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BE YE NOT UNWISE.

It was asked of old, What is wisdom? Where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Since then men have struggled to grasp the prize. The heights above have been scaled, if perchance the lesson might be seen written amid the dazzling glories of the sky. The depths beneath have been explored, but the chambers of the great deep have not given forth the words: no sound of life has come from the uplifted waves of mighty billows. The curtain has been drawn back which hid the revolutions of ancient worlds; still there has been no discovery of living words marked on its folds. The merchandise and traffic of many climes, have not sufficed to bring forth to light that which can be weighed as the price of wisdom. The lamp of science has never revealed the place of understanding. Amid the shadows of death and destruction, some faint echo of its fame may have arrested, but the sound died on the ear of expectancy. Surrounded with the solemnities of nature, the inquirer has asked—Where is wisdom, and echo has answered—where? But God knoweth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. He hath revealed it to man. That light shineth. “A glory gilds the sacred page, majestic like the sun.” Unto men God said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. Our wisdom is, to consecrate our powers to the glory of our Maker, to search for truth as for silver, to open our hearts to the love of Him who is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. “Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it, is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies.” Too many, instead of being charmed with the benignant aspect of wisdom, are drawn on in paths of folly. Warning is addressed to such—be ye not unwise.

It is unwise for a man to trust his own heart. He that trusteth to his own heart is a fool. To trust to that which is deceitful above all things, is folly hard to characterize. Nor can the estimate of what is needed to ennoble man, be taken from the suggestions of that which is desperately wicked. The declarations of God alone, are truly wise, and in his word we are pointed to treasures of wisdom and knowledge hid in Christ.

It is unwise to put confidence in riches, pleasures, or the things of this world. The rich man in the gospel, who had much goods laid up for many years, is emphatically pronounced a fool. Gold cannot secure happiness in the soul, it cannot paralyze the arm of death, it cannot purchase heaven. Pleasure allures to destroy, the wand of this enchantress conjures up scenes of Elysian bliss, into which the fool goeth and proves that it is for his life.