
THE SWINDLER AND THE SNEAK-THIEF

The swindler who preys on the simple and confiding may be shrewd and successful in getting other people's property without giving fair value for it, and thus gather a fortune. He may escape the penitentiary, and sometimes lives in luxury, but the end is inevitable. His own generation will probably see him a financial, a physical, and a moral bankrupt. Why? Because he has violated the eternal law of equivalents, the law of balances, which governs alike the heavenly bodies and the lives of men. Under this law, when more is taken than is given, destruction follows.

The sneak-thief may be successful in his early career, and for a time gather much plunder; but he gets something for nothing, and in a few years he may be seen "out at the toes and out at the elbows," a mental, moral, and physical wreck. He reaches the end quicker

The Cost of Something for Nothing

than the murderer or the highwayman, because he has less force and less strength of character to begin with. Dissolution comes early; the microbes of wrong-doing pull him to pieces; he grows weaker with the years, and his end is pitiable indeed.