

among men. This is a debilitating idea, which will, if indulged in, unmake any man. A fair equivalent is necessary in all solid commercial transactions. The very craving to take unearned gains has in itself something of the immoral ; such gains necessarily imply an injury to some other persons, known or unknown. This "something for nothing" idea distracts a man's attention from his business, wastes his time, creates an unhealthy restlessness which is fatal to honest work for a fair reward, intoxicates his mental life, and spoils the reliability of his judgment.

Therefore, we conclude that there must be an element of ethical wrong in gambling, because of its effects on the individual and on society.

CHARLES KINGSLEY ON GAMBLING.

Charles Kingsley, apostle of muscular Christianity, was a true sportsman, if ever there was one. No one has brought a stronger indictment against gambling than he in a famous letter written to his son. He says : " You said you had put into some lottery for the Derby and had hedged to make it safe. Now all this is bad, bad, nothing but bad. Of all habits, gambling is the one I hate most, and have avoided most. Of all habits it grows most on eager minds. Success and loss alike make it grow. Of all habits, however much civilized man may give way to it, it is one of the most intrinsically savage ; it is unchivalrous and un-Christian. It gains money by the lowest means, for it takes money out of your neighbour's pocket without giving him anything in return. It tempts you to use what you fancy your superior knowledge of a horse's merits—or anything else—to your neighbour's harm. If you know better than your neighbour, you are bound to give him your advice. Instead you conceal your knowledge to win from his ignorance. Hence come all sorts of concealments, dogdes, deceits. Recollect always that the stock argument is worthless : ' My friend would win from me if he could ; therefore I have an equal right to win from him.' Nonsense ; the same argument would prove that I have a right to maim or kill a man, if only I give him leave to maim or kill me, if he can and will I have seen many a good fellow ruined by finding himself one day short of money and trying to get a little by play or betting—and then the Lord have mercy on his simple soul, for simple it will not remain long. Betting is the way of the world. So are all the seven deadly sins under certain rules and pretty names ; but to the devil they lead if indulged in, in spite of the wise world and its ways."