

and, therefore, to attain the highest spiritual excellence, He required them to leave all and follow him. The Church has always felt that great wealth well nigh prohibits great spiritual attainments. At one time John Wesley said that he knew only two men who had not been injured spiritually by growing rich. Later on he remarked that he did not know any. His testimony coincides with Christ's teachings, and the Church's whole experience. The reasons for this are set forth in several of Christ's sayings. There is the tendency of the heart to rest in riches. "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also" Christ taught, as he warned His people against accumulating treasures on earth, and urged them to lay up treasure in Heaven. The man whose aim is the amassing of a fortune will have his heart set on it to the exclusion of Heavenly interests. It is an inexorable law and men may protest against it in vain. In antithesis to His blessing on the poor, Christ said: "Woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation." The reason for it is that their wealth was all the consolation they sought. The blessings and powers of the spiritual world were an unknown region to them, and they did not care enough to explore it. The rich, in such a case, have not learned the first lesson of Christianity, that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." There is the danger of choosing Mammon as a master, and Christ said: "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." The laws of the two kings conflict with one another at many points, and Mammon-servers obey his laws even when they are contrary to Christ's, besides giving him the chief place in their hearts. This was the rich young ruler's fault, and it resulted in deliberate unbelief. To this men reply that they serve Christ with their means. This is often true, and there are great possibilities of such service. But it is gross hypocrisy to say that they are serving Christ with their gains when they dole out pence to His cause for pounds that they heap up for themselves. It is a principle nearly universal that the growth of a man's generosity does not keep pace with the growth of his possessions, and that the widow's mite is a far larger propor-