

could not withstand. He would appeal to their worldly pride. "Surely, sir, you won't be behind your neighbour there. Let me show you what he is down for. That is something respectable isn't it? Now, you must be upsides with him at least. Remember the whole community is to see this subscription list, and it will never do for a leading man like you to be second or third here. You must occupy a first place for your own credit's sake. And, moreover, we are going to publish the names and donations of the generous donors. Come now, let the Church and the world see you can do it when you like."

Such an all-powerful argument generally succeeds, and succeeds where nothing else would have succeeded. The wily collector has assailed him in the only approachable money point in his whole character. He might have lectured him for a fortnight without getting a cent out of him, on the duty of giving, or the importance of giving, or the necessity of giving, or the pleasure and profitableness of giving, or the worthiness and commendableness of the object. Nothing but a cunning assault upon his pride and vanity would bring him to give at all.

And so all the way round. "Collector," another will say, "let me see that list of yours. I want to see what Mr. so and so is down for. Just so. Well, you may put my name down for the same."

Now that is not the way to collect nor the way to give. It is not God's way at least. God's way is, "Every man as he purposeth in his heart." No Christian should ask how much any other Christian gives in order to know how much he should give. He should ask his own conscience. He should commune with his own heart. And when he gives his heart should go along with his gift. It is not the amount we give, so much as the amount of heart we give along with it, that tells. Many a rich man's thousand dollar gift, proudly and ostentatiously given, and so thankfully acknowledged, and so very prominently noted and remarked upon by the editors of the *Record* and the Church's Treasurer, is

very little thought of by the Lord, and perhaps is allowed to be expended in some unwise enterprize; while, on the other hand, some humble-hearted Christian widow-woman's mites, given with a glad, gushing heart, that she has something to give for His honour who has given her Himself, are sent round and round, here and there and everywhere, in an unending mission of good.

Ah! this heart giving which Paul recommends so strongly and indicates as the only true giving, is not much thought of to-day. It is the money we want, and the more the better. No matter where it comes from. It may be the price of blood, the rumseller's accursed gains, the kept-back earnings of the honest, hardworking poor, the rewards of spoliation and fraud and what not, but no matter, the Church's hand is stretched out to receive all that is put into it, and the larger the amounts, the more lowly she stoops in acknowledgment. Ah! no wonder the Church's funds accomplish often so little good. Her money is not always heart given money.

Now, I don't say the Church should receive none of the world's wealth. I don't say she should throw back the world's gifts in his face and tell him to bestow his favor somewhere else. I don't say she should be forever examining into the motives and and principles of givers. But this I think the Church should do or something like it. She should so avow the great principle she goes upon in receiving, that those who give give as they purpose in their hearts—that their giving be heart giving. I don't think it is the Church's duty to go hat-in-hand begging at the doors of rich worldlings whose hearts are known to be consecrated to mammon's service, and whose wealth is known to be the gains of oppression, fraud and shameful wrong-doing. Such illgotten and illgiven gifts can't do much good any where, and the Church is really richer without them. If they come of their own accord and voluntarily give into the Church's treasury, well and good. It can't be wrong to receive anybody's money in that way, for, it may be, God, who has the hearts of all men in His power, the hearts.