

where fair trial is impossible ; because Justice is dethroned and burlesqued, such a host of falsehoods and lying abominations—like an army of ghosts from the infernal regions—would stare us in the face, as would cause us to shrink in horror and amazement. One of the truest signs of a low state of morals in any country is the corrupt administration of justice, which gives rise to judicial farces called trials, and which are managed by privileged persons for the concealment of crime or to satisfy the greed of gain.

Consider for a moment some of the effects, which would follow, if the principle of truth were universally rejected. Such confusion would result, as would be difficult for the mind to imagine. Rational beings could never improve in knowledge beyond the range of the objects, which happened to be within their personal observation. All confidence would be completely destroyed ; consequently, no friendships could exist. The mind would find itself in a wilderness, even when surrounded by fellow-intelligences. Kindness could never be exercised. Trade and commerce would be destroyed. Science, literature and the arts would cease to exist. Schools of all grades would be unknown. No buildings would be erected ; and nothing but a dreary barren waste could be seen throughout the whole expanse of nature ; while the earth would present a picture of that dismal region, where all liars are said to have their portion. On this earth the law of truth has, so far, been only partially violated ; yet what dreadful mischiefs have resulted, and what crimes have been committed during the history of the world. Ever since the time that the father of lies deceived the first human pair, many millions have trodden in his steps. Ananias and Saphira have many imitators : but, how seldom do we reflect, that every falsehood, we knowingly utter, is an infringement of that law, on which rests the throne of the Almighty. For, if one lie may be palliated or vindicated, on the same principle, we might vindicate a thousand or a million, till falsehood became universal among all ranks of beings and moral order completely subverted.

In this connection I cannot refrain from giving a quotation belonging to the writings of the celebrated Julian Hawthorne, an able and vigorous American writer, of whom any nation might feel proud. His strictures concerning the British government during the Indian famine of 1897 he found to be so devoid of truth, that he made a full retraction and an ample apology. He says :—"While I yield to none in my views as to the total depravity of Spain and Turkey, a depravity, which, of course, includes lying among its essential elements, still, I incline to think that, taking the two countries by long and by large, there are not, in proportion to population, so many energetic, self-conscious and cheerful liars in Spain or Turkey, as may be found in these United States. In this respect, if in no other, we are, at present, the banner-nation of the world."

Let us look at a more pleasing picture. Let us suppose, that falsehood became universally detested, so that lies were never more to be