

A Sunday-School Applicant.

BY ELLEWELL A. MORGAN.

"Fill a little card for me!"
Sweet the voice and tender
Of the darling by my knee—
May the Lord defend her!

Life is freedom, joy, and love;
All the world is before her;
When the star eyes blink above,
Heaven is bending o'er her.

Every morning she delights
In the sparrows' calling;
While she wonders, in their flights,
How they keep from falling!

All this dear old world is new—
Wonder questions please us;
While she hums the whole day through:
"What a friend is Jesus!"

May her teacher, by love's role,
For his glory reach her,
Till she, in God's perfect school,
Finds the perfect Teacher.

This beginning, pure and free,
Means a soul's eternity.

"The Elms," Toronto.

OUR PERIODICALS:

PER YEAR—POSTAGE FREE.

The best, the cheapest, the most entertaining, the most popular.

Christian Guardian, weekly.....	\$2 00
Methodist Magazine, 16 pp., monthly, illustrated.....	2 00
Methodist Magazine and Guardian together.....	3 50
Seaside, Guardian and Onward together.....	4 00
The Wesleyan, Halifax, weekly.....	1 50
Sunday School Banner, 32 pp., 8vo., monthly.....	0 60
Onward, 8 pp., 4to., weekly, under 5 copies.....	0 60
5 copies and over.....	0 50
Pleasant Hours, 4 pp., 4to., weekly, single copies.....	0 20
Less than 20 copies.....	0 25
Over 20 copies.....	0 24
Seaside, fortnightly, less than 10 copies.....	0 15
10 copies and upwards.....	0 12
Happy Days, fortnightly, less than 10 copies.....	0 15
10 copies and upwards.....	0 12
Parents' Aid, monthly, 100 copies per month.....	5 00
Quarterly Review Service. By the year, 24c. a dozen; \$2 per 100 per quarter, 6c. a dozen; 60c. per 100.	

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto.

C. W. CHATTA,
310 Huron Street,
Montreal.

S. F. HURST,
Wesleyan Book Room,
Halifax, N.S.

Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Rev W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 22, 1892.

THE TOBACCO HABIT AND ITS EFFECTS UPON SCHOOL WORK.

BY H. H. SEMLEY,

(Principal of the Iowa State Normal School.)

AFTER making a study of several hundred boys running through a period of ten years, I give only observed facts, and neither assume the conditions or jump at far-fetched conclusions.

1. Boys that begin the habit at an early age are stunted physically, and never arrive at normal bodily development.

2. Accompanied with the use of the narcotic were certain disordered physical functions, such as indigestion, impaired taste, defective eyesight, dull hearing, nervous affections and diseases of the heart. I have not found a single case of early addicting to the habit of tobacco using that did not suffer with one or more of these direful abnormal conditions.

3. Tobacco, used in any form, destroyed the ability to apply one's self to study, and prevented his comprehending or remembering his lessons. The mental faculties of a boy under the influence of the narcotic seem to be in a stupor, and since depraved nerve power stultifies and weakens the will power, there is but little use for the teacher to seek to arouse the dormant paralyzed energies, or interest and foster the fagged desire. I have not met a pupil that

is addicted to the habit who will go through a single day's work and have good lessons. I have never had one whose scholarship record was good, and in almost every case the deportment was below the average standard. At the regular examinations for promotion, nearly every one of the tobacco-using pupils fail in doing the most reasonable test work, even if this is not the first time the work has been passed over in class. I have had numbers of cases in which they have remained in the same grade for four successive years, and then they were not ready to be advanced into the next higher class.

Actual Cases.—1. A high-school boy who had always done excellent work, was reported one term as not getting his lessons. I had a talk with the boy and stated the facts, assuring him that with his past record his poor work was unexplainable, as he insisted that he devoted his time faithfully to his studies. He denied using tobacco at all. His work failed from month to month, and before the year closed his parents withdrew him from school. His father deeply regretted the failure, admitted that a change had come in the boy's conduct at home, but as he had heretofore been truthful and faithful, he could not think that the pre-supposed cause was the true one. In a few months the habit, thus far secret, became more pronounced and more public, and it was absolutely established by the boy's own admissions, that it was begun several months before the trouble noticed at school, and that no one knew it save the salesman that furnished him the supply of the narcotic.

2. Four years ago a boy entered one of my primary schools as a chart pupil. Before the boy was four years of age he had learned the habit of smoking cigarettes and stubs of cigars. His father caught him the use of narcotics, and considered it sport to see his son exhibit the habits and tastes of his elders. During the four years he did not complete the twenty-four lessons on the chart, although he attended regularly, and applied himself as diligently as the average pupil of that grade. He seemed perfectly unable to learn like other children, though he was at the beginning a precocious promising child. His mental activity was so lulled and paralyzed as to render him but a little better than an idiot or an imbecile. Experience has shown that the younger the habit is acquired, the more disastrous the results to the mentality of the child.

3. One boy was a successful primary pupil. His work and his interest were constantly praised by his teachers. On his entering the last half of the third grade, his work began to lag and his interest to decline. At the examination for promotion his case was conditioned, and it was detected that he had begun some months before to use tobacco. His parents were informed, and strenuous efforts were made by his teacher to get the habit restrained and corrected. His reform was not secured, and though he remained five years in the same grade, he was never able to advance on merit, and several trial promotions proved failures.

4. In a case where reform was secured and the habit overcome, the pupil again returned to normal progress, and had a successful career as a student.

Other Observations.—So far as my observations have extended, not a single boy has passed the examination required for admission to the high school after he had acquired the habit, and not one has graduated from the high school who began the habit after beginning his course in the high school.

For the moral results are also as serious. Pupils under the influence of the weed are constant subjects of discipline, are not truthful, practice deception and cannot be depended upon. A change in character in a formerly good boy is a very strong indication that some habit is getting hold upon him whose tyranny must be broken before he will again be clothed in his right mind. The worst characteristic of the habit is a loss of personal self-respect, and of personal regard for the customs and wishes of ladies and gentlemen, especially when among strangers.

If these observations mean anything, they declare that something ought to be done to save child life from the pitfalls that commercial interests are digging, and that greed is encouraging, that more should be done than to instruct by oral or text lessons

in school, that teachers, parents and philanthropists are not yet sufficiently aroused regarding the magnitude of the evil of tobacco using by children; that in the crusade against alcohol we should recognize that other evils, though more quietly, are just as surely sapping the strength and destroying the vigour of the youth of this generation.

A MANLY BOY.

THERE was a boy in a restaurant on Saturday that I wanted a photograph of. I am not giving to collecting photographs, and I despise autograph nutcases, so it was all the more strange. This lad was probably fourteen—that awkward age when a boy knows that he is not a man and wants to make people believe that he is—that time when he neglects Sunday-school and his prayers and is a little ashamed to be caught kissing his mother. But this was a nice boy. He moved out a chair for his mother, and after they were seated, he rose to help her lay aside her mantle. He did not talk much to her, and he was very round-shouldered and his ears looked like the curly early lettuce in the seedsman's catalogue, so you will understand that he was not by any means an all-round perfect boy. But when they were ready to go he laid the heavy cloak across her shoulders, stood attentively until she was ready, then lifted the chair aside for her to pass out. And the mother—bless her, and bless all the mothers that are wise enough to treat their sons as gentlemen—let him wait on her and accept all his little courtesies with the same quiet smile of appreciation that any gray-haired cavalier would have won. The development of a man's protective qualities of mind and heart comes sooner or later as the women in his boyhood's home encourage or retard their growth. She was well-bred, and her boy, her carefully-taught, gentlemanly boy, showed whose son he was by every graceful attention he paid her.

A NEGATIVE "NO."

BY HENRY C. PIERSON.

A FINE young fellow was Tom Jeffreys, strong, pleasant and good looking. He was but eighteen when he first began "rail-roading," but he could set a brake with the best. When his clear, deep voice announced the stations, people listened and made no mistake. Old ladies caught the gleam of his pleasant eye, and let him help them on and off with grateful surprise. Mothers with more children than they could manage, tired women bundle-laden and old men recognized a friend and made use of him. Nor were the railroad officials blind to the young man's helpfulness and popularity, and although Tom did not dream of it, he was one on a list of names that meant promotion.

The young brakeman's easy-going good-nature, however, was a drawback in one direction. He disliked to say no. When the train reached Boston he always had two hours to spare. In that time some one of the boys was sure to say, "Come, Tom, let's go to the barber's."

Now, this sounded very innocent, but in the barber's back room was a green door which opened on a stairway leading down into a drinking saloon. Here the men used to gather a few at a time, to take "a little something."

Tom usually said his good-natured no, that meant a reluctant yes, and ended by going. He never felt wholly at ease when taking his beer. He would not have gone for it alone. Over and over again he acknowledged to himself that it was the laughter of his chums that took his courage away, and so things went on. A year slipped by, and beer had become almost an every-day drink with him, when one afternoon he was summoned from the "barber's shop" to the office.

"Jeffreys," said the superintendent, when he entered, "I have been very much pleased with the way in which your duties have been performed on the road in the past, and I find we need another conductor." The gentleman suddenly stopped and then the pleasant smile was gone. "Mr. Jeffreys, your breath tells me that you have been drinking."

"Only a little beer, sir," said poor Tom, flushing crimson.

"I am very sorry," replied the superintendent, "but that will be all to-day, you may go."

The young man left the office downcast, disheartened. What he had been wishing for, what he had so nearly gained, had been lost through his own misconduct. As he thought of it the good-natured lips took on a firmer curve. The next day one of the boys said, "Comin' over to the barber's?"

"No," replied Tom.

"O come on, what's struck yer?"

"That barber has shaved me all he over will!" was the answer.

Although Tom's "no" seemed very determined in its sound, there was yet something wanting in it. He felt it, and when, after a few days, the real longing for a glass of liquor began to make itself felt, it seemed as if the "no" would be "yes" in spite of himself.

"No use in lockin' the barn door now," said the chum; "the boss is stole; the 'super' knows you've taken a 'snail' now and then, and he'll never forget it. Better be young while you can."

Tom still said "no," but the little negative grew weaker and weaker; the next thing it would be yes. When this was almost accomplished, spurred by his danger and remembering his early training in the right, he went into an empty car and kneeling on the bare floor, prayed for strength to resist.

"And then," he said, "I learned to speak a 'no' that all the men on the road couldn't turn into a 'yes.'"—*Christian at Work.*

UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE.

AMONG the private memoirs of noted men of the last generation, we frequently find incidents which illustrate strongly the singular difference between the training of boys now, and that of a century ago.

The venerable Bishop Meade, of Virginia, for example, gives in his "Reminiscences" an account of an insurrection which took place at Princeton College while he was a student there, and in which he took part with such zeal that even in his old age he felt and said that no collegiate outbreak ever occurred in which there was less guilt on the part of the rebel boys.

One hundred and fifty students out of two hundred revolted, and all of them were sent home. Young Meade, on reaching the old homestead in Frederick county, vehemently poured forth the story of his wrongs to his mother, a high-spirited Virginia woman.

She listened in silence until the whole story had been told to the least detail; then she commanded him to return at once to the college, humbly acknowledge his errors to the faculty, and ask to be taken back on the promise of future amendment.

"Nor," said the bishop, "did I hesitate to obey; for the habit of submission to her authority had been established since my earliest years."

Fifty other young men were thus peremptorily sent back by their parents, and went without remonstrance.

Mrs. General Nelson, a personal friend of Washington, finding that two of her boys had run away from school to enter the army, beckoned them from the ranks while on the way to battle, and ordered them to get into the family coach and accompany her home. From thence she sent them to Philadelphia to school. The significant point in this story is that it did not occur to either of the young men or to the officers commanding them to dispute her authority.

Bishop Meade, writing half a century ago, declared that the day for such prompt, unquestioning obedience from adult children to parents was over. It certainly is long past now.

Whether it was a better system in all respects than that of the sympathy and confidence which usually exists in families of the higher class at the present day is not to be decided off-hand.

It is recognized by the proverbs of all countries that only the man who has been taught to obey knows how to command; and it is certain that the men whose nobility led this country through her darkest straight into freedom and light had borne the yoke in their youth of a stern, inflexible discipline.