

It was at a later stage when the king and his wise men passed the maudlin decree which showed their intellects were confused. Esther 1. 16-18.

It would be a still later stage in their drinking when the muscles would collapse and they would reel and stagger and fall helpless below the table. A man begins to get drunk in the highest part of his nature, the moral. He may be drunk in that region while his intellect seems only to be quickened by the effect of drink. His intellect may be thoroughly confused before he becomes intoxicated in his muscles. The curse of drink is that it begins in the highest in man, and works downward. Esther 3: 15, in its context proceeding

How beautiful everywhere in scripture is the description of the course of a good life. It walks through the light upward to the glory of heaven.

Isaiah describes it as mounting up on wings

as eagles, running and not being weary, walking and not fainting. The Psalmist describes it as going from strength to strength till in Zion it appears before God. Paul says it is changed into Christ's image from glory to glory.

Avoid evil company. Shun the company of evil thoughts, feelings, companions. Avoid the company of a bad book—of every book or paper that does not help you to become stronger and purer in thought, feeling and life.

There are books which inform the mind, give wholesome recreation and rest, and others still which inspire with noble aims. Seek the company of these.

Avoid all associations which lead to sin—which suggest sin even remotely, and all associates who think and speak lightly of sin.

Seek the strength from God which will make you able to resist the evil within and without.

#### THE BLACKBOARD.

### THE TWO PATHS.

#### BEGINNING.

#### PROGRESS.

#### END.

That of the Wicked	{ Ignorance of God	Evil habits found Evil Company found Violence done	Separation from God Outer darkness
That of the Just	{ Knowledge of God	Learning wisdom Holding fast Helping others	Dwelling with God in the Light of Heaven.

#### FIRST AND LAST.

At the first it moveth itself aright and giveth its color in the cup; at the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.

At the first it sparkles and cheers; at the last it poisons and maddens.

At first it excites song and mirth; at the last it produces sorrow and curses.

At first it is an affair of good feeling and fellowship; at the last it is an affair of feuds, fighting, and murder.

At the first it is a cup of exhilaration in the hands of thoughtless youth; at the last it is a cup of trembling in the hand of an offended God."

At the first there is a joyful anticipation of good times to come; at the last, there is fear-

ful looking for of judgment and of fiery indignation which shall devour the adversaries."

At the first it is the wine of pleasant fellowship; at the last it is the wine of the wrath of Almighty God poured out without mixture."

At first it is the agreeable excitement of an evening; at the last it is the long-drawn agony of an endless perdition.

At the first it is the grateful stimulus of an hour; at the last it is the "worm that never dies, and the fire that shall never be quenched."—Sel.

The Director of the New York Athletic Club, the specialty of which is rowing, says: "Alcoholic liquors as a beverage, moderate or otherwise, are entirely tabooed by athletic trainers everywhere and under all circumstances."