

# Sisters All!

Dear Martha,

We are right up to our ears in exciting Christmas preparations, as you undoubtedly are also. John is in the throes of final rehearsals for the high school Christmas program. Frannie has extra choir practises both at school and at church, and I am helping with the Sunday School program. Next week Mark will get home from college, and Christmas Eve, Grace and Paul will be arriving for the first Christmas with us since they were married.

In between times I get in all the shopping and gift-wrapping that I can manage. We aren't able to be lavish with Christmas presents, but we can never resist the pleasure of supplying everyone in the family with one or two things they especially wanted.

Once when I was in a reflective mood I tried to think what gift beyond all others I would like to give my children. They must have been in a recalcitrant mood that day, for I remember wishing that I could give them a desire to obey. How simple life would be if only they always yearned to do right! There would be no need to punish them; merely teach them what was right and they would do it.

I wonder if God is ever tempted to reconsider His ways with men—give us goodness without our choice, maturity without the necessity of growth, and joy with all suffering eliminated. If we had such power, as parents, few of us could forbear to guarantee a smooth road ahead to our children.

Perhaps one of God's finest gifts to us is that very forbearance, His refusal to tamper with our independence of choice. He pays us the supreme compliment of letting us be "as gods," responsible for our own decisions, good or evil.

What a price God and man have had to pay for so costly a gift the right to reject what is good! But without the right to refuse, there would be no power to choose. What joy would there be then in service to God if it were performed simply because there was nothing else to do? In spite of all the frightening risks involved, the God we know through Christ could not have done otherwise.

This suggests another reason for us to cherish our freedom of choice. Our Creator endowed us with all the benefits we have: material comforts, the world of nature, human joys and affections, life itself. We think of all these favors with gratitude and long to render to God something in return. But what do we have to offer? Must we be content with a token gift, something He has given us wrapped up and handed back to Him?

No, there is one thing that is ours and ours alone. We have free will, the power to give or withhold from God Himself. Our love, our service, our commitment to His cause, all these God will never have unless we choose to give them to Him. David caught and expressed the true spirit of giving when he purchased Araunah's threshing floor and oxen to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Araunah would have donated them, but David said, "Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer unto the Lord my God of that which cost me nothing." (2 Sam. 24: 24.)

The gift of self is the one that costs the most and brings the greatest joy. It is a high privilege to be able to give our best to God, even as He has already given His best to us. "And they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

A Joyous Christmas to you all!

Your loving sister,  
Mary

## RECEIPTS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

Sept. and Oct.

Black's Harbour	\$ 85.00
Woodward's Cove	10.00
Seal Cove	160.00
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hoyt by Family	25.00
Maple Ridge	35.00
Mrs. Weldon Ingalls	23.75
Hartland	30.00
Barker's Point	25.00
Moncton	200.00
Saint John	107.00
Hudsons' Passage Fund	85.00
Perth	50.00
Havelock	45.00
Tobique Primitive Baptist Churches	68.75
Riverside Missionary Offering	155.30
Millville	50.00
Mr. and Mrs. LeBaron Smith	10.00
Mrs. Manning Mullen	20.00
Blissfield	15.00
North Head	58.00
Seal Cove	200.00
Royalton	18.25
Wood's Harbour	15.00
Victoria Corner	25.00
Oldtown	15.00
Perth	10.00
Woodstock Offering (Hudsons' Farewell)	284.70
North Head	19.00
Tobique Primitive Baptist Churches	72.90
Fort Fairfield	68.33
Lower Brighton	25.00
Norton	6.25
Black's Harbour	20.00
George Sanders	20.15
Woodward's Cove	10.00
Jonesport	45.00
Presque Isle	130.00
Victoria Corner	13.00
Moncton	245.00
Black's Harbour	50.00
Grand Harbour	19.50
North Head	22.00
Mrs. Beatrice Steeves	30.00
Bloomfield	14.00
North Head	19.00
Calais	10.00
Wood's Harbour	10.00
Fredericton	300.00
Mrs. Alice McCall	75.00
Rev. A. D. Cann	100.00
Black's Harbour	100.00
Maple Ridge	40.00
Beals	401.25
Saint John	168.00
Oldtown	15.00
Oldtown Y. P. S.	5.00
Seal Cove	213.00
Marysville	135.00
Marysville Men's Bible Class	90.00
Mr. and Mrs. LeBaron Smith	20.00
In memory of Mr. Merton Smith by Family	10.00
Port Maitland	40.00
Houlton	6.50
Seal Cove	262.50
Moncton	200.00
Wood's Harbour	7.00
Jonesport	75.00
H. G. McCrear	300.00
George Sanders	20.15
Margery Steele	10.00
Crystal	15.00
Killam's Mills	50.00
Grand Harbour	9.73
Woodstock	150.00
Woodward's Cove	10.00
Calais	15.00
Dooktown	10.00
Moncton	200.00
Sandford	50.00
The N. B. Telephone Co. Ltd.	1.80
Tobique Primitive Baptist Churches	69.50

\$5,849.31

Received with gratitude,  
S. E. Cameron, Treasurer.

## HOLINESS NECESSARY

by John Wesley

John Wesley says: "In 1729 my brother Charles and I, reading the Bible, saw we could not be saved without holiness. In 1737 we saw that this holiness comes by faith. In 1738 we saw, likewise, that men are justified before they are sanctified; but still holiness was our object—inward and outward holiness. God then thrust us out to raise up a holy people." After preaching the doctrine of holiness for half a century, and having seen thousands brought into the experience, he wrote two years before his death: "This doctrine is the grand depositum which God has lodged with the people called Methodists: and for the sake of propagating this chiefly he appears to have raised us up."

The King's Highway