

36, 37; and spiritual, 2 Cor. v. 18; Eph. i. 3. Saul had been chosen king before, but now the people spontaneously gave in their adhesion to him. The reign began well: success in battle; God owned by offerings; the people all loyal. Nothing but rebellion against God could spoil such prospects. On what is your prosperity resting? Nothing can secure it, but fidelity to God, 2 Chron. xx. 20; Psal. xxxiii. 18-21—*Edin. S. S. Lessons.*

December 11th, 1864.

THE WIDOW'S MITE.

Mark xii. 41-44.

"In the second court of the temple, the court of the women, were fixed thirteen chests with inscriptions directing to what use the offerings in each were allotted. Into one of these the widow cast her two mites." This court was hence called occasionally "*the treasury*;" John viii. 20.

Poor widow. In this as in other places of the Bible we must remember the exceedingly depressed and dependent condition of a poor man's widow in the countries where the Lord was. The expression is almost proverbial for one very badly off, and most unlikely to contribute anything to a charitable purpose. *A mite* was the smallest coin in use among the Jews in our Saviour's time. It was equal to about three-eighths of a farthing of our money. "Hath cast in more." "More" does not of course mean a larger sum in reality, but more in God's sight—a gift which God values more than one of far more value in man's eyes. "They have of their abundance." They gave out of a large and abundant store, and hardly felt what they gave, because much was left behind. "She of her penury." She gave out of a store so small, that after giving, nothing seemed to be left. "*All her living.*" That is the whole amount of her daily income. A person so poor as the widow would necessarily live from hand to mouth.

Learn—(1.) To beware of lightly using the expression "giving our mite," in reference to giving money to religious or charitable causes. If people would "give their mite" really and literally, as the widow gave hers, many would have to give far more money than they ever give now. Her "mite" meant

something that she gave with immense self-denial, and at great sacrifice. Most men's mite now-a-days means something that is not felt, not missed, and makes no difference to their comfort.

(2.) How keenly the Lord Jesus Christ observes the things that are done upon earth. The eyes of the Lord are in every place. Nothing is too little to escape His observation.

(3.) Let a poor believer, who can only give a small thing, take comfort in the truth that the acts of a poor believer have as much dignity about them as the acts of a prince.

(4.) Let it be a settled principle with us to watch against stinginess; and whatever else we do with our money, to give regularly and habitually to the cause of God.

THE BIBLE IN SWITZERLAND.

In a Swiss family there was a little girl not quite eight years old. Every Sunday, at breakfast the parents gave to each child a small loaf of the finest and best sort of bread to eat. She always enjoyed her loaf, as much as the rest. But she heard at the Sunday School that, by bringing to her teacher every Sunday a few pieces of money, each child might, at the end of a few weeks, have a Bible of her own,—quite her own and to keep for herself. At once she made up her mind to ask her parents not to give her the best loaf at breakfast, but to allow her to eat the common bread, and give the difference between the prices of the two loaves to her. To this her parents agreed, though not without expressing surprise; and the little girl, during nearly four months' went without the best bread in order to obtain a Bible of her own.

Many of the little Swiss children not only desire to have the Bible, but they love its truths. A little tract, written and printed for the young, was distributed among them at Christmas. Beneath the title a space was left in which to insert the name of each child, and over this there was printed these words, "The Lord bless thee and keep thee." No sooner had one of the little ones received her copy, and read the words, than she ran to her teacher, and cried, "O, Miss, look, look! it is for me—yes, it is for me that the words have been placed here—'The Lord bless thee.' I shall be blessed! Oh, blessed! What a happiness!" It was a word of the blessed volume, which at that moment fell on the heart of the little Swiss child as a drop of dew from heaven.—*Sabbath School Messenger.*