

beggaring their families, and disfiguring the image of God in which they were created.

But we must take care to read aright both the written word, and the practical illustration.

For instance, when you see one go down into a drunkard's grave, you will hear it said "Drink killed that man." That is just as foolish as to say of one who cut his throat "He was killed by a knife." In the one case, as in the other, the man committed suicide.

In the same way, when Solomon exclaims "wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whosoever erreth thereby is not wise," the thoughtless are apt to rush to the conclusion that he is blaming wine as an evil doer. But, as we have seen, in another place he sings its praises. Therefore, reading the two together, his meaning is plainly that, while wine rightly used is a blessing, to such as are given to excess, it will prove a snare and a deceiver. And so he says elsewhere "Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow?" and so forth, going on vividly to describe a drunkard's feelings and appearance, "They that tarry long at the wine." And Isaiah preaches "Woe unto them that rise early and tarry late till wine inflame them."

Thus we find all literature, sacred and profane, and all human experience, pointing out the evils of excessive drinking.

To say that it is hard, or impossible, to draw the line between moderation and excess, is false. Jeremy Taylor says, "Drunkenness is an immoderate affection and use of drink. That I call immoderate that is besides or beyond that order of good things for which God hath given us the use of drinks."* Every man knows for himself when he has drunken enough, just as well as when he has eaten enough, and, if he goes on eating or drinking after that he is accountable for the results. It has been well said by Seneca that "Drunkenness is nothing but voluntary madness;" and when a man of his own free will puts himself into that state, it is time for him to be taken care of.

But, it will be said, to talk like this is not practical; we

* "Holy Living" Chap. 2. Pt. 2.