

Giving may be termed the chief of the secular duties of the professed Christian. He, having received the blessings which follow his acceptance of the eternal plan, is bound by the very nature of that acceptance to spread the glad tidings to others.

There are three methods of assistance which naturally appeal to every follower, when the question of work for the Master is involved, viz., spiritual personal and material.

It is not given to every one, no matter how overflowing with joy at his own conversion, nor how filled with zeal for the furtherance of the Kingdom, to go forth as a teacher or a preacher; but to everyone is given the opportunity of helping forward the cause.

The personal service may from a variety of causes be extremely limited, and lack of ability and scarceness of opportunity may to a great degree circumscribe service along these lines.

But there is not one who cannot in some manner help forward the work of the Church by the exercise of that supreme blessing, the act of giving.

Just how much should a man give to the Lord? It sounds a banal question when we remember how we sing:

"Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small."

But a stern reality compels one to state that the question most commonly put by members of the Church is, not how much should I give, but how little.

The ancient Hebrews were instructed by the law laid down by Moses that a tenth of their increase in flocks, herds, and harvests was to be devoted to the Lord's service, and the upkeep of His Tabernacle.

From that Mosaic rule has sprung the tithes which are collected in the Old Country for the maintenance of the Established Church, but this takes the form of a tax, not a freewill offering, and saint and sinner alike have to pay.

But the ideal gift, the giving which ensures the blessing, is where the donor sinks his identity in the cause he supports, and from sheer love of the work which he is forwarding, takes of the goods with which the Lord has blessed him, and hands them freely and fully for the furtherance of the Kingdom on earth.

We have the teaching of the Saviour Himself to guide us in this important matter, for He rebuked the wealthy

Pharisee who cast his gold into the treasury, but praised and commended the poor widow who gave her all.

Therefore, in my opinion, this act of giving is one between the creature and the Creator, and no one should dare to lay down a rule for his neighbour's guidance.

Let each look to himself in this act of worship, and let his own heart and his own conscience be the tribunal before which he shall stand.

The essence of Christian giving is sacrifice and self-denial, and the practice of these supreme virtues will ennoble the heart and mind, keep the follower of the Master more nearly in His footsteps, and so prepare his soul for all the blessings which flow, even in this life, to the disciple.

"If you would truly, nobly live,  
Give ever give."

Subject matter and thought, 75; neatness and composition, 18. Total, 93 per cent. Very well thought-out essay; subject matter arranged in good sequence; the whole a nicely-balanced effort, pleasing to read, and containing a wide and comprehensive view of the subject on hand.

#### AUCKLAND.

A special meeting was held at East Street Temperance Hall, on Monday, 27th July, when Mrs Don, New Zealand President of the W.C.T.U. addressed the Y's. In the absence of the President (Miss Richards) who is at present in hospital, Mrs Lee-Cowie presided and opened the meeting with prayer. A vote of sympathy was passed to the President in her illness, and Mrs Lee-Cowie then introduced Mrs Don. A pleasing feature at the introduction was the presentation to Mrs Don of a beautiful bouquet of Iceland poppies, and jonquills with long streamers of white ribbon. Simultaneously a bouquet of pale pink and white wax flowers was presented to Mrs Lee-Cowie as a token of love and esteem from the Y's for mothering them. Mrs Don, after gracefully acknowledging the bouquet, passed some pleasing remarks on the decorations of the hall which had been tastefully arranged as a drawing room with a wealth of floral decorations. She mentioned the fact that Auckland audiences knew how to tastefully decorate their halls, and said that the atmosphere thus created made it much easier for the speaker to give her message. Mrs Don gave a most instructive and inspiring address on a text taken from the Book of Ezekiel, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land that I should not destroy it, but I found none." The speaker said that to her there was no more pathetic picture than God looking for a man to serve him, and not finding him, and very aptly applied the words of her text to present day conditions, making a stirring appeal, especially to the younger members, to train as leaders in the great army of women who were trying to fight the terrible evil of the Liquor Traffic. The speaker's remarks about the Y Branches being good training grounds for future leadership were most encouraging. Thereafter a Temperance Dialogue entitled "Mrs Hops and John Barleycorn" was ably rendered by Mrs Kasper, Miss Grange and Mr Scott, with a small choir of children. Supper was also served. Eight new members were initiated. The singing of the

Doxology and the Benediction brought a most interesting and profitable evening to a close.

#### AUCKLAND.

August 6th. Monthly meeting at East Street Temperance Hall. Mrs Kasper presided over a large attendance of members and friends, close on 100 being present. T. E. Taylor Day; Miss Pyle read a short account of his life and work. Mrs Lee-Cowie also spoke on his work, and read a short poem by Miss G. M. Pees, of Auckland, being an inspiration from Tom Taylor's death. Thereafter, Mrs Helen Barton, the noted Scottish Temperance Leader, gave an instructive and inspiring address, taking her subject from the book of Ruth. She is an able speaker, and, in the course of her remarks, gave a graphic account of a Pageant produced in Scotland by the British Women's Temperance Association entitled "Empire Builders." Mrs Barton interspersed her remarks with many honourous incidents and stories of the recent campaign in Scotland. Following on a stirring appeal for more recruits, 16 new members joined. A good musical programme had been arranged and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

#### NEW BRIGHTON.

July 10th. The President, Mrs F. Mitchell, presided, attendance good. Misses Buxton and Patten were nominated as delegates to the Provincial Convention in September. The sum of 5s. was donated to the fund to organise a creche at the Dunedin Exhibition. The Superintendent, Mrs Good, was appointed to interview Mr D. S. Sullivan, M.P., re the Bible in Schools Bill. Mrs Richards, Avonside, gave a very fine address on "Youth and Character Building," and this was much appreciated by the members. Three new members were initiated.

#### OXFORD.

A most enjoyable social evening at the President's home. Games, competitions, and musical items were indulged in. After supper an initiation service was held, at which 11 new members were added to the roll, making a total of 36 members.

#### WAIMATE.

A strong Y. branch has been formed in Waimate. Mrs T. E. Taylor, addressed a large meeting of the W.C.T.U. after Convention. 10 new members joined, of whom 7 were girls. These formed the nucleus of a "Y." Union, the membership of which is now 27. The work has been taken up keenly. Two of our members attended an all day Temperance Convention held recently at Timaru and are to give a report of it. The meetings have been well attended. At the first social there were over 70 young people present. The officers elected by ballot are:—Superintendent, Mrs Kippenberger; President, Miss Stewart; Secretary, Miss Dohrmann; Treasurer, Miss Murray.

#### INVERCARGILL.

July 27th. President, Miss Dawson presiding. Reported that a successful social evening had been held in St. Paul's Hall, on the 8th. The Rev. McBean gave a short and interesting talk on Temperance, which was appreciated. Also on the 24th, Gladstone Home had been visited and presented with the Inscription Plate for the organ (the plate was a donation from Mr and Mrs Young). Members provided supper and friends brought gifts for the boys. Our W.R. Agent, asked for subs. to be paid. An apology for absence was received from Miss Cameron. T. E. Taylor Day was celebrated by Miss Birss, giving a most helpful and inspiring talk on "My life among the Blue-jackets" by Miss Weston. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Birss. All repeated the pledge.

#### HASTINGS.

July 21st. The Y. members spent a very happy evening at the Y.M.C.A. rooms. The evening began with a debate between the Y.M.C.A. members and the Y's., subject being "Should the man propose," the Y.M.C.A., taking the negative side of the debate, gained highest points. After the debate, all joined in various games, etc., after which a very dainty supper, provided by the Y.M.C.A. members was dispensed. The evening concluded with "Auld Lang Syne."