

And the Blessed Lord positively condemns it. He says in *Matt. 5: 33-37*, "Again ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths. But I say unto you *swear not at all*: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne: nor by the earth for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem for it is the city of the Great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be yea, yea, nay, nay, for whatsoever is more than these, cometh of evil." When Christ said, "ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time" he undoubtedly referred to *Numbers 30: 2*, which reads thus: "if a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond, he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth," and to *Deut. 23: 21*: "when thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it; for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee." But what says Christ about this matter of vowing. "But I say unto thee swear not at all" which simply means, vow not at all, "neither by heaven nor by earth, nor by the city of the Great King, neither by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black." Jesus Christ referred his disciples here to what Moses said on the subject of vows. Moses never urged men to vow, but simply to pay the vows they made. In *Deut. 23: 22*, he says, "but if thou shalt forbear to vow, it is no sin in thee;" and Jesus Christ makes known his will to us in this matter, and says, "swear not at all," or vow not at all. James undoubtedly refers to the same thing when he says, "but above all things my brethren swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath; but let your yea, be yea, and your nay, be nay; lest ye fall into condemnation."—*James 5: 12*. He admonishes them above all things not to do this. And yet in the face of this command of Jesus, and this admonition of James, along comes General Booth and teaches men to vow and bind themselves upon oath to be true to him and his followers.

But after all, we cannot wonder so very much to see General Booth breaking the commands of God's Word, be-