

its desires again took possession of the heart of young R—— and smothered the effect the Word had produced in him. He again took the broad road which he had seemed desirous to quit, and succeeded in silencing the voice of his conscience which had spoken so loudly at the first.

A little after this period in his life he married a young woman of the same locality, but instead of being a support to his wife, he caused her, by his conduct, the most bitter sufferings. The Lord, however, used these bitter trials to lead the young wife to Himself a few years after her marriage, but this only served to further irritate poor R——.

He had undertaken several trades; in his youth he had worked with his father as a nail-maker; later he became a road-keeper and then, engaged in the sale of milk and groceries. His wife assisted him courageously and they were thus enabled to bring up their four children, and even to lay by a considerable sum.

R—— bought a piece of ground in the outskirts of a pretty little town, and on it built a house; yet when finished it did not suit him, and an opportunity offering, he sold it. He then wished to build a smaller one. Thus occupied with the things of the earth his heart only found its satisfaction in these; all the activity of his nature moved in that direction. His wife seeing him aging, and becoming feeble, wished to stop this new enterprise, but his strong will and enterprising spirit was not to be restrained, and evil was the result.

The spring of that year was cold and wet, and