

pride of wealth and the haste to be rich, were, canker like, eating into the spiritual life of some, and hindering the salvation of many. I have told you so, and presented truths fitted to promote humility and to moderate worldly ambition. I have seen, as every one else does, that the conformity of christians to the world, with its pride and ostentation, its misuse of means and heartless displays of selfishness, was sapping the foundations of piety and virtue, rendering the ordinances of religion and the labours of pastors comparatively fruitless, ruining the children and youth, dishonoring and hindering the Gospel. I have been deeply pained at the changes which in this respect I have witnessed, not in all, but in influential quarters. The patriarchal simplicity, with its free, healthy and invigorating influences, which formerly characterized the social and domestic life of christians in this city is rapidly disappearing. There is creeping in, a lavish expenditure, an ostentatious display of wealth, with luxurious habits and forms of social enjoyment, which threaten the most disastrous results, not only to the Churches, but to the community. In professed votaries of the world, these are simply ridiculous. But, when professing christians, who have renounced the pomps and vanities of the world, outvie worldlings in their worldly ways, it is a much more serious matter. By such a course, they not only give the lie to their professions, renounce their heavenly citizenship and become naturalized Sodomites, but they train up their children for perdition, discourage the hearts and tie the hands of christian laborers, and exert a chilling and most pernicious influence upon all within their reach. I have seen and felt all this, as only a pastor can. As God's servant, soon to stand at the judgment seat, I could not remain silent. I have insisted upon the right use and responsibilities of wealth, upon heavenly-mindedness and non-conformity to the world. I have warned you against having fellowship with the works of darkness, or pitching your