

If motives are needed, and can have any influence in stimulating us to an active exercise in the holy and charitable work, we have them, powerful and numberless, pressing upon our attention and under our observation. The benevolence of the Divine Being towards mankind, ought indeed, to awaken in us a sympathy for our fellow beings who are enveloped in the thick veil of ignorance. The merciful kindness of God is exhibited in the creation of all things, and the provision made for the wants of every animate object. But the most inconceivable and likewise unparalleled exhibition of God's merciful benevolence is seen in the plan of salvation, devised by the Holy Trinity for the redemption of man; and the means employed to carry it into execution. Can we live, in time and eternity, upon the streams of divine mercy flowing from the heavenly fountain, and allow selfishness to shut up our bowels of compassion against the cry of our fellow beings who are perishing for the want of the Bread of Life; with which we might instrumentally supply them? Shall the Divine Being open his hand and pour upon us benefactions more munificent than our most enlarged desires can ask,—and shall those benefits, so freely conferred and so undeservedly received, have no influence upon our minds,—awaken no spring of benevolence in our hearts to promote the glory of God? Ought we not, in imitation of our heavenly example to devote ourselves and our substance to the spiritual welfare of a perishing world? And what a perfect example have we in Christ, the head of the Church? “Though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich.” He when rich in all the treasures of the universe,—emptied himself of them all, and descended into the lowest depths of poverty, that we might be called to the possession of great treasures in this world and a crown in the world to come. And shall not this unparalleled example of benevolence drive from our hearts the selfish spirit which characterizes the men of this world who have no experimental knowledge of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We might refer to many of the followers of the Saviour, who taking the Scripture as their guide, exhibited upon all occasions that ardent spirit of love and benevolence of which their Divine Master set them, such an imitable example. If, then, examples can have any influence in arousing us from our lethargic condition, and directing us in the path which we are imperatively called to follow, we have them most plainly laid down in the inspired word. We feel thankful that the Church is not entirely without examples of Christian charity at the present day, and that some of you do not live for this world, but in the hope of that which is to come.

DEAR BRETHREN, let us turn our attention, then, to the great cause for which the Redeemer died; the salvation of sinners. Let us be sincere; let us be zealous; let us be liberal, for “The Lord loveth a cheerful giver,” and “they that water shall be watered.” If any persons have come to the conclusion, that their estates and enjoyments can be enlarged by robbing God of the tithes and offering which are his most rightful due, they have reasoned erroneously and their conclusion betrays an ignorance of the principles of Divine government; and a want of observing the dispensations of Pro-

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