

vanity." The other, sometimes speaking almost in the tone of a prophet, and claiming to be a preacher of righteousness, set down the people in general as for the most part fools, to be driven forward, or held in, by men of force, or genius for rule, and indeed, in his Latter Day Pamphlets, if incorrigible, to be relegated to some limbo where they would cease to do harm. In all his writings I read strong denunciations of the rabble, but not one word which shows the way by which they can be reclaimed. His message is a message of despair to them, not a word of hope; and I cannot wonder that a man who took such a cynical view of the people should have very small sympathy with the Gospel. The Lord Jesus never scorned the multitude, He had words of hope for all. He went among publicans and sinners, until at last, in derision, He was called their friend. When He spoke, "the common people heard Him gladly." He came to seek and to save the lost. Destroy the bad, and so get rid of their badness? Oh, no. Destroy their badness, that they themselves may live. On the other hand, if we lose our hold on the Bible, we may well despair of mankind. Discord, strife, war, selfishness, intemperance, impurity, crime, exist on so gigantic a scale that we look in vain for any human power that can arrest them. Where can any deliverance be found? In man none; but it will be found in Him who says, "Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else." Throw up the Gospel, and you must look upon the world wholly in despair; but hold fast to the Gospel, and with this Book in hand we may still say, "I will trust." My lord, we speak boastingly of the greatness of England; but sometimes there is enough to make our hearts sink when we think of England; yet I feel that so far as England is great—and after all she is great—she owes her greatness to the Bible. If we let that slip, depend on it, the greatness of England will very soon decline. Look abroad the world over, and what do you see? Speaking generally, with some exceptions certainly, you see in the Governments far-reaching lofty ambition and high-handed rule met by Nihilism, Communism, and deadly crime. You see in the world of letters and science, law, evolution, development everywhere; God nowhere! You see in religion, ritualism, æstheticism, culture, icy rationalism, very little simple faith. You see in commerce and daily life, low-toned morality, self everything, our neighbour nothing. What does that mean but, briefly, just wilfulness, the spirit of lawlessness, renunciation of an unerring rule, no appeal to a higher court, man his own lord and judge. Now, I will not venture to say how it is in our own country. Certainly something of that you may see in private and public affairs in our own country; but I may say what I should like to see—I should like to see statesmen taking the principles of the Bible as the basis of every measure they bring in, and then the spirit of party would never overbear the spirit of righteousness. I should like to see commercial men taking the principles of the Bible as their rule in every transaction, and then we should not have to lament the untruthfulness and disingenuousness which, like a fretting leprosy, are eating into our commerce, and your lordship would not have to lament again, as you have done on this platform, the dishonour thrown on the English name by dishonest manufacturers, but the brand of every merchant would mean exactly what that of many does now mean—thorough genuineness in the articles that are presented. I should like to see working men taking the principle of the Bible as their guide, as, thank God, thousands upon thousands are doing; but I should like to see them all do it, and then their names would never be associated, as they now sometimes are, with intemperance, improvidence, miserable homes, and bad work, but always be associated with sobriety and providence, and godliness and honour. In fact, I should like to see every Englishman, of whatever name and rank, take the principles of the Bible as his law, and then I should look forward to the future of England without the smallest fear. What I have been wishing is the very end which this noble Society is seeking, and which, God helping it, it intends to pursue until it is realized; and, because I