

neckedness. Other peoples, the English and the French, the Germans and Americans have carefully kept the history of the events which added to their glory, and have taught it to their children, but what other instance can be found of a people's carefully preserving the records of their own sins, and the story of their own punishment?

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### THE METHOD OF ALMSGIVING.

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I COR. xvi. 1, 2.—“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye; upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

These verses contain in outline all that we need know about the subject under consideration. You will observe that St. Paul writes in this way to meet the requirements of a *particular* case. The mother church in Jerusalem and neighborhood was then in the throes of a grievous famine. What more natural than that the former persecutor of that church should wish to recompense, in a measure, the disciples whom once he had deeply injured! Therefore, under direct guidance of the Holy Ghost, he prepared the plan of relief mentioned above, enjoined it by apostolic authority upon the churches of Galatia, probably in the course of a visit to them, and then despatching it in writing to the disciples living in the city of Corinth, made them, too, embrace the idea. In both instances his instructions were literally obeyed.

But what is more to the purpose of my argument, however, extant records prove the widespread adoption of this Divine plan in the Primitive Churches for the raising of funds towards religious and charitable objects **GENERALLY**.

Early writings contain no allusion to what are called modern methods of church finances, and it need scarcely be said that nowhere in the written word of God have we any sanction whatever for such means of raising money in the service of the most High. Do not these facts serve to show that in the purest ages of Christianity the disciples regarded the apostolic injunction as the *Voice of God*