

to his Redeemer, and the numbness is already stealing on his senses and limbs, when a sound of distress is borne on the tempest to his ears. It is an appeal to his humanity, that rouses him even from his stupor of death. With an effort he rises and follows the sound as it is repeated, and soon finds a fellow-traveller like himself benighted and exhausted, and lying down to be wrapped in the winding sheet spread by the tempest. Earnest for his brother's safety, he puts forth every effort to rouse and animate and raise him; and his exertions are crowned with success. His activity has kept himself from freezing, and saved a fellow-being from death!

From nature and history I turn to the Church. A disciple who has every motive to faithfulness is getting cold, indifferent and unspiritual. He has entered the backslider's path, and is making rapid progress in it, when, by the providence of God and a word from his pastor, he is led to become a tract distributor and a teacher in the Sunday school. Before, he was in danger of freezing, and becoming cold himself, and, like a mass of ice, diffusing a chilling influence around him. But now, he is too busy to freeze. Activity is giving him a glow. Motion is developing heat; and already others are gathering warmth from his example, and led by it to efforts in the cause of Christ, and for the souls of men.

The water, the traveller, the disciple, each has a voice for us. We must be diligent, devoted, earnest in our Maker's service, if we would be kept from being cold and lifeless and useless. We should aim to be too active to stagnate, too busy to freeze. We should endeavor to be like Cromwell, "*who not only struck while the iron was hot, but made the iron hot by striking*"—like the missionary who said, "*If there be any happiness on earth, it is in laboring in the service of Christ*"—like the blessed Redeemer, *whose meat and drink it was to do the will of God*. The vineyard must be cultivated; and the command is that we enter it and work. There is work enough to be done, and the injunction is, that we do with our might what our hands find to do. To be healthful, we must be active; to be happy, we must be useful; to receive the promise, we must do the will of God; we must be diligent, active, earnest, if we would make our calling and election sure, and have at last an open and abundant entrance into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."—Selected.

On Giving.

Farmers, of all men, are apt to think that they are not able to give because they do not handle much money; but the real truth is, they are, as a class, the best able to give, for

all their labor for years and years has gone into their respective farms as so many savings-banks, and accumulated there at compound interest. These farm savings-banks are yielding large returns this year on account of the high prices of produce, but this is just the reason why ministers and all others on fixed salaries are in straits. The expenditure for food is greatly increased, so that the same salary does not go nearly so far. This, therefore, is the very time when congregations should meet together and resolve to pay up at once all arrears, if there be any, and to increase the salaries of their ministers to the extent required by the times, and begin the system of paying punctually at short intervals, and if possible in advance. If they do so, they will find themselves, we venture to say, no poorer in a worldly point of view, but much richer in soul; and both they and their ministers will realize the truth of the old proverb that he gives twice who gives quickly, or, in other words, that a prompt payment is twice as useful as a long delayed one.

It is clear that a minister should live as comfortably, at least, as the average of his hearers; and to support him in this way it is only necessary for nine men to contribute a tithe of their income. That is to say, every nine families could by voluntarily paying tithes support a minister and his family. Now, it is also clear that the obligations of Christians to give of their substance to the Lord's work are not less than those of the Israelites under the old dispensation, but, on the contrary, much greater. And though there are many other things to be done besides supporting the institutions of religion at home, yet this has the first claim. But as there are more than nine families in most congregations, there will be means for many more objects.

It is not, therefore, generally speaking, any want of ability on the part of hearers if preachers are not adequately supported, but a lack of consideration or of liberality.

Brethren of all the laity all over the country, and of all evangelical denominations, do think of these things, and let your thoughts lead to prompt action at a time when it is so much required by the necessities of those who are averse to pleading on their own behalf, and who should not be compelled to do so.

Let us then respectfully suggest that the lay officers of each congregation consult upon this important matter forthwith, and, if they deem it well, call a meeting of the congregation to lay it before them.—*Montreal Witness*.

GREAT talent renders a man famous; great merit procures respect; but kind feeling alone insures affection.

LEISURE is a very pleasant garment, but it is a very bad one for constant wear.