

prospered, with one's self or at home. He wished to avoid a special collection at the time of his visit, not merely, as it seems to me, because his time could be better employed than in such diacanal work, but because he felt it to be an affair for the Christian conscience and heart, not for influence of his own, still less for emulation, nor yet the gusts of some passing impulse. What a contrast is the getting a popular man to come and preach a moving sermon in order to work upon people's feelings ! Far different is the principle laid down here. He urges on the saints to consider gravely before the Lord, and each by himself to lay by at home, not to act on impulse, but conscientiously, according as he had been that week prospered.

Accordingly the saints at Corinth, as elsewhere, are called in the name of the Lord to give on the first day of the week. "Let every one of you," i. e., each of them. Is this always remembered ? It is not the rich alone. Is there not sometimes the thought that they are to give that can out of their abundance ? Is Christ in this thought, or self ? Not a word about wealth is breathed here, but "as he may have been prospered." The poor man may be prospered just as really in proportion as the rich ; perhaps it might be even more sensibly. Many a rich man has nothing in particular different one week from another, but the poor man may often have ; and the Lord thinks about the poor. The Spirit of God takes care to give him