

the receipt and disbursement of whatever the churches may give for their great work of foreign missions. But the Board is so circumstanced that its grants must be made or pledged in advance. The general assembly, instead of ordering a halt, called for more than \$200,000 advance. The actual pledges made by the Board in June last were far short of the amount which the assembly named, and yet even at that lower figure, there will be a heavy debt unless a more adequate supply of funds shall soon appear !”

And such appeals as this have been chronic. Year by year, not only this Board but other similar societies have been compelled to appeal to their constituencies importunately and repeatedly to help them out of the slough of debt. On the one hand they are distressed by the needs and openings of the vast field abroad, and on the other hand by the slow, sluggish movements or lack of movements on the part of the church at home ! Pity, indeed—shame, indeed—if we are to be *embarrassed by the very opportunity* that God gives us ; if we dare not ask for other open doors because we cannot enter those now open ; if we dare not reach out a helping hand to those who entreat us for aid, because our hands are now more than full ; if we dare not ask for more workmen because we do not know what to do with those now offering or even already on the field !

We deliberately say, after much thought and prayer over this matter, that something is radically wrong in this matter of the financial support of missions. Our methods are either unscriptural and unspiritual, or else they are defective in their application. God certainly does not need our money ; it is for our sake that he uses us as almoners of his gifts. We need the discipline of unselfish giving, and the church will never grow in the grace of giving until she recognizes the fact that no believer ever puts God under any obligation by the most “munificent donation,” as though “*he needed anything.*” We must from the bottom rebuild both the science and the art of giving. We must learn for ourselves and teach others, that

1. It is a *privilege to give*, rather than a duty. To scatter is to increase, to give is to get. The richest growth comes by the most heroic pruning. It makes one comparatively omnipotent and omnipresent to use money aright—multiplying his power and his presence a thousand-fold.

2. The *giver can sanctify the gift*, however small or insignificant, by his unselfishness and magnanimity of motive. A cup of cold water in the name of a disciple cannot lose its reward. It becomes a great gift by a great motive and spirit in the giver. Whatever is done in His name is divine. Give what you can, when you can, where you can, but give it cheerfully ; give a cup of water, a mite, a kiss, a word, a smile, grandly, nobly, as a disciple. That way of giving swells the gift, and God will use it grandly.