

thing like the following, at least in as far as relates to their abstinence from wine and strong drink. Jonadab the son of Rechab, from whom they took their name, lived in the time of Jehu, King of Israel, and seems to have been a man of much wisdom, and held by Jehu in great esteem. Having witnessed the wickedness and licentiousness of the Jews, among whom he and his family were sojourning, and having noticed particularly the ruinous consequences which followed the too common drinking of wine, and foreseeing the misery which awaited the Jews, on account of their sins, of which intemperance at that time was a fruitful cause, Jonadab solemnly charged his own sons "to drink neither wine, nor strong drink, neither they nor their sons forever." They obeyed his command, and mark the consequences: we learn that, three hundred years after Jonadab was dead, while the children of Israel had altogether gone astray, and were even sacrificing their sons and daughters to the heathen deities and idols of the land, the Rechabites remained uncorrupted, and were graciously approved of by the Lord, for "thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, Go tell the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, will ye not receive instruction to hearken to my word? saith Jehovah. The words of Jonadab, the son of Rechab that he commanded his sons, not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment; notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking, but ye hearkened not unto me." And when pots full of wine, and cups, were set before them at the time of which we speak, this was their answer, and would to God there were more who would answer thus:—they said, "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our Father, commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons forever." And afterward it is recorded that Jeremiah the Prophet said unto the house of the Rechabites, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your Father, and

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