

While thus we speak, let it not be inferred that we charge our Canadian Churches with a want of liberality as compared with others. We believe that they have not so learned Christ as to cherish narrow views of duty in giving for the Lord. Yet there is a need of being stirred up by way of remembrance. The prevailing type of the piety of the age requires everywhere a loud utterance of the truth, that the silver and the gold are the Lord's. Christians must add to their faith,—charity. A calm review of Church finance, as exhibited by Paul in his Epistles to the Corinthians, would show how *frequently, universally, proportionately, and promptly*, the contributions of the faithful are required. Might we not learn also, by a just appreciation of every noble sacrifice made by fellow Christians of other denominations? The Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, at the 31st Annual Meeting of that body held recently in London, thus forcibly illustrates this point; he says in his opening address:—

“A word may be permitted on the subject of Christian liberality. There is one division of the Church of Christ, which, though avowing some views different from our own, presents an aspect of generosity that may well stand as an example to any of our bodies. I refer, of course, to that band which, with a noble principle conferring on them the truest honour, and linking them in close relationship with the confessors of 1662, abandoned at the call of conscience, seventeen years ago, their valued ecclesiastical position and endowments, to demonstrate how the energy of allegiance to their Lord could supplement, and far more than supplement, everything they had left behind them. I pretend not to place before you a statistical comparison between that body and our own, a thing which would be extremely difficult, and, probably, quite impossible. I quote the absolute results alone. During the sixteen years from the disruption, the Free Church of Scotland (numbering now about 250,000 members) has contributed £4,883,132 12s. 6½d., of which £1,536,163 17s. 7½d. were for the sustentation fund, and the fund for aged and infirm ministers. In the year 1858-9 the amount raised was £342,723, of which £126,282 were for the sustentation fund, the supplementary fund, and the fund for aged and infirm ministers, and £216,441 for general religious objects. The total amount collected for all purposes has been annually from £270,000 to £360,000. The yearly average contribution of each congregation is £363 16s. 5½d., and of each member £1 4s. 3¾d.; but of these congregations only 162 are self-sustaining, so that the large churches must habitually give with great liberality to bring the average so high. One church may be cited, which contributed in 1858-9, £5,746 among 1,300 average attendants, being £4 8s. per head; another—by no means the largest in the body—a church consisting of about 650 hearers, which has contributed during the year just ended the noble sum of £3,047 12s. 9d. from 591 contributors, being at the average rate of about £5 3s. per head. Were anything approaching to this style of contribution common among the Churches of Christ in our land, how many works of God would revive which are now ready to perish!”

To rise to the high and holy discharge of the sacred duty of liberal giving, would secure benefits of the most exalted character. It would be the proof and the perpetuation of a more blessed state of religion. The gain would be immense to all the operations of benevolence. To the individuals giving, the gain would be no less precious. *Elevation of character* is a result of cheerful munificence. It is an act of worship. We rise to a resemblance to the great Giver of every good and perfect gift. It is Christ-like; “for ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” Who can measure the bliss of growing like Jesus? The free operation of the Christian spirit in liberal contribution for holy ends, produces growth in grace. Hence,