

elsewhere. Many of the bulls of Benares have been taken into the country, and most likely the monkey will share the same fate.

They are called "the four-handed folks." The common people complain of the monkeys as oppressive and wish most of them removed to some other place, but if they are removed, they will be taken to fertile fields. The Hindu says they are too sacred to be slain, and worthy of adoration and must be provided for, and they doubtless will be.

THE POISON OF TOUCHING TRUST-FUNDS.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

Whole fleets of merchant-vessels enter the harbor of New York every week, and attract no attention; but if a single ship, either through bad steering, or fog, or tempest, should be wrecked on Sandy Hook, it would be telegraphed all over the country. So whenever a single conspicuous church-member becomes a defaulter, the fact flies widely over the wires and through the press. Genuine Christianity is not harmed by the occasional fall of individuals, who while professing it, yet violate its plainest precepts.

Two or three defalcations have occurred recently, which teach a most instructive lesson. One of them—that of the distinguished banker in Portland, Maine—was of the most painful character; to those of us who knew and loved the man, it was almost incredible. He was eminent as a financier, as a citizen, as a generous philanthropist, and as a leader in Sabbath-school, missionary, and evangelistic enterprises. The young men of Portland loved him; everybody trusted him. On the Sabbath he often officiated as an eloquent lay-preacher in many of the churches. So complete was the confidence of his business associates in his integrity, that the directors of his bank left to him the control of its finances almost without examination. The shocking discovery came at last, that for three or four years he has been embezzling the funds of the bank, and using them for his own purposes in stock speculations! Two months ago he was one of the most honored and beloved men in Portland; to-day he is in the penitentiary. His heart broken family are crushed under a blow which brings to them the tenderest

and deepest sympathy of the whole community.

Did Mr. G—*intend to steal* the money of that bank when he began to use it without authority? No, probably not. He *intended to return it*, after he had profited by the use of it. So have scores of other defaulters whose names will readily occur to our readers. But the very first unauthorized touch of a dollar of trust-funds, under any circumstances, is *deadly poison*. It is like the prick of the dissecting-needle to the doctor who is conducting a "post-mortem." One drop entering the veins, sends death through the system. The whole moral sense becomes poisoned. From that moment onward, the tamperer with the sacred trust becomes as completely enslaved as the man is who tampers with the brandy-bottle.

An officer in one of our banks many years ago purloined a sum of money—not very large—to enable him to pay for his small and modest house. Like the Portland banker, he was a man of most exemplary private life. He told me that he had not a thought of keeping the money, but fully expected and intended to return every dime. But everything went against him from the moment that he touched that fatal money. Having been detained from his teller's desk for just one day, the discovery came, and with it the wreck of his character. The touch of a trust-fund, even with no intention of theft, had been deadly poison.

We can imagine the distress of a man who is conscious of the deception he is practising, and of the danger that yawns beneath him. Each day he hopes to make a fortunate turn in his speculations, and be able to replace the purloined money. But the rope swings farther and farther off from him every day, as he stands with outstretched hands on his dizzy ledge of rocks. Providence, which never deserts a true and loyal Christian, deserts him. He dies a thousand deaths in the dread of detection, yet excuses himself to himself constantly by the artful plea "When I can, I will return the money."

This whole terrible business of tampering with trust-funds, has been a subject of close, and careful observation with me for many years. I have made some study into individual cases. They are all alike; they all prove that any man, who with even the most sincere intention to replace it, ever lays his finger on one dollar of trust-