

and prosper and thus is fulfilled the promise,

"**THY BARNs SHALL BE FILLED WITH PLENTY** and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." Individuals, families, congregations that have honored the Lord with their substance have always been blessed and prospered. True there are those who increase in substance and do not honor the Lord with it. But because they grow rich they are not necessarily prospered. Their hearts are set on wealth and God permits them to get what they desire but their wealth is to them a curse.

In the history of the Jews we find a striking illustration of this truth we have been considering. They were required to give largely for religious purposes, one-tenth to God in sacrifice and temple service, etc. And as the tribe of Levi were given no inheritance, the land being all given to the other tribes, who were in return to give a tenth to the Levites for their support, every pious Jew thus gave one-fifth of his income. Do any think or say, what a burden! How poor it would make them! Not so, they had abundance. As long as they honored the Lord with their substance, their store-houses were literally filled with plenty.

But follow their history. After a time they became worldly, selfish, greedy. They neglected the Levites, whose share of the land they had, they neglected their tithes to the service of God. They did not bring the first fruits to Him but gave Him the last, the refuse, the lame, the torn, the maimed, that which was no good to themselves. What now? Did they grow rich in substance? Just the reverse: they were poor. The blight, the rust, the mildew spoiled the standing grain, the locusts ate up all the green fruits, the grapes fell before they were ripe, the flocks were cut off from the fold and the herds died in the stall. God's judgments were heavy because of their sin of withholding from Him His just due.

What a lesson! How slow the Christian world is to learn it. Is not God always the same? Is not this sin as abhorrent to Him to-day as it was in the days of Israel? And will He not visit the sin with the same judgements to-day that He did then? No thoughtful person can read the history of God's dealings with His ancient people and not be forced to the conclusion that similar judgements are abroad in the earth to-day for similar sins.

Let us honor the Lord by giving Him our hearts and our lives. Let us honor Him in our thoughts, words, deeds, honor Him with our substance and He will honor us in the present life and abundantly honor us with a place at His right hand in His heavenly kingdom.

T. H. M.

The Crisis in Japan.

The wonderful story of New Japan has not yet ceased to charm and interest the world. It is one of the romances of modern history and modern missions. The revolution has been so sudden and complete, and the breaking away from old ideas and customs so radical, that wise and observant Christians have watched with painful solicitude to see whether true Christian culture or godless science and philosophy should give direction to the newly awakened and plastic mind and character of this intelligent people. There has been much to encourage and re-assure; many of the principal schools are under the care of Christian men; many of the leading men are themselves favorable to Christianity, and some of them have been educated in Europe and America; the progress of Christianity has been more rapid than in any other Eastern Country; a Christian literature is gradually growing up; the New Testament is now translated into Japanese and is circulated by tens of thousands of copies; and during the past year there have been some quite remarkable popular movements in the direction of Christianity. As many as four thousand persons have met for a whole day in the open air in Tokio to discuss the Christian religion, a company of educated natives have invited the missionary at Kobe to give a public lecture in the theatre, and other instances of widespread