

hood, instead of a predominant truth in the world. The consequences of a universal distrust, in the almost universal stoppage that would ensue of the *useful interchanges of life*, are too obvious to be enumerated. The world of trade would henceforth break up into a state of anarchy, or rather be paralysed into a state of cessation and stillness. The mutual confidence between man and man, if not the mainspring of commerce, is at least the oil, without which its movements were impracticable. And were truth to disappear, and all dependence on human testimony to be destroyed, this is not the *only interest which would be ruined* by it. It would vitiate, and that incurably, every social and every domestic relationship; and all the charities as well as all the comforts of life would take their departure from the world.

2. Seeing then that the observation of honesty and truth is of such vital importance to society, that without it society would cease to keep together—it might be well to ascertain, by what special provision it is in the constitution of man, that the practice of these virtues is upheld in the world. Did it proceed in every instance from the natural power and love of integrity in the heart—we should rejoice in contemplating this alliance between the worth of man's character, on the one hand; and the security, as well as the abundance of his outward comforts, upon the other. And such, in fact, is the habitual disposition to truth