

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much FRUIT.

Johh xv. 8.



ILL DIE RICH.

SOME time ago the ship 'Britannia' was sailing along the southern coast of America. On board was a large consignment of Spanish dollars; and special guard was of course taken of the casks which contained them.

One day, as the ship was passing the coast of Brazil, she struck on a rock, and instantly filled with water.

Ah, of how little avail was the money then! The hungry sea was lashing round the ship, threatening every moment to engulf it, and what good could money do at such a time as that? Surely no one on board would even think of it.

The last boat was about to push off; it was the final chance for those on board, and a young midshipman, who was just stepping into the boat, mindful of his duty, rushed back to make sure that there was no one by any mischance being left in the now fast-sinking vessel. How great was his surprise to see a man calmly sitting on deck, with

a hatchet in his hand, breaking open the casks, and heaping the money all about him!

"What can you be thinking of?" shouted the young man. "What are you doing? Don't you know the ship is sinking fast? A few minutes more and she will go down!"

"She may go down," said the infatuated man; "but I have lived a poor wretch all my life, and now I am determined that I'll die rich!"

The young midshipman vainly pleaded with him to escape, and was compelled to hasten away to save his own life. A few minutes more and the ship heeled over and sank beneath the waves. The last view that they had of the man showed that he was still sitting among the shining heaps of gold.

Did he die rich? He died poor, immeasurably poor for the next world. "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" He was not lost because he had no opportunity of being saved, but because he refused it.

"I'll die rich!" That is the cry of thousands, in our land. We are disposed to think that man on the "Britannia" mad; and so he was, momentarily. But are men in our own country any wiser? With how many is the aim and end of their life to become rich, regardless of the eternal wealth that might be theirs?

Oh, that men would believe God's Word, that they are in danger—their souls in jeopardy of eternal death! Oh, that they would at once turn from the pursuit of riches and the love of the world to the Lord Jesus Christ, and embrace the only way of salvation! It may perhaps be the last opportunity for some one who is reading this little paper. It may be the last offer he will ever have. Oh, listen, then to it! Escape for your life! God is waiting—waiting and calling. "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." "To-day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart."

Wherefore, brethren... we should bring forth FRUIT unto God.

Rom. vii. 4.