

A TITHING EXPERIENCE.

For the RECORD.

When I was a lad of sixteen I went to London, England, a poor boy. My salary was fifty dollars a year as a commencement, with board and lodging. This was all I had to provide myself with clothing, etc.

I well remember the first night I spent in that great city. In one of the largest business houses, I was put into a small bedroom at the top of the house. There I knelt down before I got into my bed, and prayed the Lord to watch over me and keep me, and prosper me; and, like Jacob, I vowed to give to his cause a tenth of all I received. This was sixty-four years ago.

Have I kept the vow then made? I have. I have been greatly prospered. I have also been greatly blessed by a sound healthy body. I retired from the more active duties of life at the age of fifty-five. When in business I kept a regular and systematic account of my profits, and also of all sums paid for religious and benevolent purposes. And to-day, an old man in my eightieth year, my testimony is this, "Hitherto, I have lacked no good thing."

I would say to all young men and young women, commence life's journey by giving to the Lord. Do it from principle. Do it systematically. "Give as the Lord hath prospered you." I have made it the rule of my life to act upon the advice of the apostle: "On the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him."—*Jonathan*.

The above is from an aged gentleman in one of our large cities, and is a worthy example to all.

GIVING BY SYSTEM.

"If I were as rich as those mill owners, I never could allow men with families to wear their lives away working on such small pay," said a woman of comfortable circumstances, and yet, that very day she was heard telling her washer-woman that eighty-five cents was more than the other woman had charged for the work, in a tone that made the poor hard-working woman meekly reply:

"Pay me just what you paid her. I need the job very much," and I grieve to say she received but seventy-five cents for labor in which no one engages except from sore necessity.

"If I had money I would not see our pastor suffer any anxiety about the small salary he is expected to have," said a man, and yet if he had given one-tenth of his income each year to the Lord who had prospered him the deficiency would have been made up at once.

"When I have a better salary I mean to hire a pew in church, and give regularly to sustain the educational work of the missionary societies; I am interested in that:—" said a young teacher; but when her salary was raised there were many demands upon the extra income and her donations were again postponed.

"If I were rich"—"when I am rich," these are the ideas behind which we screen our present selfishness, and call it generosity, "generosity without the means to make it evident." It is a comfortable delusion; but a delusion, nevertheless.

Begin now to show what you are going to do, or what you would do with riches of soul or character or income. The way in which you spend your little, indicates how you would spend more. Give systematically. It has been proved that systematic giving will bring rich earthly blessings as well as the higher ones.

If you have no money give systematically of *yourself*. If you have no time for church work, give the more systematically of God's joy and sunshine through your very presence as you go about your daily work, and with each giving your ability to give will increase, and blessings will be multiplied to you.

Everyone can give. Money is not the only thing needed. Time is not necessary. The world is crying out for comfort in its hidden everyday life, the home life; for encouragement, for uplifting influences, for brauty, for sympathy. Can you not give some one of these? "Freely ye have received, freely give," of whatever you have in store and whether it be time, skill, prayer, tact, talent, courage or money give systematically and now.—*In New York Observer*.