

the fire, we cannot avoid feeling pain ; if we practise intemperance, we injure our health ; if we wish to have friends we must shew ourselves friendly ; if we infringe upon the rights of others we must suffer in our own ; if we violate the dictates of conscience in our dealings with each other, *that* conscience will, sooner or later, require an ample compensation for the insult. The laws that should regulate this intercourse are plainly laid down in Scripture, and some of them have now been pointed out to you ; and never will nations, communities, and I may add, individuals, be secure from the danger of such disasters as have recently overtaken us till the principles of those laws are generally adopted.

It is in the social community as in the world of nature. The operation and observance of the immutable laws enacted by the great Creator is essential to the intended effect ; the neglect or violation of those laws is as necessarily productive of failure or disappointment. If the action of gravity were suspended, or any of the original forces disturbed which retain the planets in their orbits, confusion, irregularity, or destruction would ensue to the general system. If in the vegetable world a plant should fade and die before its fruit has been matured, we infer that at some point the established order of vegetation has been deranged, either by defect of nutriment, or injury of structure. So, in human affairs, to set at naught the plain and settled laws of action, will be to endanger all hope of success, and frustrate the design by the very effort to secure it.