

APPLICATION

Let no man deceive you with empty words (Rev. Ver.), v. 6. Alcohol is sometimes recommended as a means of health. The sanest physicians contradict this. They say it makes the body and brain and nerves weak. "If all died who are now healed by it, a thousand to one would survive who die from its effects." When all the attempts to deceive have been made, the fact still remains that the flesh of a drunkard will not readily heal if injured; athletes are not allowed to use alcohol; business men will not employ habitual drinkers; engineers on railroads are forbidden the use of liquor. It rouses the passions, kindles anger, gives brutal courage to the murderer, kills the love of parents for their children. The very victims of it loathe it, and denounce it as degrading and destroying. Beware of the words that commend the use of this dangerous drink. They are deceptive words and should be regarded as "empty".

Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, v. 11. Safety lies in avoidance of the tempting agents. A man who had overcome the habit of drink was caught in a rain storm one day.

The Beckoning
Bottles

Looking for shelter, the only near place was the open door of a saloon. Ignoring his reproving conscience, he went in, sat down, and began to read a newspaper. He told afterwards how that paper would lower itself, so that he could see the decanters and bottles behind the bar. It seemed to him that every one of these bottles had a voice and an arm. He imagined he could hear each of them say, "Here you are, wet; you need what I contain. Just one drink will do you good; you are a weak fool if you refuse to take me". It seemed, too, as if they reached out strong arms to pull him toward them. He thrust up the paper to shut off the sight of them, but, in spite of him, it lowered itself and the bottles began again to beckon to him. Then he realized his situation, and springing up, he rushed out into the streaming rain and walked home trembling but triumphant. But he had almost yielded, and he vowed never again to enter a saloon. He thought the power of his old habit was dead, and it was, until the

saloon atmosphere revived it. Keep out of the place and way of temptation.

Christ shall give thee light, v. 14. There is darkness and peril in every life, until Christ chases away the sin we love. Safety is found only in Him. He is seeking for those who would be rid of the tendency to evil ways.

Where the
Power Comes
From

He welcomes the appeal of any who are "sick, and helpless, and ready to die". When the beautiful Marie Antoinette was on her way to Paris to be crowned queen of the French, orders were given that all cripples and ragged and blind and debauched persons should be kept away from the roads she was to travel over, that she might not be shocked by sights of suffering. No such commands were given when Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. He is the same now. The poor drunkard has a Friend in Him. The pure lad, who would live soberly in this evil world, has a Friend in Him. When our temperance pledges and our temperance performances are inspired by Him, we shall not fail.

Look therefore carefully how ye walk (Rev. Ver.), v. 15. The last descendants of a dynasty of French kings were called in contempt, "do-nothing kings". At the

The Making
of a King

moment when matters demanded from the king very great care and cleverness, these monarchs, each in his time, fell into a condition of indifference and carelessness. When the reasons came to light later, it was found that a course of intemperance and debauchery had brought them down to mental and moral imbecility. Few of them attained the age of mature manhood, and their names are perpetuated in disgrace. Carelessness made them castaways. How are the young of to-day walking? Do they know that the wine cup is a dangerous thing? Are they careful to guard against indulgence in drink getting into their life? Alcohol drowns one's brain, and ruins body and soul. He is a king who has a sound mind in a sound body. Beware of habits that take away these kingly qualities.

Be not drunken with wine wherein is riot (Rev. Ver.), v. 18. Rum creates riot in the head of the drinker, and spreads riot around.