

WE still have a good supply of Missionary Boxes on hand. How many of our Leagues and other Young People's Societies are trying the two cents a week plan? If there are any who have not begun, send and get a supply of boxes. It is wonderful how the cents will grow into dollars, and the dollars into tens when they are added together. Young people, just try it.

A FEW days ago we received a sum of money accompanied by a bequest duly drawn up, the donor forwarding his own bequest. This is as it should be. Why should men wait until they are dead to have their money distributed, and thus lose the pleasure and blessing to be derived therefrom, and not a little, we fear, of the Master's "Well done?"

WHEN a worker is appreciated it is a pleasure to make it known. The following speaks for itself:

MILVERTON, *February 19th, 1894.*

DEAR DOCTOR SUTHERLAND,—Please accept the hearty thanks of myself and people for sending such an excellent deputation as Rev. D. Jennings. Never before has the Milverton circuit been so deeply stirred on the subject of Missions. In our public schools, at our Woman's Missionary Anniversary, and at the several appointments on the circuit, Brother Jennings delighted and enthused all who heard him. Missions is the theme of conversation everywhere. Millbank will double its givings this year, and the other societies are putting forth noble efforts to forge ahead of all previous givings. It pays to have a visit from such sweet-spirited, whole-souled men as Brother Jennings.

Yours in the Work,

A. W. TONGE.

## Editorial and Contributed.

A MISSIONARY CONVENTION of great interest and power, was held in Toronto during the past month. The principal speakers were: Rev. A. T. Pierson, D.D., Editor-in-chief of the *Missionary Review*; Rev. J. A. Gordon, D.D., of Boston; Rev. Dr. McKay, of Formosa; and Mr. Hermann Warsawiak, of the Hebrew-Christian Mission, New York. Day after day the large hall of the Y.M.C.A. building was filled to overflowing, with sometimes an overflow meeting in the lecture room. In the evening, the hall was packed, and an equally large audience assembled in the St. James' Square Presbyterian Church. The meetings were not only enthusiastic but deeply devotional in tone, and the Convention, as a whole, has given a vast impulse to the cause of missions among Toronto Christians.

In the course of the Convention, a telling address was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Pierson, on the subject of "Giving." We cannot reproduce his arguments in our limited space, and have referred to the address only for the purpose of introducing the topic, which we illustrate by the following incident: At Battle Creek, Michigan, there is a community of Seventh Day Adventists, aggregating some 1,450 persons. We understand that with this people the consecration

of the Lord's tenth is a universally recognized principle. Among the 1,450 there is not one wealthy person, and a careful investigation revealed the fact that the average income of each person was \$250 per annum. But last year their givings for missions amounted to *twenty-one thousand dollars!* while their givings to other religious and benevolent purposes swelled the aggregate to *thirty-eight thousand dollars!*

### About Giving.

THE duty and luxury of giving to God's cause is not half understood. In theory we say we are God's stewards, in practice we act as if everything we possessed was our own, and the question, "How much owest thou unto thy Lord?" is met by evasion or by denial. "I owe nothing," says one in his heart (for the boldest could hardly bring himself to say it in words); "what I have is the fruit of my own industry and I have a right to do with it as I will." It is difficult to reason with one who talks after this fashion. He utterly misapprehends the facts in the case, and you cannot make him understand. But that anyone claiming to be a Christian should try to evade the responsibility of stewardship is surprising in the extreme. Throughout the whole Word of God, alike in the Old Testament and the New, the duty of consecrating a definite portion of our substance to the Lord is everywhere recognized and taught, and fidelity in this matter is made the express condition of the "Blessing which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow therewith."

It is surprising to the last degree what weak and foolish excuses men will make for withholding what they ought to give, and one of the weakest as well as the most untruthful is this, "We are doing all we can." It would be much nearer the truth to say, "We are doing as little as we can." Why, if one-tenth of our income is the minimum that we should give to the Lord's work (and no one who really believes the Bible will deny it), how few there are who reach this minimum, let alone do all they can. There have been a few who did all they could, and John Wesley was one of these. When his income was forty pounds, he lived on twenty-eight and gave the rest away, and when he received one hundred pounds, he still lived on twenty-eight and gave all the rest to God's work. Some may say, the circumstances were entirely exceptional, and this case should not be pleaded as an example for us. Be it so; but surely if we cannot reach Wesley's high altitude, we can at least reach the minimum and say to the Lord, with Jacob, "Of all that thou givest me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."

This systematic way of giving to the Lord's cause has many reasons in its favor. In the first place it is God's way, and that alone should settle the controversy. He enjoined it upon His ancient people, not when they were rich and prosperous in the land of Canaan, but when they were poor and without a permanent habitation; and so important did He consider the principle to be that He promised