

the way, for a threefold rod is not quickly broken.” This advice they followed through life—illustrating most remarkably, how good and pleasant a thing it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity. In all their intercourse and correspondence, a free and affectionate sympathy is manifested, truly beautiful, and worthy of all imitation.

In 1810, when Mr. Lawrence was about twenty-four years of age, and in the bloom and vigor of young manhood, its hopes, promises, and prospects, he was stricken down by a deadly distemper which prevailed at the time throughout New England. He seemed to draw near to death. The most eminent medical aid was called in; prayers were offered in the church for his life. His pious father hastened to his bed-side. To the physician in attendance he gave a convulsive grasp of the hand, and with eyes brimful of tears, and choked utterance, articulated, “Doctor, if Amos has not money enough, I have.” But that life was spared for an important work on earth. Slowly it gained on the fearful disease, and came forth with a new light and moral activity among men.

We do not propose to dwell at any length upon the course and success of Mr. Lawrence, as a merchant; or upon the manner in which he disposed of his property for the public good; but rather to give those passages in his experience most fraught with moral character and the life of religious faith. Here is an extract from a letter which shows his magnanimity towards a brother:

“On the first of January, 1814, I took my brother Abbott into partnership on equal shares, putting fifty thousand dollars, that I had then earned, into the concern. Three days afterwards, the ‘Bramble News’ came, by which the excessively high price of goods was knocked down. Our stock was then large, and had cost a high price. He was in great anguish, considering himself a bankrupt for at least five thousand dollars. I cheered him by offering to cancel our copartnership indentures, give him up his note, and, at the end of the year, pay him five thousand dollars. He declined the offer, saying I should lose that, and more beside, and, as he had enlisted, would do the best he could. This was in character, and was well for us both.”

His influence over this brother and partner, undoubtedly was the most powerful instrumentality, under the blessing of Providence, in shaping his character for the illustrious positions he afterwards filled, with so much credit to himself and the country. The letters he wrote to him in Europe are full of tender and touching admonition and advice, and would form, of themselves, a most interesting and useful volume for young men. Just as this young brother was about to sail for England, he wrote him a letter, full of excellent and tender counsels, both in reference to his moral character, and his business transactions and habits. In this communication he says, among other things of similar teaching: “As a first and leading principle, let every transaction be of that pure and honest character that you would not be ashamed to have appear before the whole world as clearly as to yourself.” * * * “It is of the highest consequence that you should not only cultivate correct principles, but that you should place your standard of action so high as to require great vigilance in living up to it. In regard to your business transactions, let everything be so registered in your books, that any person, without difficulty, can understand the whole