

tion of her income than the benefactions of our merchant princes are of theirs.

Then the pursuit of riches leads to selfishness. This is exactly what Christ denounced, and against which the whole spirit of our religion moves. Dives is not condemned for any gross immorality or injustice—he simply lived to himself. The rich fool is not accused of getting his wealth by wrong, but of thinking only of himself in using it. In the judgment of the nations, those on the right hand are commended for ordinary deeds of human kindness, while those on the left are banished for neglecting these common-place duties. "Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it not to me," Christ concluded, showing that the preference of self to others means the preference of the world to Christ. I need scarcely point out the sentence that the judge thus pronounces on the heartless selfishness that now dominates the business world; and as the close pursuit of wealth tends to cultivate this, it becomes a serious menace to Christian life.

This, in turn, leads to the danger of losing all dependence in God. In striving for the things of earth men are apt to think that all depends on their struggles, forgetting that when their best work is done, God alone can give the increase. Against this is directed the beautiful passage in Matt. vi., which ends with the words: "Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? . . . For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." (R.V.) The absence of heart-burdening care about such matters ought to be one of the distinctive features of Christianity. Even advanced thinkers blush not to hold that the millenium will be found in the increase and distribution of creature comforts. The idea is absurd to those who know the human heart, but it is prevalent, and it is loading the souls of men with burdens too great for them to bear. Christ holds that its origin lies in devotion to the world, and exhorts His people to remove the evil at its source.

For these reasons Christ says emphatically: "Whosoever