

Secondly. How few show good sense as to how they spend their *Money*? You hear some say, "I can't afford it," with regard to really needed and laudable objects, while they waste money in foolish fancies. Always *feel* a want before you *supply* it. Some spend their money in mere show and foolish display, and so cannot buy what is for real comfort and health. Some give largely in charities when they cannot pay their just debts. There is a good Spanish proverb, "Do not steal a goose to give the giblets to the poor." Some fritter their money in trifles which give no lasting pleasure, and then have none for great and useful objects. Some keep no accounts, and wonder how fast their money goes, and become suspicious. Some miscall themselves liberal, because they spend freely on themselves, and so have little to spend on others. We should aim in all things at a "*wise liberality, and a liberal economy.*"

Thirdly. *Health* is much more affected by attention to simple daily rules than by expensive and painful remedies. Pure water and fresh air are our best doctors. Early and regular habits, cleanliness, and simple food, would save many an ache and many a doctor's bill. In this, as in the other points named, it is not so much instruction as to what is best that is needed, as simple, practical *acting out* what we very well know is best.

"To know what's right, not only so,
But also practise what we know."

The last subject I shall notice is really the first in importance,—*Religion*. What strange want of ordinary sense is shown here! How anxious and active we are in what concerns this short, uncertain life; how cold and careless as concerns that life which shall last for ever! There is a story of a nobleman giving a gold wand to a Court-fool, and telling him he might give it to anyone who was a greater fool than himself. Soon afterwards this nobleman was dying, and he said to the Fool, "I am going on a long journey." The Fool said, "Shall you ever return?" He said, "*Never.*" The Fool said, "Have you made any preparation for it?" He said, "*None.*" The Fool gave him the wand, and said, "Well, I am not such a fool as that!"

Shew your sense in using all rational means for your soul's good. If you were ill in body you would try all likely remedies. So, if our sin-sick souls need healing and strength, we must use God's appointed remedies. If you feel the burden of your sins, ask to have them washed away in the "Blood of Jesus Christ, which cleanseth from all sin." If you desire God's Holy Spirit, pray for it. If you desire to know His will, study His written Word. If you wish to hear that Word explained, go to church. You cannot convert yourself, but God will bless the use of means. He does not force our will, but treats us as rational, intelligent beings. Oh! let no logic, or perverted human reasoning, ever make you doubt that great promise,—"*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.*"

I have heard of a medical book, in which was written after each prescription that had been proved good—"Try it." I would earnestly say this to each of my simple moral prescriptions.