

## BUSINESS AND RELIGION.

A wealthy, irreligious shrewd business man in Illinois was approached by a member of the church of Christ for a subscription towards building a meeting-house. He cheerfully put down his name for two hundred dollars, and then remarked, "I give that as a good business investment. I would rather give two hundred dollars every year than not to have the gospel preached in this community."

"How is that?" he was asked. "You do not pay any heed to the gospel. Why are you interested in having it preached?" "O," he replied, "I live here with my family, and my property is around here; without the influence of Christianity the condition of society would soon become such that neither property nor life would be safe. I would not be willing to live in any community where the gospel was not preached!"

These views of a hard-headed man of the world are confirmed by all experience. Christianity is the salt of the earth. Only the utterly abandoned would be content to live where its influence had ceased to be felt.

## WORKING CHRISTIANS.

Learn to be working Christians. "Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." It is very striking to see the selfishness of Christians. Are there none of you who know what it is to be selfish in your Christianity? You have seen a selfish child go into a secret place to enjoy some delicious morsel undisturbed by his companions. So it is with some Christians. They feed upon Christ and forgiveness; but do it alone, and all for themselves. Are there not some of you who can enjoy being a Christian, while your dearest friend is not, and yet you will not speak to him? See here, you have got work to do. When Christ found you, he said, "Go to work in my vineyard." What were you hired for, if it was not to spread salvation? What blessed for? O my Christian friends! how little you live as though you were the servants of Christ! How much idle talk you have! This is not like a good servant. How many things you have to do for yourself! How few for Christ and his people! This is not like a servant. — *McCheyne*.

## FAMILY RELIGION.

Fathers, you are the heads of happy families to-day. All that I ask is, that you will make them happier still — happy, not only in your love, but in the love of God the Saviour, happy for time and through eternity. The happiest family will not always be so. The most smiling circle will be in tears some day. All that I ask is, that you will secure, for yourself and your children, a friend in that blessed Redeemer who will wipe all tears from all faces. Your families may soon be scattered, and familiar voices may cease to echo within your walls. They may go, each to his own, and some of them may go far away. O, see to it that the God of Bethel goes with them, that they may set up an altar, even on a distant shore, and sing the Lord's song in that foreign land. — *Sel.*

## FOLLOW THOU ME.

Dear follow-Christian, by the loving hand of our God we have been led forward through another year, and time in its rapid flight has brought us so much the nearer to that blessed moment when we shall see Jesus, and be like Him; and when the trials of the wilderness will be over, and all our hopes shall be exchanged for the eternal presence of Him "whom having not seen we love," in whose light we shall forever dwell.

Let us start this year, with the words of the Lord Jesus to Peter as our motto, "Follow thou Me." The Lord sets *Himself* before us as our great example, *Himself* in all His walk here below as the obedient One, in His delight in the law of the Lord, in His meekness and gentleness under all the malignant hatred of men and devils, in His communion with the Father, and in His faithfulness as the servant of God. Oh, what an excellence we see in Him! what matchless perfection! every thought and word according to the will of God! He sets *Himself* thus before us as the One upon whom our eye is to be set, on whom our heart and affections are to be fixed, and in whom all our hopes are to be centered; and as our eye and heart are single and true to Him, we shall, like Him, be always doing the things that please the Father. Dear reader, seek to be that servant to whom the Lord shall be able to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." — *J. E. Hawkins*.