

Giving the Tenth.

"It is not for us to choose. We listen and obey."
 "His will to call and use, 'tis ours to serve and pray;
 It matters little, here or there, God's world is wide, and heaven is
 everywhere."

When I first thought of becoming a missionary, I had not yet graduated from school; all I could do was to wait prayerfully, and get ready in mind and heart, so as to be able to do efficient work in time to come. My pastor made no secret of it, that he gave the tenth of his income to the treasury of the Lord, and often said what a blessing this was to him. My father gave me a little allowance of pocket money, every month, and I thought I might begin by giving one tenth of that to the Lord. My parents knew about it, and somehow, they frequently found reasons for giving me money, and thus the Lord gave back to me. Then I commenced giving a few private lessons and my tenth increased, and when finally I taught school, my tenth was quite a little sum. I had plenty of money for collections in those days, though I always gave the collection for foreign missions the preference; but I could not dress as well as others who had an income like mine. I made that sacrifice; but in other ways, the Lord returned to me ten times more than I had given to Him, so that I began to think it was a most paying investment.

When I began to draw a salary as a missionary, it seemed rather strange to give back money to the Lord that had been given to him by dollars and cents. Yet I earned that money, just as much as I did when teaching at home; in fact, it was less than the salary at home, and much harder earned. It did, indeed, seem filthy lucre, when regarded as paying for separation from friends, loneliness, isolation, heat, sickness, most trying labor among a strange people and in a strange language. Five times my salary could not tempt me to do what the love of Jesus prompts me to do. There was no doubt, then, but that I earned the money, and it was mine, though it was first given to the Lord Jesus. Besides, I thought after having given myself, why not give my tenth also? And from the day I landed on heathen shores, I gave the Lord my tenth. I sent contributions to various causes at home; I gave towards the work among the people where I labor. Every month I put the tenth into a little red bag, and tell the Lord Jesus that I give this money to him, gladly, and ask him to show me where to use it.

Frequently, there are little expenses in my mission work that I feel I want to pay for myself; they seem too small to go to the tenth bag for them, and so I give them and try not to let the left hand know what the right hand is doing. The Lord Jesus blesses me so richly, that I want to show him by my actions; known only to him and to myself, that all I have is his, and that, besides doing my duty, I am willing to give him any little thing that it would seem nice to give. For after all, according to the Old Testament, giving the tenth is duty, and what is given beyond the tenth is the gift of love.

Many a time I have felt troubled to see how, in unexpected ways, He gives to me manifold in return for my little gifts, and I have feared that the expectation of his return might become a motive in giving. Yet I feel certain I should go on giving even if it did not come back to me manifold; for there is a blessedness in giving to the Lord's treasury, that is worth all the money it costs, and the Lord loveth the cheerful giver.

The Young Ladies' Column has had much about giving the tenth lately, and I thought I would like to add a word, being:

A YOUNG LADY MISSIONARY.
 —Helping Hand.

We are glad to say to our friends that the Board is now ready to receive applications from young ladies who have a desire to become missionaries, on condition that the candidate subject herself to such a course of training as the Board may direct. Any one desiring further information will correspond with our secretary, Mrs. H. J. Rose, 11 Gerrard street west, Toronto.

The Treasurer of the General Foreign Missionary Society sends us the following: Books closed for the year, \$13812.61.

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