

article of dress, the sums spent were incredulous. Here, the ladies themselves, have not escaped censure. The public prints everywhere emblazoned on their pages, the hundreds of dollars given for a handkerchief, and the thousands for a single shawl. But the crisis came, and when the books were examined, there were thousands upon thousands of pounds which could not be accounted for. It was no wonder. Merchants themselves, amid all their luxurious and fast living, had taken no note of where they had gone. The credit system was another cause assigned. 'On every return of a crisis, this is a thing much spoken of and much reprobated. All with one voice condemn it *then*. But no sooner has the cloud passed over, than they who were loudest in their anathemas, are the very first to return to it. Men of prudence, however, should discountenance it as much as possible. It has inflicted many a sore evil on some industrious families, and ruined many a respectable and enterprising merchant. Even in small country districts, its evils have been greatly felt. They are felt now, and will continue to be felt, as long as the credit system continues to be encouraged. In some very particular cases it may be of advantage, but as a general system, the sooner it is done away with, it will be the better both for the seller and buyer. These are some causes commonly assigned for the crisis.

With commerce and politics, we, as Christian instructors, and journalists, have nothing to do, saving in so far as they bear upon religion, or religion bears upon them. But even on this circumscribed ground, it will certainly be admitted by every judicious man, that we have not a little to say on the present occasion. It is no new doctrine—no novel theory enunciated for the first time, that commerce ought to be conducted on religious and Christian principles.—The demand for this is every day becoming stronger. The world itself, is beginning to see its propriety. The church has long ago lifted up her voice in support of this system. Instead of that voice being lowered or hushed, it is waxing stronger, louder and more earnest. She will have it, that those who profess to be her members, will carry their Christianity with them, to the counter and the counting-room, to the store and market, as well as to the house of God and the Lord's table. She will have it that there shall be written, as it were, over the door of every merchant's place of business, and in characters legible to every one,—“whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report—all these things are attended to carefully and faithfully here.” She will have this and all this, for the sake of Christian merchants themselves, for the sake of those with whom they trade, and particularly for the sake of her Lord's cause in the world. Their dealings must not be merely fair and honest, but they must be Christian. They must include by all means what is fair and just, but they must sometimes go beyond this. They must do nothing as merchants, which will taint their character as Christians. They must, if possible, attract the respect of the worldly, the ungodly, and the unprincipled, by their upright, honourable, and liberal dealings. No mean subterfuges for making a few pounds; no low trickery for hoodwinking the simple or ignorant,—must for a moment be tolerated. Everything must be open and candid, and above