

The Decalogue formulates laws, which, if respected and obeyed, help man to carry out those moral transactions leading to eternal success. In our present age of mercantile struggles for commercial supremacy, man must needs have and obey certain laws in order to attain success. There are here ten commandments also; nay, let us say eleven, and this last one embraces them all:

“MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.”

FIRST COMMANDMENT—Depend on your own efforts.

I know of no short cut, of no royal road to success bearing the imprint of permanence. Some there are, alas! it is true, who are elevated to high positions, not through efforts of their own, but by hands anxious to further their own ends. The man who reaches the coveted mark in life, borne on the pinions of adulation, will die the death of a cringing sycophant. Be yourself! Be independent! Be resourceful and self-reliant! This is essential even to moderate success. The man of energy controls circumstances otherwise unfavorable, and opens up avenues by which he advances to honor and wealth. Why, tell me, are the sons of rich men miserable failures? The want of energy, the absence of laudable ambition and self-reliance are the cause. They have the ability to succeed as their fathers did, but they lack that stimulus which excites energy and calls into action the full strength of manhood. “*Vita est in motu,*” says Philosophy, or, according to the vernacular: Energy is the active principle in man. It is the force which rides over and around obstacles. Almighty God has planned that Heaven and Success cannot be attained without a struggle.

Neither advantages of birth, nor wealth; neither genius, nor opportunity, but his own efforts, make the man; his own right arm and manly enterprise—such achieve for man, success, wealth, and renown.

Do not be mercurial! Extraordinary success should not unduly elate, nor should reverses of fortune easily depress.

SECOND COMMANDMENT—Having made an effort, persevere in it.

Never give up or leave the enterprise considerably selected for others that, for the moment, may appear more promising. A career or a business is not built up in a month or a year. Men that have grown gray and wise at the school of experience, tell us that it matters not what a person engages in, by perseverance he will succeed. Many a man has pursued, with energy and ability, some