

If they could glance over the race which they are to run, and see just where their journey is to end, how few there are who would enter upon the dangerous road! But the future is hidden, and the present seems all serene; and while "the prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself," "the simple pass on and are punished."

Often they travel the downward road unthinkingly, but sometimes the dangers of an evil course are brought sharply to the notice of those who enter upon it, and they shrink back with a shudder, as they think of the risk they are running.

A young man in Virginia had been sadly intemperate. He was a man of great capability, fascination and power; but he had a passion for brandy which nothing could control. Often in his walks a friend remonstrated with him, but in vain; as often in turn would he urge his friend to take the social glass in vain. On one occasion the latter agreed to yield to him, and as they walked up to the bar together, the bar-keeper said:

"Gentlemen, what will you have?"

"Wine, sir," was the reply.

The glasses were filled, and the friends stood ready to pledge each other in renewed and eternal friendship, when the young man paused and said to his intemperate friend:

"Now, if I drink this glass, and become a drunkard, will you take the responsibility?"

The drunkard looked at him with severity, and said:

"Set down that glass!"

It was set down, and the two walked away without saying a word.

Well does the drunkard know the fearful consequences which follow from taking the first glass. Maddened as he may by an appetite which he cannot resist, he is unwilling to assume the responsibility of leading another to follow in the course he is treading. And if many a liquor dealer who asks for a license to traffic in the souls of men, were asked as he pays his money, "Are you willing to assume the responsibility, the ruin of health, the broken hearts, the loss of life, the waste of property the breaking up of families, the blighting of hopes, and the Damnation of hell, that waits upon the traffic upon strong drink?" are there not some who would say, "Take back the license; let me rather live a life of poverty, and of toil, than win the wealth and comforts of this world, by spreading ruin and desolation among my fellow-men?"

## PROUD OF HIS MOTHER.

There are few eminent men who have not said that their success in life was owing to their mother's teaching, and who have been proud to honor her. The following is one of the many illustrations of this truth:

The mother of John Quincy Adams said in a letter to him, written when he was only twelve years old:

"I would rather see you laid in a grave than grow up a profane and graceless boy."

Not long before the death of Mr. Adams a gentleman said to him:

"I have found out who made you?"

"What do you mean?" asked Mr. Adams.

The gentleman replied:

"I have been reading the published letters of your mother."

"If," this gentleman relates, "I had spoken that dear name to some little boy who had been for weeks away from his mother, his eyes could not have flashed more brightly than did the eyes of that venerable old man when I pronounced the name of his mother."

He stood up in his peculiar manner and said:

"Yes sir; all that is good in me I owe to my mother."

## BOYS AND SMOKING.

A timely note of warning is sounded by the *New York Times* against the growing evil of smoking among boys. It states that "careful experiments lately made by a physician of repute prove that the practice is very injurious." Of thirty-five boys, aged from nine to fifteen, who had been in the habit of smoking, in twenty-seven he found obvious hurtful effects; twenty-two had various disorders of the circulation and digestion, palpitation of the heart, and more or less craving for strong drink; and twelve had slight ulceration of the mouth. All were treated for weakness and nervousness, but successfully only after they had relinquished smoking. The *Times* says of this smoking:—

"One of the worst effects is the provocation of an appetite for liquor, which indeed, is not confined to the young, but which grown persons are better able to manage. Where boys drink to excess they are almost invariably smokers; and it is very rare to find a man over-fond of spirits who is not addicted to tobacco.