

which strikes their fancy with delight, and fills their hearts with promise ; but it soon becomes irksome to them by its sameness, or discouraging by little difficulties in the way, real or imaginary, and they retire from it in despair. Having heard the history of one and another who have risen to opulence by successful engagements in trade, they are naturally desirous of proceeding in the same course, at least of reaping the same reward. But here they deceive themselves : they are dazzled and attracted by the result, but overlook the means which lead to it ; or, after a brief trial, take umbrage at the pains and labours which are the indispensable conditions of success.

Now this state of mind must be resolutely opposed and overcome, or all expectations of success from the pursuit of business will end in disappointment. Let, then, the whole subject, in all its tendencies, bearings, and requirements be carefully and deliberately weighed, and the decision be made accordingly. Let a determination be formed and acted upon to give close and unremitted attention to the object, in its minute details as well as its larger departments, during all the time allotted to the purpose ; and let there be added, to the energy which excites to action, the diligence necessary to render it effective, and the unconquerable perseverance which shall carry it onward to its desired consummation.

In the next place, the Scriptures require us to exercise

### 3. MODERATION in the pursuit of earthly good.