

PRICE 5 CENTS.

A SERMON
—ON—
LOTTERIES,
—BY—

HENRY FRANCIS ADAMS,
Pastor of the First Baptist Church,
YARMOUTH, N. S.

Exodus, 20.17. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's."

At the commencement of this discourse, I want to say that though it was suggested by the Roman Catholic Lottery, advertised for Nov. 9th, I do not intend to make an attack on persons, but to unfold a great principle, which is laid down in the tenth commandment, and which is emphasized and detailed in both our Dominion and Provincial Laws.

Our Omniscient and All-wise God knew the real nature of man's heart, when amid the thunderings and lightnings of Sinai, He wrote the 10 commandments on the tables of stone. He knew that through disobedience the human heart had become deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. He knew that every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually. He knew that at the very root of man's spiritual nature there was a carnal, selfish spirit, which under favourable circumstances would bear the fruits of innumerable vices. And with this knowledge of the downward trend of the soul, the Divine Being gave us the ten commandments, which are prohibitory of the worst sins of mankind. He there prohibited Idolatry, Profanity, Sabbath-breaking, Parental disobedience, Murder, Adultery, Stealing, Slander, and finally Covetousness. Most people agree in naming the first 8 things prohibited, as vices that ought to be prohibited, but many of those same people are slow in pronouncing covetousness as being a vice of a very dark type, and certainly act in relation to it, as if it were allowable. But if such persons will take the trouble to trace effects to their right causes, they would find that this prohibited sin of covetousness is the cause of more worry, misery, and degradation than any of the evils forbidden in the Decalogue, or than all put together. Do men steal a bank, like Eno whom I saw in Quebec two or three weeks ago, or forge a cheque? It is because of the covetous nature of their ungodly hearts. Do men or women commit adultery? It is because they covet that which they are forbidden to touch.

In Mark, 7. 20-23, our Lord associates covetousness with the same vices that are forbidden in the Ten Commandments. In Rom. 1. 29-32, the Apostle Paul classes it with the very worst of iniquities. In 1 Tim. 6. 9-10, he says, "But they that will be rich, fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." From July 1888 to July 1889, in the United States there were 10,792 business failures, with liabilities aggregating more than \$133,000,000, averaging about \$12,000 each. At the base of nearly every one of these failures, was this worm of covetousness which was slowly but surely accomplishing its deadly and ruinous work. Who shall say how many of those business men lived a long way beyond their incomes,

A
286M
.P Adl se