

charge of "other worldliness" which is often imputed to Christians. It would impart to the Christian a beauty of character which could not but excite the admiration of his fellows and would do more to commend to them the Gospel than loud-mouthed profession and endless exhortation. When, however, this is ignored, and men regard religion as a thing wholly distinct from the ordinary claims of humanity—when principles of right, and deeds of love and kindness are held cheap in comparison with religious observances, then a very ungainly exhibition of Christianity is presented and occasion is given the enemies of God to blaspheme. Have you not sometimes heard men of the world draw a comparison between two men, a professor and a non-professor of religion,—you have heard them say. "There is such a one; he makes no profession of religion but he is a good fellow nevertheless. He is upright and honest in all his dealings, he would scorn to do a mean thing. He is broad hearted and generous, he is kind and obliging. If he can do you a good turn he will do it, none more willing than he. While there is so and so, he makes great profession but he is a most contemptible character. His meanness there is no end to, you have got to watch him always. He is continually doing shabby underhand things. He is narrow, selfish and without public spirit. He is the last one to go to if you want a favour. He is one of your *Christians*." I say, were the spirit of this text more recognised we should hear less of this sort of thing.

They tell that they had rather have a good honourable square-dealing, open-hearted soul, though he made no pretence to Godliness, than the miserable specimen of professor described. And so had we. After all there is more of God's law embodied in his life. He has some regard for judgment and mercy which are among the weightier matters of the law, while the other is a stranger to them. He has some regard for his fellow men, which is a matter of no small moment. A sincere desire for the welfare of our fellows is one of the noblest features of character, and as oft as we discover indications of it in a non-professor of religion, we feel like exclaiming in the words of Christ, "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God."

In this connection Leigh Hunt's "Abou Ben Adhem" is suggested :

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace
And saw, within the moonlight of his room—
Making it rich and like a lily in bloom—
An Angel writing in a book of gold.