


Has Augur's prayer been answered unto you? rejoice in your happy lot and show your gratitude to God by laying by in store as he hath prospered you.

One word more. If you have vowed, if you do vow, do as did Israel, *pay your vows.*

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

IMPORTANCE OF CHARITY.

 ALL the principles, and graces, and the temper of mind, and course of conduct approved and recommended, by sound reason and the word of God, are, in themselves valuable, and of vast importance to the human family. But at the same time, all of these are not alike valuable; some being of greater importance, because tending in a higher degree to advance the happiness of mankind, than others. Among the principles and graces which adorn the character of man, and render him acceptable to his maker and redeemer, charity stands pre-eminent. An inspired Apostle speaking of Faith, Hope, and Charity, has remarked, "But the greatest of these is Charity;" and had the Apostle been comparing it with all the Christian graces, and with every principle of virtue and truth, he, doubtless, would have come to the same conclusion. Charity, Heaven-born, and Soul-inspiring! how empty, how bare and fruitless the soul is without thee. But some have mistaken the thing, supposing charity to consist in mere alms-giving. Nothing can be farther from the truth, nor can anything be more mis-

chievous than this. St. Paul says "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing," from which it is evident that charity is something besides beneficence; that it is possible for a man to give all that he possesses to relieve those in distress, and even to sacrifice his life for the benefit of mankind, or in defence of what he may conceive to be the truth, and yet be without charity. Affording relief or assistance, to suffering humanity, is often an effect of charity, but not always; for the worst of motives may influence men in their show of benevolence and good will. Seeing then the end which charity is designed to answer, and the dependence which men are ready to place thereon, it is of very great importance that the thing be understood. Taking the view of charity which we have named, some regard it as a ladder, by means of which they expect to climb up to Heaven; and every benevolent act which they perform, they look upon as placing an additional rundle in their ladder, or taking a new step in their ascent to the mansion of glory. But alas, their ladder will be found rotten, when it shall be too late to repair it; and instead of finding themselves at the top of the staircase, quite up to Heaven, they will find themselves at the bottom, and will see, when forever too late, that they have not taken the first step in the right direction to the New Jerusalem. Charity, in its highest and most important sense, is that love of God which the Holy Spirit inspires in the soul, that supreme affection placed upon the Divine Being which