

### "GIVING."

"FREELY ye have received, freely give," is the rule which Christ laid down for His disciples for their guidance in serving Him and His cause in the world. Look the world over and a cheerful conformity to this rule brings spiritual prosperity to individuals and to Churches. There is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty, says the proverb." Some Churches furnish striking verifications of this law and its working. They are given to the withholding more than is meet from the Lord's treasury, and He frowns upon it. They rob God in tithes and offerings, and they are cursed with a curse. And yet they wonder why they are not prospered as others around them are prospered. One prominent reason in such cases, that others around them scatter and so increase. When this selfish, self-seeking, self-gratifying spirit is once thoroughly slain by a generous activity in discovering and supplying the wants of others, thrift and vigor come as the ordained result. This is the Master's promise, "Give and it shall be given unto you.—*Christian Secretary*."

### THE UPSETTING SIN.

ONE night at a meeting a negro prayed earnestly that he and his brethren might be preserved from what he called their "upsettin' sins."

"Brudder," one of his friends said, "you ain't got de hang of dat ar word. It's 'besettin',' not 'upsettin'."

"Brudder," replied he, "if dat's

so, it's so; but I was prayin' de Lord to save us from the sin of 'toxication, an' if *dat ain't a upsettin' sin* I dunno what am."

Sure enough, the old negro was right, drunkenness is the upsetting sin—upsetting homes and characters, upsetting manhood, womanhood, and sweet childhood; upsetting and down treading loves, hopes and joys. Intoxication is the sin which upsets the strong, able-bodied man, and casts him alongside with the feeble ones; upsets the mighty intellect, and, lo! it is on a par with the mental imbecile; upsets the noble, loving heart, and alas! where tenderness once held absolute sway cruelty has taken possession.

### WITNESSES.

A recent writer has said: "This is one of the positions we, as Christians, occupy for Christ before the world. Truly the dignity and honor that is ours as representatives of the Son of God on earth is very great, and the responsibilities attached to such a position are peculiarly heavy. According to our presentation of the requirements of Christ, as His power over the hearts and lives of men, and the transforming effect of His dwelling presence are exhibited in our conduct through life, so will the world judge and believe. Christ says, 'Ye are my witnesses.' The testimony of a witness is based on his knowledge of the case; knowledge obtained by something seen or heard. Surely we speak the things we do know and testify that we have seen; the eyes of our souls have been opened so that in Jesus we can clearly see the ever-