

christian liberality to be worked in our congregations and out-stations? In what way are our people to be stirred up to a sense of the duty which they owe to God? None of our Church Schemes get the support that they ought to get from the members of the Church. Every year, and several times during the year loud complaints fall upon our ears, and those that have any sense of personal responsibility cannot but acknowledge that the complaints are well founded. In the first place ministers are to do their duty in teaching and enforcing what scripture says on this topic. If they neglect this part they cannot say that they have declared the whole counsel of God. I am of opinion that there is a great amount of *false*, or at all events, backward and to some extent criminal, modesty manifested by ministers on this question. I am well aware of the cry that is raised when we speak of liberality from the pulpit, namely, that we are mercenary, &c., &c., but that cry should have very little effect on our preaching and teaching. I have never known a man whose opinion was worth anything, that was reputed for generous liberality or breadth of thought, to join in that shout. No Christian would dare to make an accusation of that kind against an honest man. I have heard the cry from the worldly, the selfish, the narrow-minded, the miserly, from those whose hearts are no larger than nut shells, but from the man upon whom I look as adding real strength to the congregation,—never. The whole truth as taught in the Word of God is to get due prominence from us, and the grace of liberal giving as much as any other. And in the second place the minister's hands ought to be strengthened by the action of the Presbytery in the same direction. Is it not a legitimate part of the Presbytery's work to see that each charge under its care, whether it be a fully organized congregation or only a mission station, whether under the superintendence of a pastor or vacant, contributes more or less to all our mission schemes? No one will affirm that surveillance of that kind is not within the sphere of Presbytery's action. If that were done faithfully and systemat-

ically there would be fewer blanks on the roll of mission contributions. There are many cases that I could name where the congregation or section of the congregation is not so much to blame as the minister, or where there is a vacancy, the Presbytery. Whether a uniform mode of procedure could be adopted throughout all our Presbyteries and districts may be a matter of dispute, but action of some kind ought to be taken, on that there can be no dispute.

Much may be said as to the most effective mode which the minister and session are to adopt in raising the contributions. My ideal on this point is the method which was adopted in the days of Moses when the tabernacle was to be made. "This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying, take ye from among you an offering to the Lord; whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord." That is to say, the office-bearers of the congregation appoint a place to which the contributions are to be brought on a certain day, and each one is so conscious of his personal responsibility to the Head of the Church, that he brings or sends his gift in proportion to his means at the appointed time. That is the *beau-ideal* in the mode of giving, and I do not despair of seeing the day when, that shall be the uniform plan; when whatever the church needs for any of her schemes shall be provided promptly on demand. But we are not prepared for that method yet, our spiritual education is too imperfect. The taking up of collections on a given day at the Sabbath services is a sort of compromise of that scriptural method. I find one objection in many places to collections. In the imperfect ecclesiastical economy that prevails in these Provinces the ordinary Sabbath collections are an important source of revenue to the ordinary funds, hence if collections for missions or benevolent purposes are made often, the ordinary church funds suffer considerable diminution. To avoid that evil the following device is followed. On a certain day in the year envelopes are placed in the pews and the people are requested to make their contributions to all the schemes at once. This while it works well in some