

do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."—(1 Tim. vi. 17-19.)

These seem to me, my Lord, to be some of the chief lessons taught us in this precept of our blessed Master; and he who cordially follows these, glorifying God, and benefitting man with liberal first-fruits of all his increase,—on him, for my part, riches and plenty may freely come. In his progress all good men will rejoice; the poor will bless his riches. If, like Abraham, he has an old servant, he will say, with smiles, "The Lord hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great; and He hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses."—(Genesis xxiv. 35.)

*We do not mean that Christians are bound to draw a line, and say, "Beyond this limit, no matter what the bounties of Providence may be, my possessions shall never go."* Oh, what a blessing it had been to thousands had they adopted such a resolution! Many who prospered up to a point which they would have once thought affluence, not then content, pressed forward, and by a few errors dispersed the gatherings of a lifetime. Many for years employed their growing wealth to do good; but at length they had outgrown their religious strength, and, like a youth failing under his own stature, their virtues died of decline. Happy would it be for many, did they set a limit to their aims, and add nothing beyond! Whenever this is done in the spirit of humble



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