

ening struggle. Heart-sore, the man lands in a strange country—unused to the ways of the place—without friends—sometimes without money—often out of health. Then, if ever, he needs a helping hand. Or, it may fall out after a different sort. The man may have settled amongst us in good heart, and things may have gone well with him for a time; and misfortune may have come suddenly upon him; or the tide of his prosperity may have ebbed away with no return. Or, the man may have died; and his sons, and the widow be left alone and desolate—to say with Naom' in the anguish of her soul—"The Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with "me. I went out full and the Lord hath brought me home "again empty,"

It is to meet such cases, that the St. George's Society exists. How it has met them, you have heard. And according to your ability—"as God hath prospered you"—you will, to-night, contribute, I know, to its support—according to your ability. That the sum placed at the disposal of the Society should be large, is much to be wished. It measures the amount of the misery relieved. But, speaking to you as I do here, in this Holy House, I am bound to tell you that there is a thing more to be desired than that—that your giving should rise into the dignity of Christian benevolence. And for this, two things are needful. Your gift must come from an ungrudging, a willing, and a glad heart,—for "God loveth a cheerful giver." And it must be at the cost of some personal sacrifice; the bestowal of an unregarded superfluity being a very different thing from the casting in of the widow's mite.

The widow's mite! There is our model. There is an official stamp upon that incident which constitutes it the great representative act of Christian alms-giving. Life-like, as we read the brief but graphic touches in the descriptions of St. Mark and St. Luke. The scene stands before us.* It was in an interval of calm repose, between the stern indignation which drove out the

* Mark xii. 41-44: Luke xxi. 1-4.