

of the rich as well as the poor, the hearts of the bad as well as the good, may be moving them to give. But for the Church, by wily worldly policy, and flattery, and cunning, and the thousand unscriptural and unchristian schemes of getting the purse-strings of the rich and monied of the world loosened, and their money from them, which are had recourse to now-a-days, is neither honest nor honourable, much less holy and heavenly. Giving, to be right giving, should be heart giving.

2. The man who gives is not to give grudgingly, or of necessity, but he is to be a cheerful giver.

When the Collector goes his rounds collecting for the Church's schemes, how few give him a hearty welcome. How few say to him, "Collector, I am real glad to see you. I was looking for you before this. God has been good to me. He has filled my barn up to the rafters with plenty. He has blessed my family with health. He has made goodness and mercy, sunshine and hope smile sweetly upon me. I was longing to see you, for I wanted to give Him a thank-offering in acknowledgment, a poor acknowledgment of His goodness to me."

Sometimes he meets with such givers, but not very often. Generally he has to listen to most dolorous tales of hard times, damaged crops, scarcity of money, sickness and sorrow, until the collector feels like giving instead of getting.

Now, sometimes it is hard to give. Money is scarce sometimes, and work is hard to be got, and provisions are dear, and crops fail, and sickness comes. It was hard for the poor widow in the Gospel to give, but for all that she made out to give without any grudging, or grumbling, or grinding necessity. She did not go to the treasurer with a carefully thought out and worded tale of woe. "Ah! treasurer, you don't know how hard it is for me to get along at all. Why, sir, it is almost impossible for me to live, and it is a great sacrifice for me to give these two mites. They are all I have in the world, all my living." No, she passed along among the crowd of givers without letting her sorrow and hardship be known.

It is not the real poor that say most about their poverty. The worthy poor suffer without a murmur. Nor is it the poor that are the worst givers. There is a class of people that never know when they are well off, that can never see goodness and mercy in anything, and that are forever grumbling. That miserable class take and keep all they get hold of, and there is no getting anything out of them, and certainly not without doleful grumbings, and grudgings and growlings.

The giving which God delights in is hearty, happy giving, not the giving of hard necessity. "God loves a cheerful giver." That is the way He gives. How lavishly He scatters His blessings around on all, on the unworthy and ungrateful as well as on the good and thankful. How freely and bountifully the fountains of plenty pour out their rich abundance to all. The sun shines, the showers fall, the birds of summer sing, and the flowers of spring bloom so cheerfully for all that have a heart to enjoy them. And not only the common blessings of His Providence does He give in that free happy way, but also the rich blessings of His grace. What a cheerful giver God is!

Now God wants us to be like Himself, the giving children of such a giving Father. He wants us to know the joy and happiness and spiritual good of giving. When we give cheerfully and heartily and liberally according to our means to a good cause, we feel that it is healthful to our souls; it has an expansive effect upon our natures; it elevates our beings; it makes us Christ-like as well as does others good.

Thus, it is one thing to give, and another thing very different to give as God would have us give. The amount we give is important, but the right spirit, the giving heart behind the gift is even more important. It pays some people to give liberally. It is a good advertisement of their business. Every paper blazes abroad far and wide their munificence, and everybody knows them and talks about them. Their shops are thronged with customers. Their business is patronized by the Church, and they are able to go on giving. Ah! there is