

Maids, matrons, nay, the secrets of the grave

This viperous slander enters."—*Cymbeline*, Act 3, Sc. 4.

"No might nor greatness in mortality

Can censure 'scape; back-wounding calumny

The whitest virtue strikes: What king so strong,

Can tie the gall up in the slanderous tongue?"—*Meas. for Meas.*, Act 3, Sc. 2.

Avarice:

"This avarice

Sticks deeper; grows with more pernicious root

Than summer-seeding lust; and it hath been

The sword of our slain kings."—*Macbeth*, Act 4, Sc. 3.

"What is here? Gold? * * * *

This yellow slave

Will knit and break religions; bless the accursed;

Make the hoar leprosy ador'd; place thieves,

And give them title, honor, and approbation,

With senators on the bench."—*Timon of Athens*, Act 4, Sc. 3.

Hypocrisy:

"The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose.

An evil soul, producing holy witness,

Is like a villain with a smiling cheek;

A goodly apple rotten at the heart;

O, what a goodly outside falsehood hath!"—*Mer. of Venice*, Act 1, Sc. 3.

"Do not * * * *

Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven,

Whilst like a puff'd and reckless libertine,

Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads

And recks not his own rede."—*Hamlet*, Act 1, Sc. 3.

Official corruption:

"Thieves for their robbery have authority,

When judges steal themselves."—*Meas. for Meas.*, Act 2, Sc. 2.

"Through tatter'd clothes small vices do appear,

Robes, and furr'd gowns, hide all."—*King Lear*, Act 4, Sc. 6.

"O, that estates, degrees, and offices,

Were not deriv'd corruptly! and that clear honor

Were purchas'd by the merit of the wearer!

How many then should cover, that stand bare?

How many be commanded, that command?

How much low peasantry would then be gleaned

From the true seed of honor? and how much honor

Pick'd from the chaff and ruin of the times

To be new varnish'd?"—*Merchant of Venice*, Act 2, Sc. 9.

The range of illustration from Shakespeare is wider than the instances quoted show. Any preacher who will make a study of his plays, with this end in view, will soon discover this for himself. The aim of this article will have been secured if it shall lead our clergy to research in this direction. Such study will answer two good ends. It will rest the jaded mind, and will furnish its armory with effective weapons in the struggle to maintain the right and make war on the wrong.