

and emphasis, that "his word is his bond;" and if the customs of society, the uncertainty of life, and the frailty of memory did not require it, the form of a written security might in his case be dispensed with. How different from him whose word can never be relied upon, whose representations are received with distrust, whose promises are never confided in, and who, by a series of petty shifts and evasions, or of fraudulent transactions on a more extended scale, acquires for himself the disgraceful notoriety of an unfair trader. The one is a blessing to society, the other a curse; the one inspires confidence, the other destroys it; the one diffuses a beneficial, the other a baneful, influence all around him; the one is honest and open as the day, the other dark and suspicious as the night; by the one the true honour and dignity of the mercantile character is sustained, by the other it is brought into discredit and contempt.

Upon my younger hearers I would urge, with all the earnestness of which I am capable, an immediate attention to the importance of unbending integrity as an essential ingredient in the formation of character. Let them adopt it, at once and for ever, as the foundation principle of all their doings. Let it enter among their first conceptions of the qualities indispensable for their future guidance. Let them cherish it as a precious germ which shall evolve and expand itself in virtuous action. Let it become an element in all their thoughts and feelings, until they acquire such a habit of "doing justly" that it shall be painful and unnatural for them to act in a contrary manner. Thus