"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

The origin of the word 'alcohol' is an interesting thing. It comes from two Arabian words, 'al kohol'. These words referred to the cosmetics used by Arabian women. This idea did not signify any relationship between the alcohol itself and the materials used, but between the alcohol and the purpose for their use. Women then, as through all ages, used cosmetics to deceive the men into thinking they were much more beautiful than they really were. Therefore, to this property of intoxicating beverages that causes intoxication, the name 'alcohol' or 'deceiver' was given, and a more fitting word would have been extremely difficult to find.

Alcohol is truly the greatest deceiver in the world. It promises satisfaction which it can never give. It makes a person feel warm when he is cold, cold when warm, well when he is sick, rich when he is in rags, and a brilliant conversationalist when he is only speaking nonsensical jabber. It promises rich rewards but brings nothing but disaster and destruction. It smiles upon him at first, but at last "it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder." This verse gives us an ugly and true picture of beverage alcohol and should be imprinted in the heart and mind of every person whether young or old who is tempted to drink. While under the influence of drink a person does not hesitate to scoff at things sacred and holy. It makes profanity easy.

If anyone does not believe that "strong drink is raging" let them look in on a party about eleven o'clock at night after most of the guests have had two to four highballs or cocktails; or watch a drunken father stagger home and see the mother grab up the children and run for their lives, for most likely the father will be raging like a mad man.

Someone has said, "When wine is in, wisdom is out." Drunkenness, which pretends to be a sociable thing, renders men unfit for society, for it makes them abusive with their tongues and outrageous in their passions. The person who allows himself to be drawn into such folly is deceived and certainly not wise.

"If a man wants to lose his sense of reverence, his susceptibility for what is noble, let him take to drink, and the thing is done. If he would fain keep these fresh and quick, let him avoid what is sure to deaden them." Of course there are other roads to the same end, but there is no other end to this road. Nobody never knew a drunkard who did not scoff at things that should be revered; and that because he knew that he was acting in defiance of them. Drink takes off the brake, and every impulse has its own way, and makes as much noise as it can.

"There is a world of quiet irony in the unexpectedly gentle close of the sentence, 'is not wise'. Look at the drunkard as he staggers along scoffing at everything purer and higher than himself, and ready to fight with his own shadow, and incapable of self-control. He has made himself the ugly spectacle you see. Will anybody call him wise?" Alexander Maclaren