### THE

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# Christian Giving.

) NE of our Sister Churches has under consideration the addition to the "Directory for Public Worship" of a chapter with respect to "Giving." The offerings of the Christian people are to be recognized as a regular part and act of public worship; and the sacred character of the act is to be duly and openly recognized. Giving is to be thus organied and regulated on a Scriptural basis; and it is hoped that in this way the Church will be relieved from the depressing influence of "special appeals" and chronic deficits.

As pointed out by Dr. Ycomans in the Presbyterian Review (New York) for April, the present method of giving is largely a matter of impulse, and it is too fitful and Taking a peunsteady in its operations. riod of five or ten years, there is marked increase in the revenue of our own Church ; yet we all know too well how necessary a part of our agency "special efforts" have become.

When we give from mere impulse, when we give out of human pity, when we give from any motive other than the love of Christ, ours is not Christian giving in the highest conscience. Many easily exceed the tenth sense. Missionary intelligence is an excel- part, and give one-fifth or more. dert stimulant to giving; so are sermons. Scriptural injunction is to lay aside of our

and lectures and enthusiastic public meetings, with addresses from returned missionaries; but much as these agencies have accomplished, they have not succeeded in enlarging the stream of beneficence with equal step to the ever-widening demands. Our old-fashioned ways are too dependent upon mere feeling and upon personal considerations. We give to support the Formosa Mission because of our confidence in, and our affection for, Dr. Mackay ; we give for Erromanga, because we have seen and heard and loved Mr. Robertson; and so on with other fields and other men. It would be far better if all our givings had reference solely to our Lord and Master, who has placed us under infinite obligations to Himself, and to whom we would thus express our gratitude. The Lord is our creditor; "He keeps the account, makes the appeal, supplies the motive, bestows the ability, and holds out His hand for the tribute. Christ should be constantly in our thoughts when we are making our contributions. How much owest thou to my Lord? To whom does our wealth belong? Who has placed us under the deepest possible obligations by laying down His life for us?

Ought we to give a tenth of our sub-stance? This must be left to the individual The