

will they lay a secure basis for that measure of prosperity which alone the law of "godliness" authorizes them to expect and strive for ; and they will enjoy what they thus honourably acquire without the stings of an upbraiding conscience.

A second quality most desirable in commercial life is

2. DILIGENCE. This also is emphatically recommended in the Sacred Directory, both by precept and example. *The desire of the slothful killeth him. Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. The hand of the diligent maketh rich. Seest thou a man diligent in his business ? He shall stand before kings ;* intimating that, according to the established laws of social life, industry in our proper calling is the most effectual way of attaining success and respectability in our secular pursuits. This is a comprehensive direction, enjoining not only activity, but perseverance ; prompting not merely to an occasional act, but to a *habit* of attention and labour. No extensive purpose can be accomplished, and no great object can be obtained, by fitful and transient efforts, however intense ; but by continued and patient application. This, while it is one of the most useful of all habits, is comparatively rare ; being by no means of easy acquisition. The most ardent and energetic are the most exposed to failure in this point. They seize upon an object with avidity, amuse themselves with it for a while, and then are urged, by desire of change or love of novelty, to relinquish it in favour of some new pursuit. They enter upon an employment