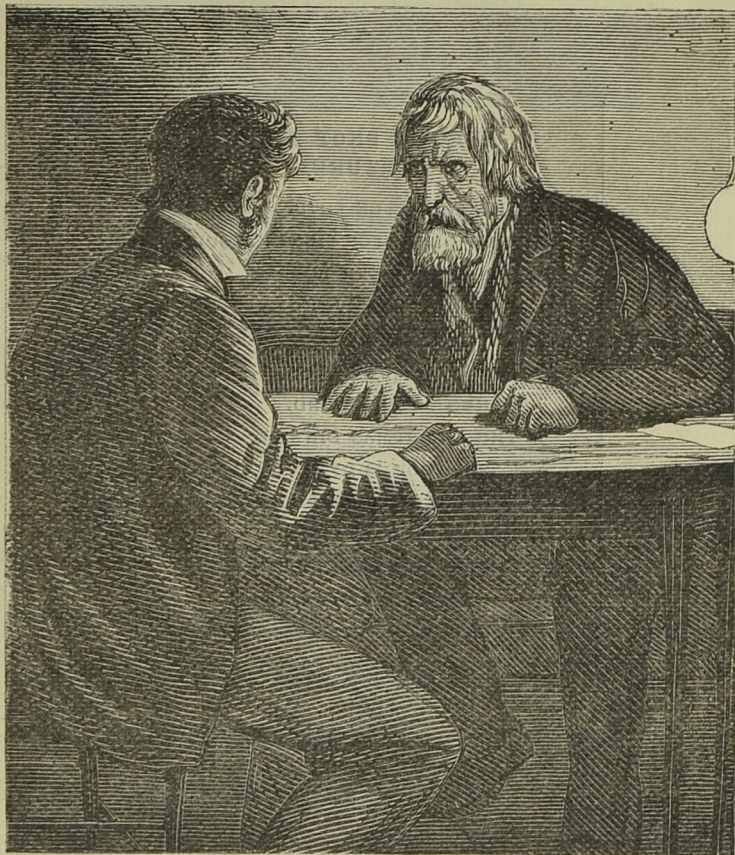


Giving and Taking.



No. 12.]

LONDON: MORGAN AND SCOTT.

**ARROWS SHOT AT A
VENTURE.**

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Giving and Taking.



"GIVING I CANNOT understand how any one can be sure they have obtained salvation. I have done all that lies in my power to get it, I have done what our ministers have told me, but I could not say truthfully that I have salvation. At the best I can only hope to be saved when I have done with this life."

Such were the words of an intelligent man moving in the respectable ranks of society—a religious man, as people term a regular attendant at the Sunday services, a teacher in the Sunday-school, and so on. And his words will be endorsed by a great multitude who may read this little tract, because it is the sentiment of nearly *all* unsaved souls. More than this, there are thousands who not only do not understand this most important matter, but utterly reject the testimony of those who do understand it, because they reject the

testimony of God Himself on the subject.

I replied to this man in something like these words :

“Do you reject every truth you cannot understand? Do you understand everything which your eyes see? Do you understand how the wind and storms, sunshine and shade, the stars over our head, and the earth under our feet, are all sustained in their courses and upheld? You can see and feel much which you cannot explain, because you cannot un-

derstand, and most of what we do understand we receive on the testimony of others rather than from our own researches. So it is with these great and blessed truths of which I have been speaking; they are the utterances of Him who cannot lie, and they are the gifts of Him who is rich unto all who call upon Him in truth." He still appeared anxious for further light, and as I held a little book in my hand, the title of which was, *This belongs to Me*, I said,

"This belongs to *me*."

“Yes; I presume it does, as it is in your possession.”

I handed it to him, saying,

“Will you have it?”

He took it, and thanked me.

“Now,” I asked, “who does it belong to?”

He looked at it, and replied,

“This belongs to *me*.”

“Yes; it was mine, now it is *yours*. I gave it, and you took it. So with salvation. It is written, ‘Salvation belongeth to the Lord’ (Ps. iii. 8); and ‘Righteous-

ness belongeth to the Lord.' (Dan. ix. 7.) This salvation is in His Son Jesus Christ; and 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' (John iii. 16.) God gives, and the believer *takes*; and the blessed result of such taking or believing God is *eternal* life. 'To as many as received Him, to them gave He power (or privilege) to become sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.' (John i. 12.) 'The gift of God is eternal life in

Christ Jesus.' (Rom. vi. 23.) Do you take it?" I asked.

"You have cut away the ground under my feet," he replied. "All my arguments are gone; I cannot gainsay the Scriptures."

"But do you accept the gift of salvation?"

"Yes, I do, God be praised. But that other gift you mentioned, the gift of righteousness, what does that mean?"

"This," I said, "is another of the many great and precious gifts of God to us; and just as without the gift of the Son

none could be saved, so without the gift of righteousness none could stand before Him. Now, when God gave the Son for our sins, He gave Him this wondrous service to God and to man, that the Son, who is the equal of the Father, should have put to His account all the sins of His people, and He, the Holy One of God, who knew no sin, was made sin. This, if I may so speak, was *God's gift to Jesus*, and He took the terrible burden, with all its judgment, and sorrows, and bitter wrath, and bowed down to the

curse and death for us, and thus Divine justice was fully satisfied, and the majesty of the holy law of God vindicated, and Satan's power once more rendered void; and now all is met and fully settled. God having raised up Jesus from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in heaven, sends forth this blessed message of salvation throughout the world, and whosoever believeth God in receiving His message receives the gift of righteousness from Him (Rom. v. 17); that is, God *accounts* such as receive His Son in His

appointed way as righteous, *not comparatively* righteous, but *absolutely* so in the person of His Son. (2 Cor. v. 21.) Do you understand?" I asked.

"Yes, I think I do; and I rejoice for the way it has been made plain to me to-day."

I said, in parting from him, "If you have received the Son of God, He is a living person, and His life will be manifested in *your life*; and if you have been made righteous by faith, righteousness of life will be manifested by *you*."

Dear reader, what say you to this great question? for it is an unsettled question with thousands who listen to the gospel message, week after week and year after year. Many wish it was settled, because they fear the future; and because it is unsettled, the present is often full of anxiety. Many pray for forgiveness of sins, yet never realize their sins are forgiven, simply because they do not believe God, and yield themselves to the truth. Are you among them, dear reader? There are others, and their name is legion, who

do not believe in this great salvation, because they make the forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven to depend upon their *behaviour* on earth—on *human goodness* instead of *Divine grace*.

Nevertheless, the fact remains, “There is forgiveness with *thee*, that thou mayest be feared.” And this forgiveness of sins, and eternal life, with all its blessedness, is proclaimed to you, dear reader, and can be had by you this day, if you are ready to receive it, as God’s free gift through the death and resurrection of His Son

Jesus Christ, who lives to maintain it in the souls of such as yield themselves to Him, who will not fail to perform all He hath promised us in His Word, and who is coming again quickly to gather His redeemed and purified ones to be for ever with Him in glory.

Does this blessed hope belong to you, dear reader? or shall your portion be with the devil and his angels? Is your portion with him now, or with Christ—which?



JESUS, whom angel-hosts adore,
Became a man of griefs for me ;
In love, though rich, becoming poor,
That I through Him enriched might be.

The ever-blessed Son of God
Went up to Calvary for me ;
There paid my debt, there bore my load
In His own body on the tree.

'Tis finished all :—the veil is rent,
The welcome sure, the access free—
Now then we leave our banishment,
O Father, to return to Thee.

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