

12 *THE MORAL DANGERS OF THE AGE:*

the tempter. "We'll wait awhile and see who is the fool," said the young man. In ten years' time the tempter was in a dishonoured grave, and the other was rising to affluence.

You young men who sneer at religion as weakness, and call godliness hypocrisy, it is you who are the hypocrites. You have risen many a morning after a night of sin, and have felt disgusted with what you have witnessed, and you have known how terribly degradation was leaving deep footprints in your nature. You have seen the shamelessness and hollowness of wickedness, and have been too cowardly to say that you saw it. You have laughed at virtue at the very time you were bearing agonies in your flesh which were horrible and indescribable. In ten years, the tempter I have spoken of was in his grave; and if the brief life and dreadful end of thousands of young men in England could be told, it would be the most awful tragedy ever written. Men would be horrified as they read it, and the ghastly memory would haunt them for years. Ah, men do not know it. There are hundreds of young men constantly leaving the warehouses of great cities to carry their emaciated and sapped constitutions to die in country homes, or solitary and neglected they lie in the upper chambers of lodging-houses in the back streets of cities. Angel sisters are kept from sights which they could not compre-