

15, 16); Loving trust in God (verses 17-19); Strict morality (verses 20, 21); Household affection (verse 22); Lofty ideals (verse 23)....Or, as Dr. Hurlbut suggests: (1) A happy parent (verses 16, 15); (2) A worthy son (verses 17-19); (3) A faithful returning (verses 20, 21); (4) An earnest appeal (verses 22, 23).

References.

FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA. Ver. 17: Prose, 12220-12227. Ver. 20: Prose, 1650-1671. Ver. 21: Prose, 3136, 3143, 3132, 4486; Poetical, 2773, 1901, 1945.

Blackboard.



We talk so much in a general way of the evils of intemperance that there is danger of it seeming like a twice-told tale. Verse 21 of to-day's lesson speaks forth a truth as emphatic as the blast of a trumpet. "The drunkard . . . shall come to poverty." The intemperance road leads to Povertyville, and few there are that miss it. There is hardly a village so small but that it has one or more poverty-stricken families who owe all their suffering to rum, and in every city we know of many instances where homes and families have been ruined from the same cause. Make this a practical lesson: "Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way."

COLORS.—The signpost, brown; the words, "The drunkard shall come to poverty," dark red; bottle, blue, with white label.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *The Two Paths.*

[Introduce the lesson with concert recitation of the Golden Text. Talk enough about it to make its meaning quite clear, especially helping the children to see that wine-drinking is almost sure to lead to excess. As you talk, print in large letters "Be not" and "Be." If we can, with God's blessing, fix these two commands in the minds of the children, who can tell the results?]

In what book is this text found? Who gives these commands? To whom? May little children understand and obey God's commands? What children are happiest, those who obey, or those who disobey, papa and mamma? Why are those happiest who obey? *Because papa and mamma know best.* Does God know still better than even papa and mamma?

[Print "Solomon" on the board, and talk about him. Tell how he showed wisdom by choosing wisdom instead of great riches, and how the Lord let him have both.] Because Solomon was wise he could tell children some things to do to make them wise. Do you want to know what they are?

[Make two paths on the board with flat erayon.] All little children are going in one path or the other. Let us see what is to be found in this path. You see it is not a very straight one.

What are these pretty little round balls that boys love so well to play with? I thought you would say marbles. Here are boys who do not play fair. They cheat, and tell wrong stories, and speak angry words. They forget that Solomon says if you are wise your lips will speak right things!

Come on a little farther. Do you know what this little brown roll is? I saw a boy light one with a match, and put it into his mouth. It does not smell good, nor taste good. Your dog would not touch it, and even a pig would turn away from it. Yet boys—some boys—will try hard to learn to smoke cigarettes! That is because they are not walking in the right path.

I have made some marks here, to stand for boys. See, there are half a dozen of them. They are on the street after dark. One is boasting what great things he can do. He shows a silver dollar, and says he knows where he can get more. He says he is too big to go to Sunday school; he has more fun with the fellows than he can have in Sunday school or church. The boys think he is very wise. They wish they had so much money, and need not do as father and mother direct. They forget that Solomon tells them not to envy sinners!

What is this? Ah! an open door, and here are some bottles. Yes, the boy who walks in this path is learning the way to the saloon! Solomon says, "Be not among winebibbers." God told him to say this to us, so it is God's own word. He says, too, "Look not upon the wine." Do not go where it is—do not even look at it. [Print "Poverty" in the path, and at the end, "Destruction."]

This is the danger-path which all children should try to avoid. You think you will never go in this way. But look out! Some one is waiting and watching to get you started in it. Do you know who? Yes, Satan, your great enemy! Can anyone save you from his evil hands? Yes, One