

son. It is violated by persons in every department of life, not only, when they utter what they know to be false, but when they profess to declare the whole truth, and keep back part of it with the intention to deceive, or when part of a literally true statement is used to convey a falsehood. Allow me to illustrate this case. A man, when selling a watch, was asked, if it kept good time. The reply was, 'that neither the hour nor the minute hand had required to be altered for over a year.' This was literally true; but the watch nevertheless, was a bad time-keeper. When carried in a perpendicular position, it went too quickly, and when placed in a horizontal position, it worked too slowly; but, by alternate changes of these positions—carrying it in the pocket by day and laying it on the table by night—an average was made, and the hands did not require to be altered.

Truth is violated, when false men insinuate themselves into society, masonic or otherwise, and use their position to decoy the unwary and deceive the innocent.

Gambling in any shape is another form of rank violation of the truth. Men are anxious to get something for nothing; and this is where gambling originates. The following is what Dean Ferrar says about it:—"It is not the degree of gambling, which is bad, but the thing itself, in its root and branch and twig and leaf, a upas-tree, charged with poison and death. Up and down, through and through, in and out, it is one of the subtlest and mightiest seductions of the devil."

The mischiefs and miseries, which have followed the violation of truth, are dreadful beyond description to nations, to societies, to families and to individuals. It is one of the chief sources, from which have arisen the numerous abominations and cruel ceremonies of Pagan idolatry and the spirit of persecution wrapped up in ignorance and superstition. It has been chiefly owing to the violation of the law of truth, that the thrones of tyrants have been upheld, that liberty has been destroyed, that multitudes have been robbed and starved, that nations have dashed themselves against each other, and that war has produced so many overwhelming desolations. When the Captain-General of Cuba stated that 'wherever the flag of Spain floated, there would be found, among other blessings, liberty and honour,' he uttered an atrocious falsehood, which must have pleased the old father of mendacity himself. By the terrible power of falsehood the peace of families has been invaded, their comforts destroyed, their wealth stolen, their good name dishonoured; and all their bright prospects have been clouded by darkness and despair. By the sophistries of unprincipled men literature and science have been perverted, litigations have been needlessly multiplied; and the widows and orphans have been robbed of their possessions. Could we search the private records of some rulers and legislators, both ancient and modern, and trace the plans of deceit made in secret places: could we penetrate into the plots, treacheries and deceptions, which are hatched in the cabinets of despots, and even in some law-courts, or so-called places of justice,