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GIVING.

What a dull scholar, in all ages, has the Church been with regard to the *principle and practice of giving* as an act of worship. True, she has always been willing to give *appearances*, to give blemished sacrifices, to give as little as she could without attracting the notice, and incurring the censure of the world. The conduct of individual members oft determines the character of the church for liberality or illiberality. There are not a few in the church who are satisfied with the credit their church gets by what others are doing and giving; if the work is being done, or the money necessary to uphold the religious organizations, flowing in from *other* sources, that is all they care to know. None so ready as these to scent out the shortcomings of others, to censure their illiberality, and to parade the sins of omission and commission of their betters.

Perhaps teachers do not sufficiently urge upon the church that the great master has intended for "every man his work" or that it is by proving the Lord by bringing tithes into his store house, that he will pour out the blessing until there be no room to receive it. What man of the world would give so little to institutions from which he professes to derive his happiness as professing christians give towards upholding those through which they profess to receive their chief good? Do we not know some who have the "appearance of godliness" who will give more to see a boat-race, horse race, or cage of wild beasts, not to

speak of what he expends in worse than useless gratification of depraved appetites, than he gives for the building of Christ's kingdom on the earth? years, what comparatively miserable pitances are generally given in response to appeals made for home or foreign mission purposes, or in fact for any of the schemes by which the church does her work! We do not need to go far for the cause of this illiberality in giving for religious objects. It is because the "unspeakable gift" of God is not accepted and appreciated. Reader, if you wish to realize the blessedness of giving first give *yourself* a "living sacrifice," to God which is your reason able service and then the stream of a holy, acceptable life will flow.

An Indian, who heard a sermon in a Christian Settlement, was much moved by the claim that he should *give up all to God*. The duty pressed upon his heart; he returned to his wigwam; he meditated much upon it, and at length solemnly resolved to do what God required. First, he took his rifle and set it apart for the Lord; then his fishing apparatus; then his scanty fortune; then his blanket—repeating as he set apart each article, "Here, Lord, take that." Finding himself utterly destitute, having given up all, he yet felt that he was forsaken of God, and was in great distress. The darkness of despair came over him. In this his last extremity, he laid himself upon the altar, saying, "Here Lord, take a poor Indian." The offering was accepted; and there, alone, bereft of human help or hope, this poor despised savage was delivered from the power of sin, and made an heir of glory. He soon learned to read, and was supplied with a Bible, which he made his daily companion; he was happy in solitude, or with Christian friends, to whom he often remarked, that when he gave himself to the Lord, the Lord gave him "all things," for the life that now is, and that which is to come.