

stronger brethren for aid, in the Master's name, which His stewards may not refuse, at the risk of "robbing God." Giving to such is not giving charity to man, but paying a debt to the Lord. The real givers to the missionary cause are those who give, not their spare dollars, though these be written in two figures or three, but "their own selves" and their families, "a living sacrifice." What large contributions would appear in our reports, if such donations were entered in full! For example, "Rev. A. B., receiving \$400 per annum; could make in business by the same labour and talent, \$800; annual subscription, \$400. Farmer C. D., owns 100 acres, 70 cleared, property worth \$4000, always rising; subscription, \$4 to \$1. Storekeeper E. F., made last year \$1500, besides many house 'expenses' charged to business, subscription \$5 to \$2." In very few of the churches, reckoning on this just and right principle, would not the pastors be found to give indirectly "more than they all?" Yet they also not seldom head the list in hard cash! And all the year round, their labours are freely bestowed on scores of people who never think of making any material acknowledgment. With whom, then, is the "charity" in this missionary business?

II. As to the *distributors* of missionary funds.—1. Who should they be? For our part, we are utterly weary and sick of the invidious provision found in the constitution of the Canada Congregational Missionary Society, that the missionary committees—district and general—"shall consist, as far as practicable, of pastors and members of self-sustaining churches." When, as among us, no ministerial or lay committee-man votes on the grant to his own church, but withdraws from the committee while it is under consideration; when these brethren are in every respect the peers of those who belong to self-supporting churches; and when the missionary churches themselves contribute to the funds, the objections to their being represented, plausible at a distance, vanish away. We should prefer to see the whole body of ministers and churches in a given district grouped together, as in some of the Australian colonies, into a "mission," and manage their local business in general council. 2. What is the work of a missionary committee? It is to reconnoitre the field for new stations that may be hopefully undertaken, and thither send aggressive missionaries; to specially care for vacant churches, aiding them in the supply of their pulpits and in procuring pastors; to educate the churches into the privilege of liberality and the luxury of independence; to aid no further and no longer than is necessary, but to give needful aid "liberally, upbraiding not." It is easy to set down these general statements; but for the carrying out of these objects in practical detail, there is needed the combination of no small wisdom, fidelity and brotherly kindness. Many a headache and many a heartache have we carried home from the sessions of such committees. The problems that confront them are numerous and intricate. They must sometimes give offence, even to good men. They are sure to make some mistakes, when most careful to do their best. They are often obliged to adopt the best practicable course, rather than the best possible. Men serving gratuitously in