

destruction. Obedience is not a hateful word. The farmer who wants a harvest must obey the laws of the seasons. A soldier must learn to obey before he can be accepted as a soldier. And if one has been promoted in army or navy, it is a sign that he has learned well the lesson of obedience.

The way of folly. It is a truth universally known and accepted that intemperance destroys character. The brightest minds and most brilliant endowments have become imbecility and stupidity through indulgence of appetite. The famous house of Clovis, in France, became a family of babbling idiots, dying of decrepitude in the prime of life, because of intemperance. The family name became a byword of contempt, and they appear in history with the title "*Rois fainéants*" (Do-nothing kings).

A Greek proverb, "The winepress is the fountain of insanity," says the Greek proverb. It is the fountain, also, of all sorts of crime. There are just as many policemen in London as there are grogshops—fourteen thousand of each. If there came next year an increase of five thousand grogshops, there would have to be five thousand additional policemen employed. But suppose there was an increase instead of five thousand bakeries or groceries or dry goods shops, not a single additional policeman need be employed in consequence, except to protect them from burglars and sneak thieves, who steal money to spend in grogshops.

Testimony of athletes. A visitor to the great athletic clubs of New York city found that with a single exception all these men emphatically insist that even moderate drinking is a positive injury to an athlete, and that the total abstainer is the better physical man from every point of view. The director of the New York Athletic Club, one of the largest in the city, whose specialty is rowing, says: "Alcoholic liquors as a beverage, moderate or otherwise, are entirely prohibited by athletic trainers everywhere."

The contrast. The contrast between the path of folly and the path of the just was illustrated in a city hospital the other day. A physician on the staff was called to see a man dying with delirium tremens. The doctor recognized in that friendless tramp his old boyhood chum, a brilliant fellow, with better opportunities than his own had been. And there they were, the one an honored Christian physician, with the prospect of a useful life and heaven at the end; the other a dirty, ragged, blaspheming drunkard in the agonies of delirium tremens, having already had a foretaste of perdition.

Heart Talks on the Lesson.

A proverb has been called "a fortune in a single diamond." Here is a fortune right at our hand, but, like everything of value, it will cost something. It is not inherited; we gain it by good sense and wise management, and keep it by careful use and sound investments with good security. It is the wealth of wisdom, better than silver or much fine gold; a clear head, a clean heart, a pure life, and a perfected character, found by walking in right paths according to the directions here given. The first step toward it is to take fast hold of instruction. The boy or girl who will not listen to advice, and who is disobedient to parents or teachers, is starting on the wrong road. Inquiry into the history of criminals in the United States shows that in nearly all cases the downward course began by disobedience to parents and rebellion against authority in school. Such a spirit quickly grows to rebellion against the laws of God. It is a sad forecasting of the future when one will not take counsel of those who would do him good. It is no sign of cleverness to be proud and self-willed. The men who have distinguished themselves in our army and navy are men who when they were boys took fast hold of instruction in mind and in morals. The hero of the *Merrimack*, Hobson, was a boy of whom his mother says, with pride, "He was always a true and dutiful son." The only sure hope of walking in the right way is never to "enter" into the path of the wicked. Do not take the first step. If sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If some one says, "Smoke this cigarette; one will not hurt you," say no, for after the first dizzy discomfort is over you will probably try again, and once on the path, no one knows where you will end. If some one says, "Read this book, but do not let your mother see it," say no, for no poison is more subtle and fatal than thoughts put into the mind through impure reading. If some one says, "Take a glass of wine; intemperance is bad, but an occasional glass can do no harm," enter not; do not take the first step and you are safe; but the first too often leads to the last, which is taken in darkness, and they know not at what they stumble. Which will you choose? The path that shines more and more, like the dawn full of promise and song, or that which ends like a night without a star? Even the moderate use of stimulants is dangerous. Men training for athletic games are not allowed to touch them because they hinder the clear working of the brain and affect the action of the heart. This order was issued by the commander of our army at the beginning of the summer campaign: "In this most important hour of the