

T H E

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COVETOUSNESS—BENEVOLENCE.

No. I.

As an introduction to a number of plain, printed, and practical essays upon the subject of christian liberality, we offer to our readers the subjoined extract. It is taken from a little volume, entitled, "The Sin and Evil of Covetousness," written by the well-known Thomas Dick—a work full of useful prescriptions to those who are afflicted with that deadly malady, or any of the symptoms of the malady, which sends every miser to a hopeless grave. The language of the extract is bold, radical, and independent; not more so, however, than the condition of christendom demands. Christians in the first century, and christians in the nineteenth century, appear so widely different, especially in the practicals of religion, that we question whether any writer can be too pointed in attempting to portray the contrast.

Perilous times were predicted, and perilous times have come. The prophecy is fulfilled before our eyes. Long ago it was said, "Men," professing christianity, "shall be money-lovers"—shall be "covetous"; but we can now say, that men who are living with us in our own times, who are righteous in profession, and whom every professedly religious denomination on earth recognize as brethren, are worshippers of mammon, both secretly and openly; of which the testimony is a thousand-fold too strong. But we shall hear our author:—

We are too apt to imagine that the censures of the church are only to be inflicted on those who are guilty of what the world terms *scandals*: and many professors of religion are thus led to consider themselves as acting a dutiful part in christian society, if no such scandals can be