

awoke to find themselves in deepest poverty! How many whose wisdom and prudence seemed to have lifted them above the accidents and casualties incident to the lives of ordinary men, have nevertheless found themselves involved in the ruin which has overtaken others. Men who have revelled in the robbery of their fellows, who have reduced fraud and deceit to a science, and, in their proud combinations to defeat the ends of justice in accomplishing their selfish purposes appeared to set both man and God at defiance, have been made to feel that verily there is a God that judgeth in the earth. The word of God has been fulfilled, "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak to them in his wrath and vex them in his sore displeasure." It is remarkable, too, that in the accomplishment of all this he has not interfered with any of the laws of nature, or departed from any of those principles which ordinarily regulate his procedure in the providential government of the world. The heavens have given their rain and their dew, and the earth has yielded its accustomed increase, but the wisdom of men has been strangely turned into foolishness, and means which had in so many instances brought success have resulted only in failure, and the path which had often led to wealth has ended in poverty. Thus have we been impressively taught the foolishness and vanity of putting our trust in anything, even in respect to the commonest interests of life, except in the living God; and on the other hand, the wisdom, as well as the duty, of faithfully employing the wealth placed at our disposal as an instrument of good, in promoting the well-being of our fellow creatures and the glory of God.

There are many things, brethren, that we would like to say to you did time permit. We are deeply anxious that the year upon which we are entering shall be distinguished by more marked displays of saving power and grace than any which has yet occurred in the annals of our Church; and the realization of this we believe to be by no means impossible. We do not believe that the Church has ever developed or brought into play the full measure of her