

You may rely on it that no man can be independent who is in another man's reverence, as the Scotch express it,

On the 2nd Dec, 1862, he writes:

"What I wish to impress on you is not the desire to accumulate wealth for its own sake, but to avoid poverty with all its attendant degradations for your own sake. And this is to be done by attention to the halfpennies, and pennys, the dimes and the cents. Above all avoid the error of looking down with lofty contempt on those who act on the principle of legitimate economy."

On January 20th, 1863, in referring to the state of public morality, he says: "The truth is the success of * * * impels me to think that honesty is not the best policy, but I am too old to act accordingly. The '*mens consci recti*', however, to speak plainly is a valuable possession. Never part with it. It is its own reward. It is better than learning of which it is said or sung:

"When houses, and lands are gone and spirit
"Then learning is most excellent."

Another instance of the spirit which permeated all his actions and feelings is found in the following letter of January 23rd, 1864. Apparently a newspaper criticising severely and harshly his course in the celebrated "Chesapeake" case had been sent to him by his grandson. After stating that he had read, and immediately burnt it he says, "Let me impress it on you as a rule never to be departed from, on no occasion to be the messenger, or communicator of disagreeable things to any man, except a sense of duty impels you to do so. Sedulously avoid this, and you will find it a useful principle to guide you, as you jog along through life, and moreover never let any person whomsoever communicate to you anything disagreeable, or what has been unkindly said of you. Don't listen to it, unless indeed it affects your integrity and calls on you to vindicate your character. But gossip avoid as you would poison." Then referring