

Polygamy upset the divine ordinance regarding the family and so sapped the root of national morality. But Solomon may have said "My social position demands that I should conform somewhat to the customs of others like me. Nobody respects a king who has not an extensive Harem." Or he may have said "In politics we have to do many things that we don't quite approve of, and this is the recognized way of forming alliances with other sovereigns." So men to-day excuse censurable customs of "society," and all sorts of political abominations. (c) He "greatly multiplied to himself silver and gold" (Deut. 17: 17). God gave him wealth to use for the glory of Israel and Israel's God, but he made the people groan under intolerable burdens to increase his wealth and magnificence. So rich men to-day "grind the faces of the poor," or rob the community by legalized fraud in order to amass wealth and defend themselves in the doing of it by various plausible arguments—the number they keep employed, the money they put in circulation, the credit they do to the national reputation &c. God will judge them as he did Solomon and wealth gotten by "sweating" or abused franchises, or soulless combinations will not be atoned for by endowing colleges, building hospitals and public libraries. (d) He married "strange women." "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," was a command emphasised by the cataracts of the deluge and reiterated again and again in the sad experience of the people of God down to apostolic times. Alas, that it should be so often disregarded now. Never enter into the marriage relation fancying that you are going to be a home missionary for one. The unbelieving husband or wife is far more likely to lower the tone of piety in his or her life's partner, than be inspired by the other's faith and good works. Never give your heart to one whose heart is not given to the Lord. (d) His exalted position gave him an influence for good. Had he proved worthy he would have been supported by the whole moral strength of prophets, priests, and people. As it was they followed his example, encouraged his folly and sin and so facilitated his downward course. Every one who pursues a course of life at variance with true godliness will find others influenced by it, who in turn will encourage their leader and eventually support one another against the warnings and dis-

approval of those whom they sneer at as "Puritanical" and "unco' guid." Every Christian is a "light," "a hill-top city" and should walk circumspectly for his own sake as well as for that of others. Here it is only just and proper to refer to the immense influence that Queen Victoria has wielded upon the morals of the court and nobility of Great Britain. This has extended downwards through all ranks of society.

6. *Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord.* That means that he connived at and even favored the worship of false gods. The secret of his defection was that he "went not fully after the Lord." Half hearted service of God is the most oppressive slavery, whole hearted consecration the truest liberty and abounding joy. It is of vital importance to the young that they hold back nothing from God. There is an oriental legend that in Solomon's staff on which he leaned, was a worm gnawing secretly, so that at last the rod fell asunder. A fit emblem of his character. The unsundered inclination, temper or affection is a foothold for Satan. "What a wicked man that Solomon was! *We* don't go after those divinities. Oh, no! We don't build high places to gods and goddesses with any such outlandish names as those. There is were we have the advantage of Solomon. But, after all, those *names* are not of so much account as the things they signified. Those were the divinities of lust, light and power. Do we never turn away from God in pursuit of these objects of desire? When it comes to be a question of serving God wholly, serving God only, and being led away of lust, or being drawn after mere learning and knowledge, or being tempted to crave power, are we always sure to choose the Lord's service? If we are, then we have an advantage, so far, over Solomon. But how is that?" (Trumbull). A man in much distress of mind, being unable to find peace, sought the help of his minister, who after some conversation, which seemed fruitless, said, "Let us pray." They knelt together, and the minister said, "O Lord, help us to trust thee with our souls." "Amen," responded the man. "O Lord, help us to trust thee with our bodies." Again came a hearty "Amen." "O Lord, help us to trust thee with our business." This time no response, and on looking up, the minister found that this was the stumbling-block to the