

was a heavier burden. He had the power to fix taxes and to collect them by such means as he thought proper. He could compel his subjects to labor on public works, not only without remuneration, but also to furnish their own food. He could levy so many soldiers from every district to serve in the army during his pleasure, and he could summon the daughter of prince or peasant to become an inmate of his harem. He had the first choice of pasture land for his horses and cattle, and one has only to read the daily

provision for Solomon's table (1 Kgs. 4 : 22, 23) to see what a burden royalty became in a small nation like Israel. What is true of the Shah of Persia was true of the king of Israel. "His power is absolute over the property and lives of his rebellious subjects, his own family, his ministers, over public officers civil and military, and all his numerous trains of domestics, so that he may punish any person of these classes without examination or formal procedure of any kind."

APPLICATION

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Samuel told all, v. 10. We should be particularly careful to tell it all, when our story is a divine message. Our neighbors in China and India have a right to all that has given us Christian civilization. We have not cleared ourselves when we have taught them chemistry and philosophy, or equipped them with sawmills and railways. We must give them the knowledge of Jesus of Nazareth, the Saviour of the world, the root from which our choicest blessings spring.

This will be the manner, v. 11. Watch for the warning! There is a red light at the open switch, and a horn blowing from the fog-enveloped lighthouse. **The Finished Product** You can see wasted, ruined lives everywhere to tell you that that will be the manner in which any life will end which is unguided by principles of righteousness and religion. The finished product of sin stands hard by the temptation. Take warning!

He will take, v. 13. These kings have a royal way of expropriating anything they fancy to their own use. King Laziness will take your usefulness. King **Imperial Scoundrels** Love-of-Pleasure will steal your happiness. King Pride will make off with your contentment. King Hot Temper will rid you of your friends. King Alcohol will take your money and your time. What an imperial gang of predatory scoundrels they are!

Even the best, v. 14. A vice's choice is dainty and particular. Many of the choicest men our race has produced have been de-

stroyed by evil habits. Alexander, the world's conqueror; Burns, Scotland's peasant poet; Daniel Webster, the splendid orator; were all victims of drink. Amongst the most debased dwellers in our city slums are not a few men of good education. Drink has laid hold on teachers, bankers, doctors. The favorite son is often the one who breaks his mother's heart.

Ye shall cry out, v. 18. What good will crying do? Johnnie Jones would reach for lilies on the edge of the stream. His big brother warned him. He saw another small boy tumble in before his eyes. But Johnnie kept on reaching for the lilies. Then Johnnie cried, but the crying didn't dry his clothes, nor clean them, nor do anything else than call attention to the fact that he had acted foolishly and gotten the reward of his folly. And there are multitudes of grown-ups who are silently crying out in regret, remorse and shame for the mistakes which have wrecked their lives. The time to cry is before one begins.

That we also may be like, v. 20. Imitation is one of the most powerful forces in human life. When Louis the Magnificent was sick, his courtiers tried to develop the same disease. When the hair of a great lady of his court turned grey, the other ladies sprinkled flour on theirs. "They all do it", is a great plea in our conduct. It is the chorus of the song they sing on the broad road that leadeth to destruction. Now, this may suit the nature