

of the New World ; if He were again to rebuke with the emphasis of untainted purity the sins of those who would be attracted by His preaching, I can easily imagine Him standing on one of our neighboring hills, as on the Mount of the Beatitudes, surrounded by a vast but motley crowd of the curious and the thoughtful, the humble and the haughty, whose varied shortcomings He would analyse with the skill of an expert, reserving His most caustic rebukes and heaviest denunciations for the commonest and most insinuating of all—the sin of Worldliness. This is the prevalent sin of our day and our community. As such it must not be left undisturbed. The light of divine truth must erradiate the whole being. No corner of the heart must be left to foster in darkness any form of sin. When a strong man, armed with the sword of the spirit keepeth the palace of his heart, his goods are in peace ; no enemy can gain entrance to its sacred chambers. That the insidious foe of worldliness has obtained firm lodgement in many hearts, retarding the higher life of the soul is a lamentable fact witnessing to an imperfect grasp of laws of Christian living.

The Presbytery's report on the state of religion, submitted at the late meeting in this church, stated that among the hindrances to the religious life of the people, every session within the bounds had mentioned *worldliness*.

When any sin, whatever its nature, takes such a hold of a people and spreads so widely as to obstruct the cause of religion throughout a whole province, it is time to speak out and warn the pew of imminent danger. There are forms of vice whose grossness thrust them upon our notice, compelling the denunciations of the pulpit. It is not so with the sin of worldliness. Entrenched within the palisades of semi-refinement, and false though prevalent conception of success, this form of sin has quietly taken possession of a large territory of our life unnoticed and unchallenged by the defenders. And we are now startled only as the besieged camp is startled by finding that while the gates have been carefully guarded, the enemy in great numbers, has crept in beneath the walls and is ready to contest the citadel.

I propose to consider with you to-night the nature and the cause of worldliness as it confronts us.

I. The nature of worldliness is easily understood. It consists in an undue attention to the things of the world to the neglect of God and the things of the spirit. Worldliness and Materialism may go hand in hand. Worldliness and Christianity are directly opposed. There are many who so magnify the virtue of diligence and thrift that they fail to see any line separating these from the vice of worldliness. These persons it is important to convince of the sinful-