

holiness, all excellency, and all that is contained in Eternal Life. What giving! we again exclaim. The full sea of Godhead-bliss flowing in upon man! And this GIVING is one of the forms of Godhead felicity. "IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE." Men and Brethren, who would not taste something of this peculiar joy? "It is not your money I want" (says a man of God), "but your happiness."

III. HE STATED THE MEASURE, AND RULE.

"FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE," (Matthew x. 8.) Ye have got from your Master without His looking for requital in any shape; give ye to your fellow men without regard to the probability of requital from them. This is so far the force of "FREELY;" but then we must also remember the amount of what we received freely from Him. Who can forget how full, how frank, how generous He was! The pattern of our giving as to measure is to be THE LORD'S OWN measure; and in regard to that we know that He gives as prompted by His own loving, kindly, generous nature, not stinted by regard to the likelihood of getting thanks, or meeting with a return of benefit. Let none, therefore, excuse in himself an unreadiness to give by saying, "Possibly, it may be turned to little advantage by the person who gets"—that word "FREELY," enjoins you to copy the Saviour's example; to open wide your heart and hand even though your kindness be ill-requited, or never owned at all. Neither say; "I have stopt giving in the meantime, because others, equally able, are not giving up to their measure." What hast thou to do with what OTHER MEN GIVE? We ask again, what hast thou to do with what "other men give?" Thy part is to remember and to look upon WHAT THOU HAST RECEIVED; yes, what THOU THYSELF (leaving others out of view) HAST RECEIVED AT THE HAND OF GOD. Look at the largeness of that amount, and how it was given unstinted and ungrudged, in spite of His knowledge of selfishness in thee, which (like the sand drinking in the rain) would so quickly appropriate all and exhale upward almost nought. McCheyne quotes the saying of an old Divine: "What

would have become of us if Christ had been as saving of His blood as some men are of their money?"

And farther. When Jesus says, "ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU," (Matt. vii. 7. Luke xi. 9,) does he not suggest much as to the measure; especially when he adds; "What man of you is there whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?" The measure here is simply the VERY THING REQUIRED. Christ gives not merely something but up to the supplying of the want; if we copy Him here, then as far as lies in our power we shall aim at giving as much as will meet the exigency, as much as will come up to the demand. You know we are only STEWARDS of all we possess; our money is not our own.—"Occupy till I come," is the superscription on every coin.

But reverting again to Matt. x. 8, "FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE," let us notice that the first application of that counsel was in reference to the preaching of the Gospel, the imparting to other men what they themselves had received. Go and tell your fellow-men these good news, however ungratefully the hearers may act toward you; for you yourselves were undeserving of such a blessing when the Lord sent it. Shew your estimate of what you have received by your efforts to impart it to others far and wide. Do this by personally telling it as opportunity occurs, faithfully, frequently, prayerfully.

But since you can do it very effectually, and far more extensively than your personal influence can reach, by HELPING OTHERS TO PROCLAIM the tidings of great joy, you must not, you cannot, fail to avail yourselves of this means of "FREELY GIVING." What, then, is the rate of your giving for the support of the Gospel ordinances at Home? Is it such that you can say: "You may fairly estimate my sense of the value of the Gospel by the measure of my giving?" We do not ask, Do you give ten shillings annually towards the support of the Ministry, or do you give ten pounds? but we ask, Is your giving such in its measure that God could point to it and say, "See! here is one who gives freely, because he feels that he has received