

greatest amount of both has been expended? What objects do men seek to accomplish by the multitude of *ships* which they keep perpetually traversing the ocean—by the marching and countermarching of *armies*—the hurrying to and fro of *posts* and *messengers*—the *speeches*, *meetings*, and *debates*—in short, the almost endless variety of ways in which their industry is manifested? Is it something which appertains to the spiritual and eternal condition of man? or is all this labour undertaken to obtain possession of something which is earthly, and which can be of no benefit whatever to those who weary themselves in seeking it, after their mortal condition comes to an end? These questions require no answer; the words of Christ which have just been quoted, furnish a key to this restless bustle which is kept up in the human family, and explain fully its reason and object. It is true that we now and then perceive the life and active powers of man directed to the attainment of higher objects, but such cases are only exceptions to the general rule; and they therefore confirm, rather than invalidate, our conclusion.

But if any should object that, although wealth is sought in the first place by the various methods in which human industry is exerted, it is yet not sought for its own sake, but only for the sake of the purposes to which it may be devoted; and that, if these purposes are right and good, all this anxiety and labour to obtain it will be found deserving of commendation rather than censure; we would again reply, that this also resolves itself into a question regarding a matter of fact. A vast amount of wealth must doubtless accrue from the various labours of man. To what purposes, then, is it