

### 370 ON MERCHANTIZING.

works manifestly operate against the gracious design of his sufferings for us, a care lives on their minds that no wrong customs however supported, may bias their judgments, but that they may humbly abide under the cross and be preserved in a conduct which may not contribute to strengthen the hands of the wicked in their wickedness, or to remove shame from those to whom it is justly due. The coming of that day is precious in which we experience the truth of this expression. "The Lord our righteousness." Jer. xiii. 6, and feel him to be "made unto us wisdom" and sanctification."

The example of a righteous man is often looked at with attention. Where righteous men join in business their company gives encouragement to others; and as one grain of incense deliberately offered to the prince of this world, renders an offering to God in that state unacceptable; and from those esteemed leaders of the people may be injurious to the weak; it requires deep humility of heart, to follow him faithfully, who alone gives sound wisdom and the spirit of true discerning; and O how necessary it is, to consider the weight of a holy profession!

The conduct of some formerly, gave occasion of complaint against them, "Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick." Ezek. xxviii. 18, and in several places it is charged against Israel that they had polluted the holy name.

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