

times illustrated by persons who have fallen under our own observation. If it be all-important that a person possess decision of character, in order to carry out with success the common plans of life, how much more important to possess it, in order to engage in those concerns which have reference to the higher destinies of man? True Christian character can only be possessed and maintained; will only be of genuine worth, as persons are influenced and governed by enlightened Christian principles and possess that firmness of mind, which will enable them to carry out the principles of the Gospel in active life. Thus their eye being single their whole body will be full of light. They will be as a city on a hill, which cannot be hid. The Saviour was fully aware of this, and of the lamentable consequences which would inevitably follow where there was a want of sound principle, and a destitution of stability of mind: and he has most beautifully and forcibly presented this truth to our minds in his parable of the Sower. The seed sown in stony ground having not root in itself soon withered, and never came to perfection. If we listen to the language of the Apostles recording their own sad experience in regard to those who appeared to be destitute of principle, and as destitute of anything like fixedness of purpose, we shall find that they were often called to mourn over such characters, and to press upon all the importance of possessing that stability which would enable them to pursue an undeviating course. "I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you." "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that you should not obey the truth?" "Ye do not run well, who did hinder you?" This is the language of the Apostle Paul in respect to such. "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways," is the language employed by another.

But even within the circle of our own observation, many have fallen in with many of whom it may be said, "They are ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." How often have those who have been engaged in advancing some worthy cause been sadly disappointed, and grievously pained, by the inconstancy of others, on whom they relied, and to whom they looked for support in the hour of need. They leaned upon what they supposed to be a staff, but, alas! they found but a broken reed, which pierced their side, filling their hearts with the keenest anguish.

On a former occasion and fortitude to overcome the little enemies of the soul, and to overcome the various difficulties of the work in preparation to say, once shining up

in farther down in the first of the work in a degree, and of great and glorious in the second possess fixedness of mind, in the third of these traits of character who have a remarkable degree of accomplishment. Probably there are many who have an unshaken purpose, and a firm determination. They are, illuminated, and contrast the calmness of the heart, and having a good of error in the world for centuries. Having

they were might rise, but the charges of the beam on the themselves upon the which cause, centre, demon

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