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Keep me I pray, in wisdom's way,
That I may truths eternal seek;
I need protecting care to-day—
My purse is light, my flesh is weak,
So banish from my erring heart
All baleful appetites and hints
Of Satan's fascinating art,
Of first editions and of prints,
Direct me in some goodly walk
Which leads away from bookish strife,
That I with pious deed and talk,
May extra-illustrate my life.
But if, O Lord, it pleaseth Thee

To keep me in temptation's way,
I humbly ask that I may be
Most notably beset to-day;
Let my temptation be a book,
Which I shall purchase, hold, and keep,
Whereon, when other men shall look,
They'll wail to know I got it cheap.
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As in rare copper-plate abounds,
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—EUGENE FIELD.

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