

A GOOD WAY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS.

A merchant in New York had pledged to the Lord a certain portion of his business receipts as fast as they were collected. He called this the Lord's insurance money, for said he, "so long as I give, so long will the Lord help and bless me and in the same way will He give me the means to give. It is a blessing to my heart to keep it open in gratitude; a blessing to dispose of it to gladden other hearts, and the surest way to keep the Lord's favor with me." The results of his experience were blessed, indeed, as he said: "I never realized before, how He helps me in all my plans.

"Things happen daily which show me that some one who knows more than I, is protecting me. Bad debts have been paid that I did not expect. Errand boys just getting into sly and bad habits have been discovered ere their thefts proceeded far. As I needed competent help in my business, it has come just as I needed it.

"When customers were about to fail, somehow their debts were paid although they failed to pay others.

"A severe fire came to my office and seemed to have swept all my valuables away, but it was stopped at just the right moment, and not one valuable was lost. The insurance company paid me enough to replace every damage, and the office was renewed better than before.

The Lord sends me business enough to pay all debts, while others are dull.

"I cannot tell why it is, except that I always pray for my business, and ask the Lord to bless it for the good of others, and that the means which come from it may be used for His cause.

"When I stop giving, business stops coming. When I stop praying for it, perplexities arise. As long as I pray for it, all moves easily and I have no care or trouble.

"The Lord is my banker, my insurer, my deliverer, my patron, and blessed guardian of temporal things as well as spiritual."—*Wonders of Prayer.*

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TROUBLE.

In time of trouble there is something to do more than merely to express sympathy. Nearly always some real help is possible, and to discover what that is and to extend it simply and generously is the task of every one who wishes to be a friend in time of need. But this takes not only love and compassion and good wishes, but also judgment, discrimination, thought and patience. It is largely because these qualities are so seldom brought into exercise at such times that sympathy so often seems powerless for any efficient help. Each case must be studied by itself, its past causes fathomed, its present grief appreciated, its probable future effects weighed, the possible means of relief considered, before true help can be extended. The habit of thoughtfulness is easy enough when we are contemplating an enterprise of our own; why then should it be put aside when we approach so difficult and so delicate a task as that of giving real succor and comfort to others in time of need?—*Christian at Work.*

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