

they took his glory from him. And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this. But hast praised the gods of silver and gold, and the God in whose hand thy breath is, thou hast not glorified."

The main point of the censure directed against Belshazzar was his forgetting the most high God, and His goodness in the honors given to Nebuchadnezzar his father. That forgetfulness led to a licentious and dissipated life, and, as the indications imply, an excess of wine, which deceives the heart. This instigated in him, as a Chaldean, a false national pride. With daring presumption he sent for the sacred vessels, dedicated to the service of the one holy and true God. While drinking from them he exalted the gods of Chaldea. Herein is taught, not that wine or drunkenness is the cause of crime, bringing dishonor and the downfall of men and of empires ; but the forgetting God and His goodness, and refusing to be guided by His counsel contained