

"You owe nothing to me, Mrs. Porter, but you and I both owe a debt that will never be discharged in our lifetime."

"Why, Mrs. Dixon, what can you mean? No one joins more heartily than you in our pastor's favorite hymn,

"Jesus paid it all,
All the debt I owe."

"I mean He has paid my debt to the law. He has provided a free salvation for all mankind, and has committed the good gifts to us in trust for the whole human race. I do not believe we are honest while we keep it to ourselves. We are like old Uncle Jo, whom we used to meet every day on our way to school."

"Do you mean that white haired old man who used to stop us to say, 'My dears, I am the most miserable of men. I am in debt. My debt can never be paid. My debt can never be paid. Pity me, pity me.' Little Rosa Spaulding once made him take the ten cents that had been given her to buy her school luncheon, and the tears ran down her cheeks while she said, 'I will help you poor Uncle Jo. Your debt shall be paid.' Yes I remember it."

"My mother told me he had long before been made the executor of his father's estate with large sums of money committed to him in trust for his nieces and a nephew. It was just at the beginning of a great business panic and he lost the whole. Nobody thought him dishonest, but he was not quick to seize opportunities, and the disastrous ending of his responsible trust unsettled his mind. His old age was spent in lamenting his indebtedness and warning others."

"I see," said Mrs. Porter, "I ought to be glad there are some of you who feel the burden of this trust and are doing your best to make others pay it. But I have at least paid the interest on my share for this year. You do not want me at the Thank-offering meeting for that."

"We want you at the Thank-offering meeting to sing with us, 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all His gifts to me;' to give an offering, not because you have promised it, but because your heart is so full of gratitude you cannot help it."

"Don't expect me," said Mrs. Porter, as she stepped into her carriage. "I'm not emotional and I really cannot see any reason now why I should give more than I planned the first of the year and have paid."

But she could not put the matter out of her mind. The question kept coming back, what have I more than others that I should give thanks?