

There is a time when the Master, about to return from far countries, Himself makes rigid yet loving inquiry of every steward concerning the talents, be they one or ten, intrusted to his use. Are we so using the money God has given us as to give to Him "His own with interest"?

But, some one will say, this is an unnatural view which you present. Christians are to use their money as do other men, subject to the laws of political economy and in accordance with the general spirit of the time in which they dwell and with the standards that prevail in the grades of society where their lot is cast. Let us look at the question for a moment.

#### HIS PROPERTY IS A MAN'S "OBJECTIFIED WILL."

A man's property has been said to be his "objectified will." Mere things, which apart from man are impersonal and utterly outside of moral and jural considerations, enter into the domain of rights, of justice, of morality, through their relation to the will of their owner. The object into which you have introduced your will, which you have willed and worked to make your own, has become in a sense a part of you. There is a true sense in which the man who touches your property touches you. Property that is truly owned and used becomes in a sense a part of the owner and user. His intelligence permeates it, his will directs its use. Since wealth is often labor stored up in portable form, it has in it a man's life. It partakes of his personality. A man's wealth, through his acting in it, becomes a personal force in social life which may be used for the noblest ends or prostituted to the basest uses.

No man can escape the fullest responsibility for the use he makes of his wealth, which is *potential power of service*. Every man holds all his powers in trust; for the use he makes or fails to make of each power, he must answer at the judgment-seat of God. Our divine Teacher has warned us that in wealth there is a subtle and dangerous tendency which leads it to seek to escape this law of service. Wealth, which should be a useful servant, seeks to become a tyrannical master. Christ in His warnings to His followers personifies but one power in the universe as likely to become a dangerous rival for that throne in man's heart and life which belongs to God Himself. The subtle power against which He thus warns us is Mammon, the love of money. Between the mad pursuit of gain and the service of the living God, He warns us that every man must choose. "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." The property that you have must be as fully and entirely subject to the law of the service of God in serving your fellow-men, as must your powers of heart and will and hand and head.

#### THE CONVERTED HEART INVOLVES THE CONVERTED POCKET-BOOK.

Talk of men as converted, as Christian men, who consciously and deliberately allow their property to be used for debasing and ruining their fellow-men! Imagine that a man's heart and will can be converted to the ser-