to me and ask me to go over to New York and beg their boy off from crimes that he had committed against his employer—the taking of funds out of the employer's till or the disarrangement of the accounts. Why, he had salary enough to pay all lawful expenditures, but not enough salary to meet his sinful amusements. And again and again I have gone and implored for the young man, sometimes, alas! the petition fell unavailing. Merchant of New York, is there a disarrangement in your accounts? Is there a leakage in your money drawer? Did not the cash account come out right last night? I will tell you. There is a young man in your store wandering off into bad amusements. The salary you give him may meet lawful expenditures, but not the sinful indulgence in which he has entered, and he takes by theft that which you do not give him in lawful salary.

FRIGHTFUL END OF UNRESTRAINED LICENCES.

How brightly the path of unrestrained amusement opens. The young man says: "Now I am off for a good time, never mind economy, I'll get money somehow; what a fine road; what a beautiful day for a ride: crack the whip and over the turnpike: come, boys, fill high your glasses. Drink. Long life, health, plenty of rides just like this." Hard working men hear the clatter of the hoofs and look up and say: "Why, I wonder where those fellows get their money from. We have to toil and drudge. They do nothing." To these gay men life is a thrill and an excitement. They stare at other people and in turn are stared at. The watch chain jingles. The cup flows. The cheeks flush. The eyes flash. The midnight hours their guffaw. They swagger. They jostle decent men off the sidewalk. They take the name of God in vain. They parody the hymn they learned at their mother's knee; and to all pictures of coming disaster they cry out: "Who cares," and to the council of some Christian friend, "who are you." Passing along the street some night you hear a shriek in a grog shop, the rattle of the watchman's club, the rush of the police. What is the matter now? Oh, this reckless young man has been killed in a grog shop. Carry him home to his father's house. Parents will come down and wash his wounds, and close his eyes in death. They forgive him all he ever did though he cannot in his silence ask it. The prodigal has got home at last. Mother will go to her little garden and get the sweetest flowers and twist them into a chaplet for the silent heart of the wayward boy and push back from the bloated brow the long locks that were once her pride, and the air will be rent with the father's cry: "Oh, my son, my son, my poor son! would to God I had died for thee; oh, my son, my son!"

AMUSEMENT JUDGED BY HEALTHFUL EFFECTS.

You may judge of amusements by their effect upon physical health. The great need of many good people is physical recuperation. There are Christian men who write many hard things against their immortal souls when there is nothing the matter with them but an incompetent liver. There are Christian people who seem to think that it is a good sign to be poorly, and because Richard Baxter and Robert Hall were invalids they think that the same sickliness they may come by the same grandeur of character. I want to tell the Christian people of my congregation that God will hold you responsible for your invalidism if it is your fault, and when, through rival exercise and prudence, you might be athletic and well. The effect of the body upon the soul you acknowledge. Put a man of mild disposition upon the animal diet of which the Indian partakes and in a little while his blood will change in chemical proportions. It will become like unto the blood of the lion or the tiger or the bear, while his disposition will change and become fierce, cruel and unrelenting. The body has a powerful effect upon the soul. There are good people whose ideas of heaven are all shut out with clouds of tobacco smoke. There are people who dare to shatter the physical vase in which God has put the jewel of eternity. There are men with great hearts and intellect in bodies worn out by their own neglects. Magnificent machinery, capable of propelling a Great Eastern across the Atlantic yet fastened in a rickety North river propeller. Physical development which merely shows itself in fabulous lifting or in perilous rope walking, or in pugilistic encounter, excite only our contempt, but we confess to great admiration for the man who has a great soul in an athletic body, every nerve, muscle and bone of which is consecrated to right uses. Oh, it seems to me outrageous that men through neglect should allow their physical health to go down beyond repair, spending the rest of their life not in some great enterprise for God and the world, but in studying the best thing to take for dyspepsia. A ship which ought with all sails set and every man at his post to be carrying a rich cargo for eternity, employing all its men in stopping up leakages! When you may through some of the popular and healthful recreations of our time, work off your spleen and your querulousness and one-half of your physical and mental ailments, do not turn your back from such a grand medicament.

WATCH YOUR COMPANIONS IN PLEASURE.

Again judge of places of amusement by the companionship into which they put you. If you belong to an organization where you have to associate with the intemperate, with the unclean, with the abandoned, however well they may be dressed, in the name of God quit it. They will despoil your nature, they will undermine your moral character. They will drop you when you are destroyed, they will give not one cent to support your children when you are dead. They will chuckle over your damnation. They will weep not one tear at your burial. But the day comes when the men who have exerted evil influenence upon their fellows will be brought to judgement. Scene: the last day. Stage: the rocking earth. Enter: dukes, lords, kings, beggars, clowns. No sword; no tinsel; no crown. For footlights, the kindling flames of a world; for orchestra, the trumpets that wake the dead; for gallery, the clouds filled with angel spectators; for applause, the clapping floods of the seas; for curtain, the heavens rolled together as a scroll; for tragedy, the doom of the destroyed; for farce, the effort to serve the world and God at the same time; for the last scene of the fifth act, the tramp of nations across the stage—some to the right, others to the left.

BEST AFFECTIONS FOR THE HOME.

Again any amusement that gives you a distaste for domestic life is bad. How many bright domestic circles have been broken up by sinful amusements? The father went off, the mother went off, the child went off. There are to-day the fragments before me of blasted households. Oh, if you have wandered away I would like to charm you back by the sound of that one word "home." Do you know that you have but little more time to give to domestic welfare? Do you not see, father, that your children are soon to go out into the world and all the influence for good you are to have over them you must have now? Death will break in on your conjugal relations and alas, if you have to stand over the grave of one who perished at your neglect! I saw a wayward husband standing by the bedside of his Christian wife and I saw her point to a ring on her finger and heard her say to her husband; "Do you see that ring?" "Yes, I see it." "Well," said she, "do you remember who put it there?" "Yes," said he, "I put it there." And all the past seemed to rush upon him. By the memory of that day when in the presence of men and angels, you promised to be faithful in joy and sorrow, and in sickness and in health; by the memory of those pleasant hours when you sat together in your new home, talking of a bright future by the cradle and the joyful hour when one life was spared and another given; by that sick bed when the little one lifted up the hands and called for help and you knew he must die, and he put one arm round each of your necks and brought you very near together in that dying kiss; by the little grave in Greenwood that you never think of without a rush of tears; by the family Bible where, in its stories of heavenly love, is the brief but expressive records of births and deaths, by the neglects of the past, and by the agonies of the future; by a judgement day, when husbands and wives, parents and children, immortal groups will stand to be caught up in shining array, or to shrink down in darkness: by all I beg you to give home your best affections. I look in your eyes to-day and I ask you the question that Gehazi asked of the Shunamite, "Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with thy child?" God grant that it may be everlastingly well!

THE GOOD AND THE BAD ANGEL.

Let me say to all young men: your style of amusement will decide your eternal destiny. One night I saw a young man at the street corner, evidently doubting as to which direction he had better take, his hat lifted high enough so you could see he had an intelligent forehead, stout chest; he had a robust development. Splendid young man; cultured young man; honored young man. Why did he stop there while so many were going up and down? The fact is, that every man has a good angel and a bad angel contending for the mastery of his spirit. And there was a good angel and a bad angel struggling for that young man's soul at the corner of the street. "Come with me," said the angel; "I will take you home; I will spread my wing over your pillow; I will lovingly escort you all through life; I will bless every cup you drink out of, every couch you rest on, every doorway you enter; I will consecrate your tears when you weep. Come with me," said the good angel in a voice of unearthly symphony. "No, no," said the bad angel; "Come with me; I have something better to offer. The wines I poor are from chalices of bewitching carousal; the dance I lead is over floor tesselated with unrestrained indulgences. The paths I tread are through meadows daisied and primrosed. Come with me." The young man hesitated at a time when hesitation was ruin, and the bad angel smote the good angel until it departed, spreading wings through the starlight until forever the wings vanished. That was the turning point in that young man's history, for, the good angel flown, he hesitated no longer, but started on a pathway which is beautiful at the opening, but blasted at the last. The bad angel, leading the way, opened gate after gate, and at each gate the road became rougher and the sky more lurid, and, what was peculiar, as the gates slammed shut it came to with a jar that indicated it would never open. The scenery on either side of the road changed from gardens to deserts, and the bright wings of the bad angel turned to sackcloth, and the eyes of light became hollow with hopeless grief. And on the right side of the road there was a serpent, and the man said to the bad angel, "What is that serpent?" and the answer was, "That is the serpent of stinging remorse." A vulture flew through the sky and the man asked the bad angel "What is that vulture?" And the answer was "That is the vulture waiting for the carcasses of the slain." And then the man began to try to pull off of him the folds of something that had wound him around and around and he said to the bad angel: "What is it that twists me in this awful convolution?" And the answer was "That is the worm that never dies." And the man said to the bad angel, "What does all this mean? I trusted to what you said at the corner of the street that night: I trusted it all and why have you thus deceived me?" Then the last deception fell off the charmer and it said: "I was sent forth from the pit to destroy your soul. I watched my chance for many a long year: when you hesitated that night on the street I gained my triumph: now you are here. Ha! ha! you are here. Come now, and let us fill these two chalices of fire and drink together to darkness and woe and death. Hail! Hail!" O young man, will the good angel sent forth by Christ or the bad angel sent forth by sin get the victory over your soul? Their wings are interlocked this moment contending for your destiny, as above the Apenines eagle and condor fight mid-sky. This hour may decide your destiny—God help you. To hesitate is to die!

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