

**CHRISTIAN BENEFICENCE:
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO SYSTEMATIC AND
PROPORTIONATE GIVING**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649222605

Christian beneficence: with special reference to systematic and proportionate giving by Thomas Mitchell

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THOMAS MITCHELL

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CHRISTIAN BENEFICENCE

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SYSTEMATIC
AND PROPORTIONATE GIVING

*THE HARTLEY LECTURE, DELIVERED TO THE
PRIMITIVE METHODIST CONFERENCE
AT SCARBOROUGH, JUNE 14, 1905*

BY

REV. THOMAS MITCHELL

'Of Thine own have we given Thee.'—DAVID.

'There is that scattereth, and increaseth yet more.'—THE PROVERBS.

'See that ye abound in this grace also.'—ST. PAUL.

'Freely ye have received, freely give.'—JESUS CHRIST.

'God loveth a cheerful giver.'—ST. PAUL.

LONDON
EDWIN DALTON
PRIMITIVE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
48-50 ALDERSGATE STREET, E.C.

1905

BY

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STAR

EMMANUEL

Dedication

TO THE MEMORY OF
REV. JOHN PETTY
MY THEOLOGICAL TUTOR
WHOSE SAINTLY CHARACTER AND WISE COUNSELS
HAVE BEEN AN ABIDING BENEDICTION
TO MY MINISTRY

and

TO
WILLIAM P. HARTLEY, Esq., J.P.
THE FOUNDER OF THIS LECTURESHIP
WHOSE MUNIFICENCE TO CHRISTIAN AND PHILANTHROPIC
OBJECTS IS THE ADMIRATION OF ALL
THE CHURCHES

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PREFACE

WHEN I was appointed to this Lectureship, I felt at once that my subject must be one dealing with some phase of practical Church life or work. My time and energies for many years past have been so absorbed with the administrative work of the Church as to make profound or prolonged study of any Theological or Philosophical subject a practical impossibility. But in a great house there are many vessels, and in a great Church there are many departments; and each department depends in some measure for its full efficiency on all the others. And it is well for each man to find out his own aptitudes and limitations, and within these, 'serve his generation' as best he may.

Several friends suggested to me the topic of this lecture as being a timely and important one in itself, as supplying some variety to the Biblical and Theological subjects discussed in previous lectures, and as being one in which I had been interested nearly the whole of my ministry. I saw no sufficient reason to decline these suggestions, and hence this topic was selected.

My interest in this theme began thirty-five years ago. At that time I attended a Conference in the West Riding of Yorkshire of the ministers and principal laymen of the various churches in the locality, called by the Systematic Beneficence Society. I was much interested in the discussions of that assembly, and from that time began to practise myself, and to give a prominent place in my public teaching to, the duty and the privilege of systematic and