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The father of Dr. Livingstone, the famous African Explorer, being on his death-bed called his children about him, and as his dying counsel urged them to be honest; for said he "so far as I am acquainted with the history of my forefathers they were all honest men. The poet too has said—

"A wit's a feather and a chief's a rool. An honest man is the noblest work of God." Honesty has amongst all civilized races been considered an admirable virtue. And well it may for it is a rare one. Clearly it is not natural to man. Savages are generally speaking dishonest and treacherous. And it is not without effort that even civilized men can act up to the requirements of strict integrity. If we are to credit the reports in the newspapers there must be a very flood of dishonesty pouring through the commercial world. The hard times are bringing the doings of rogues to light and causing men of weak principle to turn rogues. In conversation with a merchant the other day he remarked, "a man will now-a-days go to jail, and swear out for a dollar." There is no doubt too that the law of Insolvency encourages evil disposed men to escape from the payment of their just debts by fraud. In this way many an honourable merchant has been brought to financial ruin, through no fault of his own, except perhaps undue confidence in his fellow-men.

Excessive striving after riches often leads to acts of doubtful probity. The desire to keep up appearances is likewise a strong incentive to fraud. Living beyond one's means or as the Indian proverb says, "carrying too much bush for a small canoe," usually ends in a lapse from the paths of honour. But perhaps one of the most fruitful causes of this evil arises from the want of thrift.

"Waste not want not" is a good proverb. Some people waste and destroy what others would grow rich upon. Waste-fulness leads to poverty, and very often poverty leads to moral weakness, a man who is in a great strait for money will borrow it wherever he can get it. He will often promise to pay in so many months knowing that he has neither the ability nor the inclination to do so. If there was less laziness and more thrift amongst such folk it would be better for themselves as well as for others.

Another source of this evil is the want of proper management,—buying articles which are not required, or which could be done without. It is wonderful how much a man can do without when he tries. Honest frugal economy is no disgrace to any family. Many people would have fewer temptations if they attended less to the business of their neighbours and more to their own; and their neighbours would like them all the better. It is frequently said that men are not so honest to-day as their fathers were before them. Whether this is so or not it is clear that there are more temptations to lead men astray than in the days of our fathers. Against this great army of temptations it is our duty to guard. We hear much about our politicians bribing men at election times with bank notes, road commissions, rum, and little post-offices, and no doubt there is some foundation for the complaint. But if electors were all men of high principle, exercising their electoral rights in the fear of God, and eschewing greed, candidates for political honours would not be tempted to such base courses.

It is a wholesome sign of the times that there is a general outcry in the world against dishonesty. Men see more clearly the result of it when times are hard. The press is speaking out with no uncertain sound. The pulpit likewise is beginning to waken up. The public is beginning to ask for a religion that will make men keep the command-