

ate drinker, and that his father and his wife's father had also been Is it **Expedient?** drinkers. Yes, it was all too true. These were the facts; and it was impossible to evade their consequences. It may seem lawful enough to dally with the wine cup, if it is not used to excess, but is it expedient, for the sake of those who are to come after?

Let no man seek his own, v. 24. The store was filled up with groceries in the front, and a bar-room in the rear. The proprietor said, "Come back and have a **What Small Eyes See** glass." When the foaming liquor was drawn, little Willie, five years old, looked up and asked, "Papa, what are you drinking?" The father evaded the question. But going out of the store, and again as they walked down the street, the little fellow persisted in his inquiry, until the unhappy man exclaimed, "I would give anything in the world if I could take that act back. I am afraid it will have a bad influence on my poor little boy." Every act is a seed, and the keen, bright eyes of children are the most fertile of soils. Those who are older may well be very careful what they do.

The earth is the Lord's, v. 26. "The church is putting up my assessment too high." "How much do you pay?" "Five dollars a year." "How long have you **Mean with God** converted?" "About four years." "What did you do before you were converted?" "I was a drinking man." "How much did you spend for drink?" "About \$250 a year." "How much were you worth?" "I rented land, and ploughed with a steer." "What have you got now?" "A good farm and a team of horses." "Well, you paid the devil \$250 a year for the privilege of ploughing with a steer on rented land, and now you complain because you are asked to give God five dollars for the privilege of ploughing with horses on your own farm." And the farmer felt he had been mean. It is God's goodness that has saved us from many a terrible sin. Let us cheerfully acknowledge that all we are and have, we owe to God, and let us be honest, and give Him His rightful share.

For conscience sake, v. 25. A Scottish sergeant was drilling one of the Duke of Connaught's children, when he was noticed by Queen Victoria. She was particularly pleased by what she saw of him, and as a reward sent him a special invitation to attend one of her private theatricals. The sergeant hesitated, and then asked if Her Majesty would graciously allow him to decline, for the theatre had been a snare to him in the past. The good Queen, who always admired moral conviction in those about her, was pleased to observe the conscientious scruples of the sergeant, and afterwards sent him a mark of her royal favor. The eye of One greater than any earthly sovereign is upon us. May we ever seek by a consistent life to merit His approval.

My liberty, v. 29. On the lawn was a goat, tethered by a rope to a stake. Why was he not at liberty? Why was the rope not cut, and the goat allowed **Obedient, Therefore Free** to do as he pleased? Because he would gnaw the bark of the young trees, trample down the garden beds, and pull up the strawberry plants by the roots. Yet the collie dog was tethered by no rope; for he had learned obedience, and so had earned his liberty. When once we have become willing to obey God, He permits us the glorious liberty of His children. It is surely a small price to pay for a great privilege. If we will not pay the price, will not be His children, then He restrains us by the severe restrictions of His law and the threats of His judgment.

That they may be saved, v. 33. This is the testimony of a young half-breed Indian as to the influence of the saloon in his town: "It spoils the place for every- **Why Not?** body except the drinking fellows. My brother began to hang around that saloon. His wife told him to quit, or she'd leave. One night he came home, and she wasn't there. She had gone to another town, where they fight the saloons hard. He followed her, and they won't come back any more." Why should harmless citizens be driven from their own town, to avoid temptation? Why not abolish the evil, and save them where they are?