

### MAN'S INDEBTEDNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD AS STEWARDS OF THE BLESSINGS GIVEN.

It seems strange that in a Christian land and among the professed followers of Jesus such an appeal as this requires to be made. Why! the Idolators, (whose claim on your sympathy and means I intend very soon to advocate) do not know what stint means when an act of worship to their false God is to be celebrated. Whatever they hold most dear or costly is given up without a murmur, nay more with gladness and rejoicing as if a great privilege had been conferred by being allowed to contribute. Christian brother and sister, the law says "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbour as thyself." Love is the fulfilling of the law, and the heart that glows with love to God, needs no law about giving, but is a law to itself. Were we always in the same frame of mind, there would be no necessity to urge again and again the setting apart a certain portion of our income, as God's, according as He has prospered us. But how often does coldness and indifference come over our hearts and we are prone to wander from our Saviour. We cannot trust these hearts of ours, and it is a good plan to have a set purpose, and clear rules, to keep us in the way. Many persons have a very exaggerated idea of their giving and it is not till brought face to face with plain distinct statements that they can be made to feel their own meanness in the measure they give to God's cause compared with what they lavish on themselves. And then excuse themselves by saying they give what they can spare. A favourite expression with some who never deny themselves any gratification, and who do not know what self-denial means, and whose lavish expenditure in their homes and on their persons certainly leave a very narrow margin for charity or loving benevolence. That man will have to render an account to God, of the use made of the blessings and mercies he has received, is admitted as a general truism but press the question home until it touches some darling idol or besetting sin and then whisper "The silver and the gold are mine saith the Lord of Hosts," how man's heart rebels. Why! I worked late and early that I might have everything beautiful in my home and enjoy myself in my old age. "Sell all that thou hast and give to the poor." No! no! that is too much