

APPLICATION

Love, v. 8. Love is a wonderful worker. It has the secret of doing the most with the least effort. One man was asked for whom he labored most. He answered, "For my friends". And being asked for whom he labored least, he answered, "For my friends". Love does most, and yet thinks least of what it does.

Hath fulfilled the law, v. 8. One of the gigantic eagles of Scotland carried away an infant from beside the hearth of a cottage.

The whole village ran after it ; but the eagle soon perched on a lofty eyrie, and every one despaired of the child's being recovered. A sailor tried to climb the steep cliff, but was forced to turn back. A robust Highlander, accustomed to the hills, next tried it, but he missed his footing and tumbled down to the bottom. When no one else would venture, a poor peasant woman came forward. Carefully she put her foot first on one shelf of the rock, then on a second, then on a third. She clung with her hands to bunches of grass and bushes and projecting points of rock. So she climbed to the very top of the crag and came down with the baby safe in her arms. Why did that woman succeed where strong and practised climbers had failed ? Because she was the mother of the child. Love could do more than strength or experience. It imparted a courage and skill that nothing else could give.

Awake, v. 11. The sin and danger of hosts of people is indifference. They do not know, and will not inquire, and refuse to listen to any one telling them of the peril they are in. It is told that a boatful of jolly young men once was floating on the Niagara river above the falls. The water was smooth and the current slow. They took in the oars and began to sing and laugh. Soon they heard a voice hailing them from the shore, "Young men, ahoy ! The rapids are below you !" They shouted back with some mocking reply, and went on with their fun. Again they heard the voice, "Young men, ahoy ! You are getting near the rapids !" But they only waved their hands in derision. In a minute they were startled by a wave

washing into their skiff. They jumped up and looked around. Already the water was white with foam, and the deep roar of the cataract was getting loud. They seized the oars and pulled for their lives, but it was too late. Let us pray and watch that we do not smile or sleep away in carelessness, our chance of eternal life. Many a soul has been lost through simple neglect of the great salvation offered in the gospel.

Drunkenness, v. 13. A rich profligate kept two monkeys for his amusement. Once he peeped into his dining room, where he and his friends had been enjoying themselves at a wine supper, and

The Mimicking Monkeys found his pets mimicking the recent party. They mounted the table, helped themselves to the wine, and gestured and jabbered as they had seen their master and his guests doing. Soon they got merry, and jumped all about the room. Then they got to fighting on the floor and tearing each other's hair. The drinking man stood in amazement. "What", he said, "is this a picture of me ? Do even the brutes rebuke me ?" He was ever afterwards a sober man. If every man who gets drunk could only remain sober to watch himself, we may be sure that there would be fewer drunkards. So shameful a sight ought to keep one from drink.

Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, v. 14. This is the only sure secret of victory over the appetite for drink and over all other evil desires,—to have our natures transformed by the power of Jesus. Robert Louis Stevenson, in his volume, *In the South Seas*, refers to the capture of an American whaler, Mr. Whalon, by the cannibals of Hiva-Oa, one of the Marquesan Islands, and his rescue by Kekela, a native Christian, to whom President Lincoln sent a reward for his gallant deed. In his letter of thanks, Kekela said, "As to this friendly deed of mine in saving Mr. Whalon, its seed came from your great land, and was brought by certain of your countrymen, who had received the love of God. It was planted in Hawaii, and I brought it to plant in this land and in these dark regions, that they might receive the best of all that is good and true, which is love."