

your danger. The impure thought, the harboured imagination, may seem to create a necessity to the indulgence of sin. You have come, it may be, from a pure home. If you allow yourself to hear talk of sin, or allow your spirit to rest on the supposed sweetness of it, you may lower your standard until you readily yield to the miserable way, and you may bind yourself fast in habits of ruin. Let a young man or woman dally with temptation, and they will find plenty of liars-in-wait. It is not, as a rule, the great temptation that ruins; it is imperceptible beginnings. It is these that must be watched and guarded against. The snowflakes are light and fall noiselessly; but let them continue to fall, and soon the highway may be blocked up. It may seem a small thing to go once into a doubtful place, but there may be there an invisible chain with which, by having gone once, you have become irrecoverably bound.

As I am in these addresses to picture life as it is, let facts speak. I feel sure that hundreds of young men would have shunned vice if facts had been told them of its issues. They have few to tell them. It is intensely disagreeable to tell them. But I cannot see young men coming into our great cities without forewarning them of the rocks ahead of them. While I was writing these words I had a most painful illustration of the