

you the absurdity of that unhappy man's determination who said, "Soul, take thine ease; thou hast much goods laid up for many years." What is there in barns, and fruits, and worldly abundance to give "ease" to the soul, when God *requires it*? These things have their use, and our Heavenly Father knoweth that we have *need* of them, during our sojourn upon earth; but they are only adapted to the wants of the body,—the soul requires a more ethereal nutriment, and can be happy only in God. To be alienated from Him is to be severed from the only source of true felicity; to be an enemy to Him is to be at enmity with our own peace. To be reconciled to Him is our highest privilege and dignity; to enjoy Him is to enjoy every thing. Behold, then, another illustration of the doctrine of the text, that *Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

The annals of commerce are not destitute of examples tending to evince the same truth. Many names might be adduced of Christian merchants eminent in their generation for piety and wealth, successful in their enterprises, and liberal in their distribution, considering themselves as stewards, not owners, of the property they acquired; of *men fearing God and hating covetousness*, equally diligent in business, and *fervent in spirit*, serving God in all. Such men give a tone and an influence to the society in which they move, and are an honour to the profession in which they are engaged. They have shewn the compatibility of an active life with a Christian spirit, and have taught us