

the English the empire of the sea; to the Germans belong the empire of the *air*. But Jesus promises to the meek the empire of the solid earth. Surely a startling paradox!" But Christ's sayings are full of surprises to those who read them in the light of *men's* opinions.

This is, and is intended to be in direct contradiction to the idea that the conquerors inherit the earth. This was Alexander the Great's opinion, the old Roman view, and the Jewish doctrine of the performances of their expected Messiah. And here the real Messiah places such hopes in the category of impossibilities and holds up what seemed the feeblest quality which could characterize a man as the only great conquering power in the universe. The statement is true of the meek as a class. They are to have the greatest actual possessions, acquire the widest influence, achieve the truest success. It does not mean that every meek man will be richer than every fighter, but the meek as a class will be more successful than the proud or combative as a class, and a man has a far better chance of prosperity working along lines of meekness, than working along lines of strife. The reasons are obvious.

(a) By meekness men build up instead of destroying. Your conqueror may think he inherits the earth, but really he exists to destroy all that makes the earth desirable. The noblest lives have been sacrificed to the god of war. He has ruined the largest results of human labor and the finest productions of human art. Wealth untold has been spent to support him, but multiply that a million fold and you cannot calculate what he has wantonly destroyed. Israel was conquered by Assyria, Jerusalem by Babylon and again by Rome. These conquerors thought they gained the land, and they did get much spoil. Yet property, the production of ages, was destroyed; wealth, the accumulation of generations was wasted; the best and bravest of the people were slain; the spirit of the remnant was broken, and their energy and enterprise paralyzed. They gained the land, but not till it had become a barren waste. And what became of them? As Beecher says: "Time sits upon the ruins of the mighty