

not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors, lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee; but when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and thou shalt be blessed," &c. (Luke. xiv, 12.) It is not said of the rich man, mentioned in the gospel, that he was dishonest, oppressive, or in any way immoral; but he was richly clothed, and "fared sumptuously every day," and neglected to afford the needed relief to his fellow man, the afflicted Lazarus; and having chosen his portion, or good things on the earth, when death transferred him to the other world he found himself "in hell, tormented in flame," and entreating in vain for the slightest relief. What an awful warning and admonition to all the rich, the sumptuous and luxurious. For their benefit throughout all ages, the narrative has, in divine mercy been permanently recorded.

Another very prevalent mode of "sowing to the flesh," is reading fictitious tales and narratives, very fitly classed under the general term *romances*; the numbers and varieties of which now so greatly abound. This fascinating employment, besides its sinful waste of time, so strictly prohibited in scripture, tends directly to weaken and degrade the rational powers, and distort, if not corrupt the most estimable desires and affections. Many of these pernicious works describe characters and scenes, directly tending to contaminate the mind, and increase and stimulate the sensual passions and propensities. They also contain, more or less frequently, the base and defiling language of corrupt characters, and almost invariably expressions in which the divine names are *profanely* used, either in oaths or curses, or *exclamations*, in direct violation of the third commandment, and other parts of sacred scripture. One of the most prolific authors of such profane and corrupting works, has thus used the divine names with extreme frequency; in one of his romances no less than seventeen times in the forty-eight pages of the work. Yet the writers of those profane and pernicious productions are highly extolled, and their memories cherished or celebrated by very many persons professing christianity, and in high positions in society. It is not too much to say, that neither such writers, nor their patrons or admirers, ever truly learned the first letter of the alphabet of scriptural and