
THE MURDERER AND MARAUDER

Money that is the fruit of murder is a terrible heritage. Although the children might be innocent of the means by which their father came by it, it would still carry with it a curse that would blight their lives and destroy them, unless there was some powerful counteracting force at work to save them. Why should *blood-money* prove a curse? Because the bacilli of crime enter not only the soul of him who commits it, but seem to envelop the whole family, and often pursue them for generations.

The highwayman and the burglar both get something for nothing; and even if they are never brought before a court of justice, but are permitted to retain the fruits of their crimes, they will eventually go down to destruction. They may flourish for a time, and even live in luxury; but then the descent begins. They may live through many years

The Cost of Something for Nothing

of slowly increasing wretchedness, dragging their families with them; but the penalty of their deeds *must* be paid. The bacteria of moral leprosy has entered their souls, and they pollute and destroy everything that draws life from them. "The wages of sin is death."