

**IDOLS**—Are representations of the deity which are made objects of worship. They belong to a comparatively advanced stage in the history of religion. In Greece and Rome there were no images or temples in

very early days, but in later times these were multiplied. They were introduced at first as domestic idols, and were small, painted, wooden figures or adorned with gold and silver, and descended as heirlooms in a family.

**APPLICATION**

*All things . . . not expedient*, v. 23. Sometimes in modern warfare the soldiers of an attacking force have suddenly found themselves stumbling into barbed "Barbed Wire" wire entanglements. Floundering and falling amid the meshes of steel, their progress has been checked, and they have been exposed to defeat and destruction. In like manner the great enemy of souls places in our pathway through life the snares and pitfalls of temptation. Only by the most careful and constant watchfulness can we keep our feet free from these hindrances and reach the heavenly goal.

*No man . . . his own, but . . . his neighbor's good* (Rev. Ver.), v. 24. In Ezekiel's wonderful vision of the stream that flowed from the temple eastward and southward and

**Stagnant or Flowing**

sweetened the salt waters of the Dead Sea, there were certain miry places and marshes whose waters continued to be salt and bitter. There are hearts, too, into which the glad gospel of Jesus Christ has come, like the healing water of the prophet's river, and yet they are not as strong and pure and joyful as they ought to be. The reason is not far to seek. They have been seeking to enjoy the blessings of salvation themselves, taking no thought about sharing them with the multitudes of needy ones in the world. If the blessed gospel is to do us the most good, it must be in our lives like a flowing stream, not a stagnant pool.

*For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof*, v. 26. From the time the grain was sown in the spring God watched over it. All summer long He sent His sun-

**The Grain and its Uses**

shine and showers to ripen it into the golden harvest. At last the reaping time came, and the wealth of the fields was gathered into the barns, causing them to burst with plenty. Now, of one thing we may be very sure—God intended

this great gift of the grain for the good of men. He never meant that one handful of it should go towards robbing men of their senses, turning loving fathers into cruel tyrants and good citizens into the worst criminals. And yet that is what is done when the grain is turned into intoxicating liquor and sold to men for drink. What a mockery, to thank God for the grain and then use it, or, by our example to encourage its being used, thus!

*Whatever is set before you, eat*, v. 27. A Canadian gentleman, on a recent visit to Europe, was taking a walk one morning,

**The King's Salute**

when, in a garden, he saw King Edward, then spending some time on the Continent. The gentleman raised his hat and bowed to the king, and His Majesty returned the salute as graciously as if he had received the loyal acclaims of an enthusiastic multitude. A polite and friendly recognition of another's effort, or even wish, to give us pleasure, or show us respect, or do us honor, is always a mark of right feeling and good breeding.

*For his sake*, v. 28. A blind man was seen carrying a lantern. He was asked of what possible service it could be to him, since he could not see. "I carry it," he

**The Blind Man's Lantern**

answered, "so that it may give light to others, and save them from stumbling." Even if it were certain—and it is not likely that this is the case—that the use of strong drink would not injure us, we should abstain, lest our example should lead others to ruin.

*Evil spoken of*, v. 30. In some regions the germs of malaria are carried by mosquitoes, which breed in swamps and marshes. Their

**Conduct and Its Consequences**

bite inoculates the victim with the poison of the disease. There is a moral as well as a physical infection. Our conduct may influence others to their injury. On the other hand, by our actions, we may convey and strengthen the power of right and holy prin-