

The man who thoroughly understands the principle of balance in bookkeeping is able, with the knowledge of a few technicalities, to keep the books of any ordinary business concern. The principle of the steam engine is very simple, yet it underlies nearly all the manufacturing, transportation, mining and other great industries of the world. These principles are in everything, in the hearts of men as well as in the workings of nature. Ambition leads men to work, to think, to scheme, to overcome defects and perfect themselves. The philosophy a man adopts influences all the activities of his life. Progress is made in life only as principles are mastered, one of which is this principle of temperance, which should be developed and thoroughly established in the mind and heart. Once it is established in the individual there is no need to fear the very many problems requiring its application.

Every opportunity to indulge that is resisted makes the individual so much stronger, or, in other words, builds up and strengthens within him this principle of temperance. The same is true of all good and evil, which are of the heart. Outward things in themselves are neither good nor evil, but present the opportunity to resist and become stronger and better or to indulge and become weaker and worse. Christ teaches this when He says, "Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnesses and blasphemies." And, again, in His departing prayer, He asks God not to take the apostles out of the world, but to strengthen them against the evils in it. God does not want people taken away from the so-called evil things, nor does He want the things removed. His apparent purpose is to cause us to fight, resist and overcome and by so doing develop purer, stronger and nobler character. This is the only rational mode of building up the principle of temperance.