

One of the sins, and that concerning which the most is here said, is drunkenness.

1. *The drunkard is described*; so infatuated with drink as to make it his first and last thought, vs 11, 12.

2. *The woe that follows is depicted*. National feebleness resulting in captivity (v. 13), want and woe and desolation, vs. 14-18.

3. *Again, drunkards are described*; and now not the common crowd but their rulers, the "mighty men," the "men of strength," but who are mighty only in their terrible excesses, v. 22. As a result, rank injustice is rife, v. 22. Can a greater curse to a nation be imagined than drunken rulers?

4. *And, again, the woe is pronounced*. And what awful figures, fire, flame, rottenness (v. 24); the anger of the Lord aflame "against His people," His hand "stretched forth against them," the very hills trembling through His wrath, and their dead carcasses "torn in the midst of the streets," v. 25; finally the Lord Himself calling the heathen nations to His aid to destroy His own people with an awful destruction, vs. 26-30.

All very terrible; and three great facts to be burned in upon heart and conscience:

(a) Intemperance is a woeful sin, whoever he be that is guilty of it. (b) "Our God is a consuming fire" (Heb. 12: 29) against all transgression. (c) That—

... "Though His hand be strong to smite, 'Tis also strong to save."

"To them that have no might, He increaseth strength." Isa. 40: 29.

Prove from Scripture

That self-confidence is dangerous.

Topics for Brief Papers

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous.)

1. Intemperance, its effect on the individual.
2. Intemperance, its effect on the nation.
3. Intemperance, its prevention and cure.

The Catechism Question

Ques. 103. *The third petition*. The words are easily uttered—"Thy will be done!" Easily uttered, that is, if no thought is given to their meaning. There is no qualifying word—"Thy will be done;" God's will and not ours, God's will only and always and by everyone and at whatever cost. And the standard is high, "as in heaven." It is as if we were required to speak an unknown tongue, or to carry the burdens that giants carry. The Catechism interprets "as in heaven" to mean "as the angels do in heaven." The angels of God are wise (2 Sam. 14: 20); holy (Matt. 25: 31); meek (2 Pet. 2: 11); doing God's commandments (Ps. 103: 20); worshipping at God's throne (Rev. 7: 11). How hard it is to do God's will, Rom. 7: 18-24 tells us. How hard it is to submit to it, Christ's agony in Gethsemane reveals, Matt. 26: 36-44. The secret is contained in 2 Cor. 12: 9.

FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

Introduction—Have you noticed the red lights at night on a railroad track? What

do they mean? Look out! Danger ahead! The track is not clear! Perhaps you have seen a man at a railroad crossing waving a red flag (or a lantern) to warn people that there is danger on the track. The good old prophet Isaiah is waving a danger signal to us in our Golden Text.

A Danger Signal—This danger signal is RED WINE—the most pleasant of the strong drinks, leading to the use of stronger drinks. *Beware of wine*. There are dangers on

