

meet with strong temptations from the laxity of morals prevailing in a heathen country, but will be deprived of the assistance of Christianity in resisting them. The result is not doubtful. Physical influences, of a malignant kind, have there ruined many a constitution, but moral influences have done greater injury to the soul. We shudder when we think of the cruelty of parents in former times, who sacrificed their children to Moloch, casting their innocent babes into the fiery arms of a monstrous idol; but is not the cruelty of Christian parents greater, and far more inexcusable, who expose, in this manner, the immortal souls of their children to almost certain perdition? And for what is this tremendous risk hazarded? For a fortune! which they acquire by losing their health, and spend, in some cases, in the vain attempt to restore it? Can any thing be a plainer indication of the mistaken sentiments of mankind respecting the manner in which human life should be employed, than the fact that so many do these things, and the rest, instead of condemning, applaud, and are ready to imitate them?

We ought not to lose sight of the fact here that the person who devotes his active life to the pursuit of wealth, and is successful, is generally counted worthy of public honour and respect. Whatever may be the defects of his understanding, or the worthlessness of his moral character, his riches are suffered to hide them from public view. Every one courts his friendship; his opinions are received as law, no matter how absurd they may be; while his poor neighbour, though greatly superior to him, perhaps, in knowledge, and morality, and usefulness, that is, in all that constitutes the man, shows his wisdom in vain. Parents direct their children