

## Young People's Department.

### GOD'S PORTION.

(CONTRIBUTED)

**E**LEANOR, how much of your tithe are you giving to Christ?"

"My tithe! whatever do you mean, Aunt?" and Eleanor raised herself from her reclining position on the grassy lawn until she could see more easily her Auntie's face, in order to try and judge from its expression, what the meaning of so strange a question could be.

"Just what I say, dear child, I know you have given yourself to Christ, but you say you wish you were as happy in your own home as you are in the country with me; and I am sure you ought to be happy everywhere, so perhaps one of the reasons of your lack of inward joy is that you have not studied enough about the *tithe* question."

"But, Auntie, I do not see how that can have anything to do with happiness; I know that tithe means a certain amount of one's money given to God, and I always give some for the collection, and then I have my missionary box; but do tell me what you really mean, you are such a wise little Auntie that I am sure you must mean something more than I understand by the word 'tithe!'"

"Yes, I certainly do; but in the first place, do you remember that the Israelites of old were commanded to give a *tenth* of all that God had blessed them in, and until they had given more than the tenth it was not considered *giving* at all, it was only carrying out the command. Now, I think that we ought to give at least a tenth of our money still to God, really set it aside for Him."

"Why, I never thought of that, I thought those old laws had nothing to do with us."

"Indeed they have, 'hat is just where people make such mistakes: 'he more I read those laws in the Old Testament, the more I see how they are needed in the present day. The world would be a very different place, if those commands of brotherly love and family kindness were carried out literally."

"Indeed, Auntie, I will try, Father gives me 'pin money,' as he calls it, every quarter, so I will put a tenth of it in a separate purse each time, and then if there is a special call for money, I can give from my own purse, and then it will be a real giving," she added softly, "I am afraid I have never given even a tenth yet."

"But Eleanor, that is not the only way in which you can give a tenth to Christ; what I really meant was how much of your time do you give to Him? Do you give even a tenth of that to Bible study and prayer?"

"I am afraid not, Auntie," and the girl's face was turned away with a grieved expression, "you see there is always so much for me to do at home: notes to write and shopping to do for mamma, and so many calls to pay, and 'at homes' to attend, that really I have hardly time to think sometimes."

"Yes, dear, I quite understand you lead a busy life, and it is right to do all you can for your mother and to try to please her, but could you not get up an hour earlier in the morning and spend it alone with God?"

"I suppose I could," but the answer came slowly, then with a laugh and flushing cheeks she added, "you have hit the nail on the head; as Ted says, 'I do like to lie in bed in the morning,' it is so snug and comfortable; the boys are always teasing me about being the last down stairs in the morning! there's no use denying it, I just hate getting up in the morning."

"I do not doubt it; but my darling could you not do it in order to draw near to the 'Master,' to our loving Saviour, Jesus? I know it will bring a great blessing into your life. He seems to speak so clearly, and one feels such a joy all day if one really seeks Him in that way."

"I will, oh I will; I never thought of it like that. I do want to grow like Him and to be a truly consecrated Christian, and it is so hard sometimes to let one's light shine amongst people who care nothing about Him."

"Yes, I understand, and that is the reason why you need very real communion with Him in order to be kept pure and unspotted by the world."

"But, Auntie, is there any other way besides time and money in which we can give a tenth to Jesus?"

"Yes, dear, there are many, you will find them out for yourself as you grow older. You know the eyes of true love are very keen to find out ways of serving. One particular way, intensely practical you will think it, is to have some knitting always on hand, ready to take up in the odd minutes, and really I am surprised myself sometimes at the number of mitts and stockings which are done in the year, to send up to our missionary's wife in the north!