

confirmed ; then the man is impenitent, then obstinate ; then resolves never to repent, and then is damned." My young brother, it is in mercy that our heavenly Father sweeps away all the trifling with sin by those strong but loving words—"Thou shalt *not*." Our poor self rises ; passion raises its tempest of desire ; experts in vice solicit ; the wrong waits to claim us and hold dominion over us, and our good God who sees the end, says, "Go not in the way of evil men ; avoid it, pass not by it ; turn from it, and pass away."

I know there is a maxim very common, that "a young fellow must sow his wild oats." They shall not be my words that reply to that saying. They shall be those of a man who knows the world, and an ardent lover of the pure pleasures of the world. "In all the range of accepted British maxims," says Mr. Thomas Hughes, "there is none, take it all in all, more thoroughly abominable than this one, as to the sowing of wild oats. Look at it on what side you will, and I will defy you to make anything but a devil's maxim of it. What a man, be he young, old, or middle-aged, sows, *that*, and nothing else, shall he reap. The one only thing to do with wild oats, is to put them carefully into the hottest part of the fire, and get them burnt to dust, every seed of them. If you sow them, no matter in what ground, up they will come, with long tough roots