

time at least the young and the curious, while their claims to divine power appeal to the heartfelt longings of God's people. In Hamlet we meet with the Pharisaism and unyielding bigotry of the Marshallites or Brethren. They have several times desecrated the Church building there, and yet the gates of hell have not prevailed against her. Everywhere indifference, covetousness and other forms of selfishness are the standing obstacles to the growth of Christ's Church. But she is set to contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints; has she added to that faith a ministry, the three-fold ministry, the laying on of hands, etc., or have others subtracted these? If these are worth anything, she stands as their exponent and guardian.

In this year's contributions we have exceeded our W. and O. assessment, have forwarded nearly \$8.00 in answer to the D. and F. Epiphany appeal, and are about entering upon our annual house to house collection for the Diocesan Mission Board, that from which we so largely receive, and to which we ought so generously to contribute. We want a part, small or great, in all the financial operations of the Church. One recent note of progress is subscriptions among us to Church papers. In the last quarter the number of baptisms was nineteen, more than all the year previous. There are the kindnesses of the people and there are their thoughtless, almost cruel, neglects, the sacrifice and the selfishness, the good and the evil, and we have to set one over against the other, praying that in them and in us there may be not only day by day "less of self and more of Christ," but some day, and that ere long, "none of self and all of Him." So may it be.

CHAS. H. BROOKS.

COMMON-SENSE PRINCIPLE IN GIVING

In a sermon lately preached by a member of the Committee on Systematic and Proportionate Giving, on Jacob's vow at Bethel, after urging the reasonableness and usefulness of vows and pledges, the preacher said: Jacob had applied the same common-sense principle to his offerings. Recognizing the fact that any worldly gains depended on God's gifts of strength, talent and opportunity, as well as his own efforts, he saw that it was the case of a partnership between himself and God. He therefore pledged himself to set aside a certain proportion, ten per cent., as a definite and just acknowledgment of this. The "per centage" method, or systematic and proportionate giving, was the only businesslike and reasonable way to give, even if the exact per centage should not be adopted. Ten per cent. for

all religious purposes, though it might seem hard for a poor man, was not exacting for a man of moderate or large income. When one's income was increased, subscriptions should be proportionately increased; when income fell subscriptions might accompany it in proportion. Unfortunately most people's giving was spasmodic or in regular dribbles, without any relation to their means. This resulted in a church impoverished temporarily, and members still more impoverished spiritually. Practical religion was the only kind of religion that was any good, and this must have some definite systematic connection with the purse, unless it was a case of little or no funds in which the privilege of giving was denied and people need have no hesitation as to accepting freely help of any kind. In any case the gifts of religion were given quite independently of what people gave or did not give, "without money and without price."

PRAYERS DURING THE TIME OF THE PREPARATION OF CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION.

Almighty and everliving God, who makest us both to will and do those things that be good and acceptable unto Thy Divine Majesty; we make our humble supplication for Thy servants of this parish who are now preparing to be confirmed: Let Thy Fatherly Hand, we beseech Thee, ever be over them; let Thy Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of Thy Word, that in the end they may obtain everlasting life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with Thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end.—Amen.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we make our humble supplication unto Thee in behalf of those Thy children (or servants) who are now preparing for confirmation: Grant unto them seriousness of disposition, attention of mind and quickness of understanding, that they may hear and receive the doctrines which they are taught, and may know the certainty of those things in which they are instructed. Bestow on them a spirit of devout expectation, that they may earnestly desire the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Ghost; and give unto them such a sense of the glory of serving Thee that they may, with sincerity, ratify and confirm the promises and vows made in their name at their baptism. These and all other mercies we humbly beg in the name and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour.—Amen.