

*foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* If God means to save this man, the effect of his experience will be to teach him the truth of these things in season to rescue him from utter ruin, and he will learn henceforth not to *trust in uncertain riches*. The strong hold which they have had upon his heart is broken, and he pants after the riches of paradise. It may be, too, that his riches take to themselves wings and fly away, and want succeeds to abundance. Then, when the friends of his sunny days forsake him, and the world leaves him alone to bear the iron rule of poverty, O, how sweet it is to look forward to his treasure in heaven, *where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal!*

Here let me add, that want and destitution, whether they have succeeded to competence and wealth, or have been the Christian's companions through life, are among the most powerful means which God uses to make heaven sweet and attractive. And it is in advanced life, especially, that poverty's cold skeleton hand seems most heavy and rigid. The Christian may have toiled on through many a wearisome year, unable to secure even a competence; and now that age and infirmity palsy his efforts, still must he labor on and struggle harder in the unequal conflict. With what a strong impulse will his heart reach out after *an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved for him in heaven!* How often has the widowed mother, toiling at the midnight hour over her unfinished task, and unable to provide for her numerous offspring, felt the talismanic power of that reserved legacy in the skies! How often has the