

after me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." This class would probably get on very well if there were no difficulties in the way, but the moment tribulation or persecution ariseth or there is some temptation to be resisted or cross borne, down go their gallant colors in the dust.

The third class described by the Master is "the thorny-hearted hearer." "And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up and choked them." Have you ever seen this class? I have. I have seen the young man and woman in the Sunday-school; I have seen them confirmed; I have seen them partake of their first communion. A few years later we find them neither in the Sunday-school, nor partaking of the Sacrament, nor even in the Church. What is the cause of this? Just what the Holy Spirit says in His commentary on this class. Putting St. Matthew's and St. Luke's accounts together we are told the thorns and briars are "the cares of this world;" "the deceitfulness of riches" and "the pleasures of this life." Have you not seen these crowd out all the early religious impressions? I have seen the young man in his anxiety to make money having no time nor inclination for spiritual matters. I have seen the young woman and even the young man allowing the pleasures of the world to absorb all their attention. I have seen the mother allowing the cares of the world, domestic cares, to crowd out all the desires she once had for the Church, its services and blessed privileges.

None of these three classes described bore fruit. In St. Matthew's Gospel, the seventh chapter, we have fruit-bearing given as the mark of discipleship: "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." By this text all these classes are lost.