

"The Sacredness of Man."

"Honor all men."—I Peter ii., 17.

PAUL said honor was to be shown to whom honor is due. Peter says it is due to all men. Honor is due to man as man wherever found. There was a time when Peter would not have said that. There was a time when he believed in the superiority and aristocracy of his own nationality. There was a time when he refused to recognize, or fraternize with, the common manhood of humanity outside his own limited circle. But under divine education his narrowness dropped away from him, as he came to understand the full meaning and intent of the Gospel Christ had commissioned him to preach. By a heavenly vision he learned that God was no respecter of persons; learned that God had made of one blood all the nations of the earth; learned that one Gospel was to be offered indiscriminately to all nations and to every creature. When he learned this he learned the doctrine of the equality of all men before God, and therefore by divine inspiration he has bidden us honor all men. There is not a human soul on the face of the earth whom we are permitted to despise. There is something in every human being worthy our profound regard. We dare not call any man common or unclean. A man may be ignorant, degraded, vicious, yet we must honor him, because, however degraded, he has not wholly lost the divine image in which he was originally created. In every form of the human