

SERMON.

not belong to that contemptible class of people who look down upon honest toil as if it were beneath them. He could well afford to despise the sneers of those who charged him with having "sprung from the soil." He was not indebted to the accident of birth for his position, but achieved it by honest endeavor and real merit. No one is so weary and wretched as the man who has no life work, no object to which to consecrate his energies. His aimless life is the sport of every wind and wave, and ere long it is wrecked on the rocks of ruin. Idleness adds nothing to the resources of mankind. It consumes, but does not produce. The man who toils not is a dead weight upon the wheels of progress. There is true satisfaction in honest and well-directed labor. No man is more happy than he who feels that he is working out life's purposes wisely and successfully. That man has reason to be proud who can inscribe on his escutcheon the record of noble deeds. That is the grandest patent of nobility. He is a real benefactor who adds something to the resources of his race. Labor feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, and fills the home with plenty. It drives the plow, scatters the precious seed, and gathers the golden grain. It accomplishes the task of the mechanic, and gives success to the merchant. It prepares the physician for his practice, and the lawyer to maintain his plea. It places the judge upon the bench, and the monarch on the throne. One year of idleness would ruin the race, while every day of labor increases the wealth, the comfort, the usefulness and happiness of mankind. Would you have an approving conscience, a happy heart, and a strong and hopeful spirit, then use the powers you possess to improve the facilities with which you have been endowed, make your mark in the world, and the reward of the faithful laborer shall be yours.

We are sometimes told that religion is only the resource of the weak and foolish; that no men of cultivated mind, educated tastes, profound judgment and extensive intellectual acquirements are found among the followers of Christ. It seems to be