

TEACHERS AND TEMPERANCE.

Every country school ought to be organized into a Loyal Legion. The meetings could be held bi-weekly, Friday, after school. The children are there, all that is wanting is an earnest leader who is willing to devote a short time to temperance instruction, song, anecdote and story. The organization can be carried on with little labor under such conditions. Very few teachers would do this; either they are physically unable to take any added burden, or they are passive to the temperance cause. "Where there's a will there's a way," and one case comes to mind where a Loyal Legion numbering one hundred and forty members is carried on according to the plan above, in a union school. The president is one of the primary teachers, a young lady rather frail but possessing great executive ability and zeal. She is assisted by the ladies of the village.

Not long since from deep in the earth a rock was taken upon which was traced the delicate leaves of a fern. Perhaps a million years ago that little fern gave up its life, and by the process of petrification its frail beauty in every line and curve is preserved to-day.

The teacher's influence upon the child's mind is something like that little fern. The infant mind is easily impressed and the teacher who holds up to his primary class the evils of profanity, intoxicating drink, and tobacco, may find in eternity that his teaching influenced the eternal destiny of his pupil.

The children of the immigrant attend school. They become Americanized—their parents never. We cannot expect to convert the beer-loving foreigner to temperance ideas, but his children ought to be taught total abstinence. The parents are jealous of our Sunday schools and temperance legions, preferring to attend churches of their own language, therefore the only medium for temperance teaching is the public school.—*J. K. Van Auken, in "Household."*

FOUR MAINE BOYS.

Thirty years ago I knew, in the town of G—, in Maine, two brothers whose identity I will disguise under the names of Willard and Langdon Newman. In the same town I knew also two boys, not brothers, whom I will call Charles Smallman and George Winfast. The two former were sons of a farmer; the two latter sons of master mechanics. The farmer lived in the outskirts of the town, in the wild country, which rendered them plebeians; the latter in the village, which made them patricians, as boys saw those things.

From the time they were nine and ten years of age, Willard and Langdon had to assist in the farm-work in summer-time and therefore could not attend school. They worked at planting and hoeing and haying, from five in the morning until eight or nine at night in the longest days. In the winter, for a few years more, ten weeks at school was possible, for which they walked nearly a mile, going home for dinner between twelve and one.

When the civil war came on, times were hard in those Maine country towns. Willard and Langdon by 1863 were compelled to leave school and go into the forests to cut and haul wood. At fourteen the latter used to yoke his oxen before light on those short winter mornings, drive into the woods through snow from two to four feet deep, load a cord of wood, heavy sticks four feet long, and haul it to the railway station a mile distant. This he would do four times a day, frequently eating his dinner on a stump with the thermometer at zero. But all this time these two boys were occupying their few spare moments in improving their minds. Their evenings were passed around the great fireplace where they studied their books and read weekly papers. I have seen one or the other of them sitting on an ox-sled of a cold winter day reading the newspaper. Occasionally, in the fall, they would still attend a part-term at the academy, and thus amid hardships and privations prepared themselves to be teachers.

They had brown faces, big, rough hands, and wore old clothes, frequently much patched, and in summer went "barefoot," in winter wore great heavy cow-hide boots. The village boys, Charles and George, were little dandies. Their parents sup-

ported them in idleness. They had every opportunity to attend school, an opportunity which they improved but little. They "looked down" on the farmer-boys, made fun of their old clothes, called them "Shadageetes," and because they were known to be studious, nicknamed Langdon "Little Wisdom." So every time he went to the village George and Charles would call out to him: "Hello, Little Wisdom, how are things over in Shadagee; Tators all dug?" or something equally tantalizing.

At last hard times overtook the two patricians. One lost his father, and the father of the other failed, and they had to go to work. They had not education enough to enable them to enter on any of the more "genteel" pursuits, and no trades. When I visited the town last summer both were trying to scrape a living out of little rocky farms. They were as poor, and ragged, and dirty as ever the Shadagee boys were.

And where were the Shadagee boys, do you ask? Willard, a graduate of a Maine college, is now a successful principal of an academy in his native State. Langdon has already attained high rank in one of the professions, has written several successful books, lectured before large audiences, travelled north, south, east and west and in Europe. He has been elected to positions of honor and responsibility in a large New England city. And this is "Little Wisdom," as his wife sometimes jokingly calls him.

Willard and Langdon improved their small opportunities. George and Charles neglected their great opportunities.—*W.S. Nevins, in March Wide Awake.*

ONE FACT of exceeding importance in training children should not be overlooked. We are so much creatures of habit that a child trained to constantly attend church on the Sabbath will, at least, always retain the impression that the best and legitimate way of using Sunday morning is to go to church and use the time as consecrated time. It has often been argued that children obliged to attend divine service against their will, will conceive a dislike for the place and eventually shun it when free to act their own pleasure. To this a skilful writer asks: "Will a child always hate learning because sometimes obliged to go to school? and what wise or judicious parent would allow a child to follow its own inclinations in the matter of attending school or staying away? Why not treat this matter of church going on the part of the children the same as the matter of attending school is treated?"—*Christian at Work.*

Question Corner.—No. 12.

PRIZE BIBLE QUESTIONS.

33. What prophet foretold a prophet should appear in the spirit and power of Elijah before Christ came, and about how long was it before the prophecy was fulfilled?

40. How came the saying to go abroad, after Christ had risen, that his disciples had stolen his body away while the guard slept?

Address all answers "Bible Questions" Northern Messenger John Dougall & Son, Montreal. Write only on one side of the paper and sign full name and address.

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your little paper the Northern Messenger of late. I have been sick for a long time and have never valued your paper so much before. I have now taken it for five years. ever since I was seven, and would not give it up for anything. Next year I mean to get more subscribers if my health permits. I would have got more this year were it not that I have been taken sick. If you would please send me a copy of the Weekly Witness next time the Messenger comes I will try and get subscribers to it.

Please do not put this in the paper or if you do don't put my name."

A boy writes from Winnipeg:—

Thank you much for the book you sent, "Ben Hur" which I received all right, also your letter saying you had not the book I asked for, so I should like if you will please send me instead "Fast in the Ice." I am a little boy ten years old, and live with mamma and papa in Winnipeg, and I will do all I can to get subscribers for the Witness and Messenger. I like the Messenger very much, and mamma says she would miss the Witness like an old friend if she gave up taking it, but she does not intend doing that. I am already getting subscribers for another prize which I shall send soon.

One of our older subscribers writes from Michigan:—

I received your postal and book (a prize) with much thanks. I have read it through and can say it is the most interesting little book that I have got hold of since I have been in this place. I do not get much time to write or read for I have so much other work. I have the station work to look after, and a good deal of it takes a great deal of writing. But when I began to read the book I could not stop until I got through with it, and I thank you very much for it and hope that my subscribers to the Messenger will be pleased with their investment. I like the paper well and will send you all the names I can of those who would like to have it. Money is so very scarce now that they do not wish to spend it in good reading, but I fear they often spend it in something that will not profit them half so much.

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