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OUR WORK AND HOW TO DO IT.

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1. **A** FIRST obvious and fundamental principle is this, that our work should be lawful work, that it should not, as far as we know or believe, be at variance with the will of God. And this is a principle which is upheld by every consideration which should weigh with a thoughtful and conscientious mind. Self interest itself requires such a provision. A business which is unlawful will seldom be really remunerative. Honesty is the best policy, upon the whole, and in the long run. It is often and truly said that, if our rogues would employ the same ingenuity, industry, and perseverance in following a lawful calling which they show in their roguery, their worldly success would be triumphant.

But there are higher motives enforcing the same conviction. The voice of conscience is nobler than the prescriptions of self-interest. Even those who may decline to recognize the sanctions of religion

will admit that a man must obey his conscience if he would preserve his self-respect. His self-respect—nothing can compensate a man for the loss of that. When it is gone there stands nothing between him and moral ruin. "Give a dog a bad name," it is said, "and you may hang him." Let the dog feel that he deserves the bad name and he would almost as soon be hanged. The contempt in which the tax-gatherers of the time of our Lord were held by their countrymen reacted upon the men themselves, and it came to pass, on the one hand, that those who held that office fell in their own estimation, and, on the other hand, that men possessed of self-respect would not adopt such a calling, and so from both of these causes the men came to be very much what they were thought of and called. It is ever so. Let young men listen to this solemn warning before they enter upon the path which they intend to tread to