

'All full.' That was the harvest concert night; and the book was put away in my desk, where it lay till next Christmas eve. Then I opened it, while Ethel was with me, and found about two thirds of the pages filled with red ink items, which showed how many good things she had recorded—a long list of kind words and generous deeds, which I read aloud, as she sat quietly on a cricket beside the open fire. 'That's the end of the red passages,' said I, as I finished, 'and now for the blue ones, which tell me how stupid and hateful those same people can be!'

"No, no! Don't read those," she cried. 'I am ashamed to have you see them, and I wished I hadn't written them down. Give me the book, please, without reading the rest.'

"So I handed it to her with a smile, and watched her great astonishment at finding one-third of the book blank; for the blue ink, which recorded the unpleasant items, had entirely faded out, and left the pages almost as white as they were when I bought the book.

"Why," she exclaimed, 'what does it mean?'

"Only that I had the ink made expressly for you. It is called Fault-finder's Ink, and fades out in a few days. If you must write down those unpleasant items, be very sure and use this kind of ink; and if you cannot get your bottle filled up again, use water, and it will answer every purpose.'

"Soon after that Christmas, Ethel moved to another town, and I did not see her until I went west last year. She showed me the little red book, and said, she really did get a new memory when she received that present. And I think she did. For, when I asked her about the high school girls, she told me how pretty this one was, and how smart that one, and the third was so good, and a fourth so obliging, until I finally inquired if they were all perfect, and had not a single fault. That brought the old times back to her very strongly, and she blushed a great deal as she replied:

"The blue ink that you gave me faded out so quickly that I did not think it paid to write the faults down on my memory at all. So I looked for everybody's best things, and wrote those only in my new Book of Remembrance."—*Rev. R. Metcalf, in Christian Register.*

Our Basket.

JEWELS.

If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.

Consideration is the small coin of kindness and affability; it is current everywhere, with all, and always brings back a little friendship.

Have the courage to speak your mind when it is necessary that you should do so, and hold your tongue when it is prudent that you should do so.

Resolve not to be poor. Whatever you have, spend less. Poverty is a great enemy to human happiness. It certainly destroys liberty, and it makes some virtues impracticable and others extremely difficult.

Don't let us be afraid of enthusiasm. There is more lack of heart than brain. The world is not starving for need of education half as much as for warm, earnest interest of soul for soul. We agree with the Indian who, when talked to about having too much zeal, said, "I think it is better for the pot to boil over than not to boil at all."

DISCOURAGED PEOPLE.—I once saw, in a western paper, an advertisement for some sort of salesman or agent, with this significant addition: "No discouraged man need apply." The word "discouraged" has a peculiar force in certain parts of the West, and in this case it spoke a whole volume. It brought up the figure of one who had left the East to get a comfortable and easy livelihood in the abundant West. The figure was only a fair specimen of a class. The West proved no easier or more comfortable than the East. The same energy, capacity and thrift were needed, and these failed west of the Alleghanies as they failed east of them. And all such people, drifting aimlessly into this or that pursuit, came to bear the general title "Discouraged." Like a rubber band from which the spring and elasticity are gone, these discouraged ones would (and will) disappoint every reasonable expectation, and will (and do) vegetate, instead of live.

One of Mr. Moody's favorite maxims is that "God cannot work through a discouraged man." It is as bad for a violinist to attempt a sonata on a discouraged violin, or for a pianist to try a nocturne on a discouraged piano-forte. There is a flatness, a lack of vigor and resonance, which will destroy the best of good intentions or of skill.—*Sunday School Times.*

BACKBONE.—An old lady in Iowa, says one of our exchanges, was asked what she would do with all the corn if it could not be made into whisky. She replied: "I would make it into starch to stiffen the backbone of many of the temperance people." The old lady in a very homely way expressed a great truth. What is wanted, and wanted most, in this great cause of temperance is not more friends but more courage, not more sound

views but more action, not more believers but more *backbone*. We are too timid, too cowardly, too much afraid of antagonism, too fearful in business, in reputation, and even in the profession of our faith. We know the right, we must dare to do it! We are sworn to the cause, we must not desert it, despite all opposing forces! We dare not be untrue to God, therefore we must be courageous in the right. Let us cultivate backbone.—*Gazette.*

BITS OF TINSEL.

How to acquire shorthand—fool around a buzz-saw.

Always awake—the track made by an ocean steamer.

Teacher to little boy; "What is a reptile?" "Don't know." "Oh, yes, you do; something that crawls." "Oh, a baby."

"Ain't that a lovely critter, John?" said Jerusha, as they stopped opposite the leopard's cage. "Wall, yes," said John, "but he's dreffully freckled, ain't he?"

The latest anecdote about the old lady who thinks that she "knows everything" is about how she went to a church sociable, and as she entered the room the young ladies said. "Good evening, auntie, we are glad you came; we are going to have tableaux this evening." "Yes, I know, I know," was the reply; "I smelt 'em when I first came in."

A member of a fashionable congregation called at a music store and inquired: "Have you the notes of a piece called the 'Song of Solomon?'" adding, "Our pastor referred to it yesterday as an exquisite gem, and my wife would like to learn to play it."

"Won't you cut a penny open for me, father?" said a little girl when she came home from school one day. "Cut open a penny! What do you want me to do that for?" asked her father. "Cause," said the little girl, "our teacher says that in every penny there are four farthings, and I want to see 'em."

Valuable Information.

HOW TO SUBMIT THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT.

1. When a number of representative Temperance men in a City or County agree that a movement should be made for the submission of the Act, they should prepare, sign, and publish a call to all friends of Temperance and Prohibition to meet at some central place on a certain date. In addition to this general call, personal letters and interviews should be made use of so as to have as many in attendance as possible.
 2. Those who assemble in obedience to this call should, at the appointed hour, organize the Convention by electing a temporary Chairman and Secretary, and then proceed to discuss the question.
 3. If the Convention decide to submit the Act, it should immediately organize an Association for that purpose by electing permanent officers, viz., a President, Secretary, Treasurer, one Vice-President for each township of the County or ward of the City, add a sufficiently large Central Committee, to whom shall be entrusted the management of the campaign. The Vice-Presidents should be conveners of the sub-committees to be organized in each township, for local work. The Central Committee should be so situated as to be within call of the President and Secretary, as their meetings will be frequent. The full Association can be convened in any emergency by the President, Secretary and Central Committee.
 4. Active, capable men should be appointed as canvassers in each township or polling subdivision by the sub-committees convened by the Vice-Presidents. The names of these should be sent immediately to the General Secretary, who will furnish them with blank petitions and instructions. These should at once enter upon their work, complete it without delay, and transmit their petitions to the General Secretary according to instructions.
 5. The Association should make an estimate of the probable cost of the campaign and assess it fairly on the different townships, towns and villages, and hold the various sub-committees responsible for its collection and remittance to the Treasurer of the Association.
 6. The electors should be thoroughly informed as to the Act and their duty in the matter, by means of public meetings addressed by competent speakers, the distribution of suitable literature, and by personal canvass and conversation. The more light is scattered the clearer will the truth appear, and we have no reason to fear the whole truth.
- Counties and cities in which it is not deemed proper to institute a campaign for the adoption of the Canada Temperance Act, ought to have formed in them good standing auxiliaries to the Ontario Alliance, so as to sow the seed and bring public sentiment up to the level of prohibitory enactments. F. S. SPENCE will be glad to correspond with any interested and assist in forming these auxiliaries. Let something be done in every county.
- Information as to the Act, copies of the Act, suitable literature, forms of petitions and all needful information may be obtained from the Secretary of the Ontario Alliance.

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