the world cannot be converted until these four great principles are practically honoured by the Church. On these points the reader is referred to previous volumes of the Christian Monthly.—ED. C.C.M.