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THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL.



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HIS is the season of the year when it is considered the proper thing for everybody to make general gaol delivery of their consciences, and to open a new account in the Book of Life. The pipe, the quid and the flowing-bowl are annually formally consigned to oblivion, frequently to be resuscitated and resumed a fortnight after the resolution has been taken. Truly Hell is paved with good intentions.

But who of us can afford to sneer at the instinct which tells a man that he should make a last and desperate effort to shake off the shackles of a ruinous career ? Which of us is not benefitted directly or indirectly by assisting to make these too often empty resolutions a living and practical reality?

Is it not a benefit to the community that a man whose life has hitherto been reeking with hypocrisy and cant, who in fact has been a living lie, should be stung with the little fang of conscience that is left and disgorge the proceeds of embezzlements and robberies, that are beyond the clutch of the criminal law? That he should make some sort of reparation in the way of endowing hospitals or charitable institutions, and for the future refrain from the commission of such wrongs, and so render the reparation unnecessary?

Many there are in our midst who hold themselves up as exemplars of goodness, but who are all the while amassing wealth by all sorts of ungodly means and devices. Do they not forget the reproci of the Divine the Royal Commission the other day

Master to the young man who had "kept all these things from his youth up ?"

Verily, I think that the finest compliment one friend can pay to another; the best and most enduring gift' that one can make to another on this New Year of '92 is the expression of appreciation of a good resolution taken, and the assurance of honest and hearty aid in its fulfilment. If the spring of rightmindedness, which, after all, lies in the bed rock of every man's nature, fails in its upward gush to break through that crust of habitual indifference to higher things which more or less overlays the conscience of us all, is that not all the greater reason for extending a helping hand, instead of challenging with a jeer? When the down grade tippler reflects upon the wreck in store for himself and family, is it not the duty of his fellow to help him put on brakes and escape the coming doom?

When a young man begins secretly spending the money of his employer, and who has been contracting extravagant habits which sooner or later will surround him with iron bars and blue-coated turnkeys, says to his heedless spendthrift chum that he intends to call a halt, is it not criminal for the other to laugh him out of his good intentions?

My advice to young men in every station of life is, turn over a new leaf. You may never have another opportunity of doing so. You have contracted bad habits, and you know it. If for no other reason, accept my advice as a business proposition. Every time you are seen the worse of liquor you compromise your friends. You can make a fool of yourself without employing artificial means to accomplish that end. You say you "can take a glass and leave it alone." "A fool, a fool ! I met a fool i' the forest." I violate no confidence when I assert that the man never lived who could for any length of time use liquor and then leave it alone without a struggle. By bidding adieu forever to strong drink to-day, you will make this not only a happy New Year for yourself, but also for your nearest and dearest friends.

I was attracted to the last sitting of

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