

THE THIEF THE TREASURE
WINE AND NEW WINE TAKE AWAY THE HEART

Here is a picture of the thief (outline a wine decanter), and the treasure (outline a heart). It means that, when people begin to drink wine and strong drink, they forget about other things, their heart is drawn away from the things they used to love, stolen by wine. The prophet Hosea tells us this,—God does not punish the thief, wine, but punishes the people whose hearts the thief steals. We know this thief, we know what he will steal, we can keep away from him if we wish. If we do not, we deserve to be punished.

Three Streets—There is one street where we are quite safe from this thief. Here it is (outline)—TOTAL ABSTINENCE STREET (Print). Here is a street leading to it, on which there is always danger, although many people think they are safe here—MODERATION STREET. Where the streets join, stands a person with a large book, in which he asks all comers to write their names. This book is THE PLEDGE (explain). It is in this way many people get from Moderation Street to Total Abstinence Street, but some go on to it without signing the pledge. It does not matter much how we get there, so long as we are safe from the thief.

Here is a very wretched street—INTemperance STREET, at the entrance to which stands one with a wine glass in hand, tempting all who come that way. Let us name some of the valuable things that are stolen on this street—MONEY, FRIENDS, HEALTH, HOME, HAPPINESS, HEAVEN.

The Two Ways—Repeat :

"Where two ways meet, the children stand,
A fair broad road on either hand ;
One leads to right and one to wrong :
So runs the song.

Which will you choose, each lass or lad ?
The right or left, the good or bad ?
One leads to right and one to wrong :

So runs the song."

A Jail for the Thief—What do we do with a thief ? Try to get your fathers and mothers and friends to put this wine and strong drink thief in jail (Here is the jail, PROHIBITION, explain), and then you young people will not be in any danger.

Lesson Story—The teacher may here tell God's warning, through Isaiah, to the people of Judah, whose hearts were stolen from God by the thief, wine (see Lesson).

Something to Think About—Strong drink steals the heart, and makes slaves.

Something to Draw—Print the Golden Text.

FROM THE PLATFORM

W A R N I N G	B E L L S	HISTORY SCIENCE LAW EXPERIENCE
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Begin by asking how sailors are warned off dangerous coasts. Amongst other methods, bells are used. Now there are several WARNING BELLS (Print) which should keep us from using strong drink. Take the two kingdoms referred to in the Lesson—Israel and Judah. Get the scholars to describe their fate. What sin does the Lesson single out as one of the causes of their downfall ? This is our first bell, HISTORY (Print). Ask what leading members of the British Medical Association have said about alcohol (see Application). Here is a second bell, SCIENCE (Print). Tell the story, or, better, get the scholars to tell it, in the last par graph of the Application. We may call the third bell, LAW (Print), since the records of law courts show how much crime is caused by drink. Next, ask about Franklin's practice in the London printing office. Here is a fourth bell, EXPERIENCE (Print). What will likely happen to sailors who neglect the warning bells ? Every one knows that they are in danger of shipwreck. We know that drink wrecks lives. If we are wise, we shall leave it alone.