

places, thou castest them down into destruction." It is true to-day as then, that by fraudulent means men vault into positions of wealth and fame.

But did you ever consider how short lived is such success? They rise, brilliant as a meteor for a moment, then sink into midnight blackness. Their wealth and fame seldom reach to the third generation.

Some men fall, and like an elastic ball they rise again. The harder they are thrown down the higher they bounce up. But some men fall like an apple that is beautiful on the outside, but rotten within. They do not rise again. When you look for them you find nothing but a malodorous heap of conglomerate rottenness. They are brought into desolation as in a moment. Across the sky of European politics the first Napoleon swept like a flaming meteor. His triumphant march shook the continents. But how sudden and irreparable was his fall when he met Wellington at Waterloo. The right hand of God reached out that day and a voice from Heaven said, "Thus far shalt thou go and here thy proud march shall end." His career was a mountain stream that ended in mud. It was well for the world that it ended so.

"For had he died as honor dies,  
Some new Napoleon might arise,  
To shame the world again,  
But who would soar the solar height,  
To set in such a starless night."

Study the history of the commercial world, the political world, and you find that men who by duplicity and fraud gain positions of wealth and fame, do not retain them. They may make a covenant with death, and with hell be at agreement, yet when God lays judgment to the line and righteousness to the plummet, their refuge of lies is swept away and their ill-gotten honors become monuments to their shame. "Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short and the joy of the godless but for a moment."

Jeremiah put this truth in forcible phrase, saying, "As the partridge sitteth upon eggs and hatcheth them not, so he that getteth riches and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days and at the end shall be a fool." He was a fool all the time, but did not know it until he got to the end. "I was a fool not to have seen this," said a banker to me one day when I visited him in a prison. He knew it was wrong to use the bank's money in his own personal investments. He was trying to get riches, but not by right, and it landed him in prison. And he said to me, "I was a fool not to have seen this."

The history of human failures emphasize the lessons of the Bible. Let not thine heart envy the prosperity of the wicked. Follow the counsel of my text, "Be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long." Have a great reverence for God, and for the laws of God in your daily life and business. This is the secret of enduring greatness. The history of permanently successful men declare as emphatically as does the Bible that unswerving adherence to the eternal principles of religion and rectitude lie at the basis of enduring greatness. "Treasures of wickedness profit nothing."

ing." "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely." "Godliness has promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

I hear men say that you cannot succeed in business life, professional life, political life, by adherence to Christian principles. The man who talks that way is a moral imbecile. History with tremendous emphasis gives the lie to the assertion that the principles enunciated by Jesus cannot be built on, relied on, lived on, in this world. They are the only principles that can be relied on for permanent success and enduring fame. He who builds on anything else builds on sand, and invites disaster.

A man, in violation of the eternal principles of righteousness, may make financial gains for a time, but the lightnings of God will strike them later on and scorch them to ashes.

The Quaker poet Whittier saw that truth working out in his day, and to men who had amassed dishonest wealth he said,

"Your hoards are great, your walls are strong,  
But God is just;  
The gilded chambers built by wrong,  
Invite the rust."

Men who build ten-story, twenty-story, forty-story structures know that unless the foundation is right, the whole building will one day collapse into ruin. Build your life and business on camouflage and deception, and it will tumble into ruin as a house built on sand.

The truth that needs to be written in letters of gold over the door of every bank, every store, every factory, every school-house, every home, is "This is God's world. The laws of God are practicable in God's world. They are the only laws that lead to true success." It's a simple proposition and needs no elaborate argument that God will do better for a man in this world than the devil.

The man who takes the devil's way in life instead of the way of God, shows a lack of good common sense. It is moral idiocy for a man to ignore or go contrary to the laws of Almighty God. You might as well monkey with the laws of electricity as attempt to play fast and loose with the eternal principles of righteousness revealed in the world of God and written in flaming fire across the pages of human history. The man who lives contrary to the laws of God is as foolish as the fool who said in his heart, "There is no God."

Those two young Jews in Chicago, graduates of a university, thought themselves specially clever when they picked up and killed an innocent lad. They thought they could hide their tracks and escape detection. During the trial a young woman who had been a companion of one of them, visited them in the prison. She said to them, "You thought you were clever, but you were just stupid." Every man that lives his life here on earth in opposition to the righteous will of God, is just stupid. Irreligion is moral stupidity. Religion is moral intelligence.

The man who says the Golden Rule of Jesus is not workable in business, is not only feeble-moralled, he is feeble-minded and narrow-minded. He sees things in the small. He sees them in the microscopic dimensions of his own little life, and does not see them clearly in that way either.

Listen to what a statistician says, a man who studies business institutions reaching over this entire continent. Babson says, "Statistics teach that a business man will be happiest by following the teachings of Jesus. Statistics teach that the Golden Rule is practical. Statistics teach that prayer is a real force

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