

THE PLEASURE OF GIVING

This pleasure is sadly marred. Many of us do not give, we yield to the importunities of another, or to the pressure of circumstances. Blessing cannot come to us in that way, and our souls remain dry though the amount of our giving may be considerable. For giving is a spiritual exercise in which the soul participates and the body only incidentally.

We give as ministers of our Lord. What has been set apart by Him is administered by us as His stewards. We rejoice in the action for it is done for another, and that other is One whom we count it a privilege to serve.

Such giving is guarded. We have no right to give to unworthy objects, indeed we abuse the trust reposed in us when we do so. If the beggar who solicits alms is known to be unworthy, the fact that that beggar is suffering does not make it right to spend our Lord's money upon him. If the methods practised by a religious body for raising money are wrong, and we are convinced they are wrong, we have no right to give through that means, even though it makes us singular to refuse. The matter of giving is a matter of trust. We are not handling our own money, but money that belongs to our Lord as much as did the money that was in the bag that Judas carried.

No one can taste the true joy of giving till stewardship has been realized. What shall I do with my Lord's money to-day? The settlement of that question should give us real concern. How different is the experience of most of us! Half a dozen collectors have pestered us, and we have grudgingly opened our purses, and squeezed out some little pittance to each to get rid of them. We were ashamed of what we gave, and more ashamed of the spirit in which we gave it. And it has robbed us of one of the purest joys possible to our life.

DOCTORS DIFFER.

Very recently we gave our readers an extract from an address by Rev. Dr. MacKay, Chalmers' Church, Woodstock, which indicated that while the Doctor would not rest satisfied with anything less than the total suppression of the liquor traffic, he would, meanwhile, like to see the "Gothenburg system," or Government ownership, tried in Canada. This system finds little favour among the temperance people of the Maritime provinces. At a meeting of Prohibitionists held a few days ago down by the sea this resolution was unanimously carried:

That in the opinion of this Convention the Gothenburg system, so-called, giving public control of the liquor traffic would be no improvement upon our present law; and this Convention desires to record its conviction that the only rational solution of the drink evil lies in the entire prohibition of the importation, manufacture and traffic in all alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes, and would urge upon our general Legislature the enactments of such laws as will secure prohibition in Canada. In this connection this Convention believes that it truly represents the enlightened sentiments of the people of the Dominion.

Speaking to the resolution Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Fredericton, N. B., expressed

himself in no doubtful terms anent the Gothenburg system. There was a time, he said, when he thought the Gothenburg system good but there came a time when in an official capacity he was called on to investigate it. To-day with the fuller light he did not believe a more iniquitous system existed under Heaven. It was a licensing system pure and simple with the quality of human greed moved from the individual to the company. Sweden has had the Gothenburg system for thirty-seven years and to-day the consumption of liquors in Canada is less per head than in Sweden. The arrests for drunkenness are less in Canada than in Sweden. Personally he would fight the introduction of this system in Canada with both hands as long as there remained a drop of blood in his body, rather than have our people turn aside to destroy the young and weak in order to build parks and hospitals.

Dr. McLeod, like his Woodstock friend, is a stalwart prohibitionist; and was a member of the Royal Commission appointed in 1892 to report on the question of the Liquor Traffic in Canada. On that occasion he embodied his views in a separate report, which closed with these words,

"That it would, therefore, be right and wise for the Dominion parliament, without further delay, . . . give effect to the principle stated in its several resolutions by the enactment and through enforcement of a law prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors—except for medical, sacramental and scientific purposes—in and into the Dominion of Canada."

"The old order changeth." It was conceded by one of the speakers at a central Synod the other day, that the day of the family altar had passed, and that it would not be well to restore it! Just what was present to the mind of that minister we cannot say, but we hope it will be long ere the church follows him in that concession.

FOREIGN MISSION NOTES.

BY REV. DR. MACKAY, SEC. F. M. COM.

Formosa.

It is with great regret that the state of Dr. G. L. MacKay's health is reported as very critical. Mr. Gauld, his companion Missionary, states that great sorrow prevails in the Mission amongst the converts, who look to Dr. MacKay as their spiritual father. If it should prove to be true that his work on earth has been completed, it is a record of which he need not be ashamed. There were during the past year in the Mission 252 baptized, and there are at the present time 1891 communicants on the roll. There are 60 chapels and 54 native preachers engaged in preaching the gospel. Mr. Gauld has sent for Dr. McClure to confer with him as to the interests of the Mission in this critical time. It is hoped that Dr. McClure will find it possible to pay Mr. Gauld a visit.

India.

There are in India at the present time in the Mission 527 famine girls, and 556 famine boys. These are distributed throughout the different stations, and already numbers of them have been baptized, and others are seeking baptism. It is confidently expected that the sacrifice made in behalf of these starving children will be richly rewarded in the conversion of many. The Presbytery is turning its attention diligently to the de-

velopment of industrial work, as will make these children self-sustaining. Some of them have already reached that point. The famine amongst the Bhils is appalling. It was reported by a Committee of Presbytery that visited the afflicted region, that from one-fourth to one-half the population have perished. That cattle and wild fowl have died, and that there are neither seed grain nor cattle remaining, the prospects are that the distress will be greater this year than last.

China.

The Missionaries of other boards are returning to their stations in the border provinces such as Shantung and Chili. Dr. McClure has hitherto been giving attention to the general interests of the Mission, especially in preparing and pressing for the payment of indemnity claim. Mr. Simmon is still employed as interpreter to British forces at Tientsin. It is estimated that 183 Protestant Missionaries, and in all about 40,000 converts suffered martyrdom in China during the insurrection. It is a cause for thankfulness that none of the converts in our Mission have lost their lives, although many of them were cruelly persecuted and stripped of all their earthly possessions. The universal testimony seems to be that the Native Christians generally refused to deny their Lord in the midst of the most extreme trial, and were faithful unto death. The fact that so few failed in the evil day, is a guarantee of the quality of work done in China in recent years, which work has often been suspected because of the large numbers gathered in.

At Home.

The Missionaries at home have been very busy visiting the churches; especially have Mr. and Mrs. Goforth been energetic and abundant in labors. Mr. Goforth has delivered since his return in September 232 addresses and Mrs. Goforth 115. Dr. Malcolm has received an appointment upon the medical staff of the Clifton Springs Sanitarium for six months, which is for him a most desirable appointment at the present time. Dr. Leslie has gone to Edinburgh for a two month's medical course. No successor has yet been appointed to Mr. Winchester amongst the Chinese on the Coast.

The Synod of B. C. has recommended the appointment of Mr. Coleman who has been laboring in Vancouver, which is evidence of the esteem in which Mr. Coleman is held. He however is not ambitious for the appointment, but feels earnestly desirous that such be made as will worthily succeed Mr. Winchester, and be able to carry on effectively as he did, the work amongst the Chinese on the Coast. Dr. Thomson is as usual abundant in labors and engagements of many kinds. There are 700 Chinese in the city of Montreal, and between three and four hundred of them are in attendance at the 16 Sabbath Schools in that city. It should be gratefully acknowledged that there are 320 Christian people in that city found ready to devote themselves to this Christ-like work, of teaching these foreigners in their midst. Nevertheless it is to be regretted that there is not even a larger number, because if there were more teachers, more pupils could be secured. There are in Toronto 300 Chinese, and at the present time six schools are in operation amongst them. The Toronto Chinese Mission have asked the F. M. C. for the appointment of a Chinese Missionary who will follow up the work that is being done in these schools. There are schools also in Halifax, Ottawa, Hamilton, St. Thomas and elsewhere, and it is deemed important that Christians be on the alert wherever Chinese are found.