

loathsome creature who will stand up and with a brazen countenance deny that there is such a thing as virtue in man, and who will drag down all that is pure and lofty in humanity to his own contemptible level! Beware of such a man—he should be branded with the stamp of hell! There are too many adherents of this Satanic creed in society to-day, and what is worse, as those of us who read know, they are finding their way into the current literature of the day. The modern novel smacks but too strongly of this diabolical creed. Our “Robert Elsmere” and “David Grieres” are too abundant. According to some of our novelists’ conception of character to-day, the heroic, the unselfish, the high devotion to principle do not belong to man. But such character I emphasize is not realism; and novels which depict such, and then hold it up as representing the average man and woman of society to-day, are simply the work of the devil.

But, while we emphatically refuse to sign the devil’s creed, and to say that human nature is selfish from top to bottom, at the same time we dare not close our eyes to the fact that selfishness is too prominent in the affairs of life. How far short we all come of being up to the golden rule! Oh, how much of self there is even in our professed Christian life! Ptolemy, the old astronomer, believed that the sun, the stars, and the

whole universe in fact, revolved around this earth as a centre; and at one time, strange as it may seem to those living at the present day, our forefathers all believed this. But a new era dawned for science. Copernicus appeared, and revealed the astounding fact that the earth revolved around some other centre, and that it was nothing more than a mere fragment of the great universe. We need some modern Copernicus to work a similar revolution in men’s lives to-day. There is too much of Ptolemy’s old theory. There are some men who seem to regard themselves as the centre around which all things revolve and to which all things contribute. What we want to-day is a Copernicus to knock the bottom out of this antiquated, worn-out theory. What we want to-day is men who regard themselves as revolving around the whole world of humanity instead of humanity around them men who aim at contributing to the good of other men instead of imagining that they were born simply in order that other men might contribute to their good, men who feel that they belong to every man. This, remember, is Christianity, this the golden rule.

“O man forget not there earth’s honoured priest,
Its tongue, its soul, its life, its pulse, its heart,
In earth’s great chorus to sustain thy part!
Chiefest of guests of love’s ungrudging feast
Play not the niggard, spurn thy native clod,
And self disown;
Live to thy neighbor; live unto thy God;
Not to thyself alone.”