

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

VOL. VII.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1861.

No. 12.

GAINING BY GIVING.

We confess that we have long cherished a prejudice against saying much on financial arrangements and money questions generally, as bearing on Churches. This feeling we are convinced is wrong; yet it probably had its origin in a fear lest the Ministry should be blamed as worldly-minded, and further, was in all likelihood deepened by a dread of earning the ungracious name of being "a good beggar." In our apprehension, the application of the term "begging" to solicitations for help to God's cause, is a mistake; for giving to God is not for God's necessity, but for the elevation of the giver. Giving is a grace, hence there ought to be no false shame in aiding its development. The means occasionally used to raise a good collection may be offensive to good taste and inconsistent with Christian principles; such malpractise, however, does not exonerate from a godly imitation of the example of the Great Apostle of the Gentiles, to write or speak "concerning the collection." The subject of finance occupies no subordinate place on the pages of God's book. There are graphic sketches and telling examples on this matter, enshrined in the hallowed niches of the temple of truth. The memorial of devoted action for Christ has filled the world with the fragrance of her deed, who "did what she could." The light emitted by the consecration of the widow's two mites shines on now, and shall for ever shine, as from "a gem of purest ray serene," while the opaque baubles of the rich men, who for show cast their gifts into the treasury, have long ago ceased to attract admiration or praise. There can be no doubt that a most emphatic practical demonstration of Christian principle, and the power of love, flows from a generous and liberal consecration of our property to Christ. Nor has the field for its operation become narrow and contracted,—the cause of God puts forth loud and ceaseless calls for the exercise of a god-like beneficence. The present circumstances of our own Missionary operations in Canada prove the necessity of devising liberal things, that by liberal things we may stand. Careful navigation is needful, that the rock of finance part not our twin Missionary ship. As in descending one of the rapids of our noble St. Lawrence, while the inexperienced traveller fears wreck on the projecting rock, the skilful pilot avoids the danger, and so guides the vessel as to secure additional speed from the obstruction: are we wrong in venturing the hope that our present position, through the skill of our heavenly Pilot, may ultimately add celerity to our Missionary progress? Neither have difficulties in Churches been found unconnected with the financial state of affairs. A low exchequer is frequently the index of deadness and indifference. To present therefore, the divine method of giving, so as to bring up the brotherhood to a nearer approach to that standard, would be a great gain to the Churches..