SUNDAY SCHOOL.

DECEMBER 7.

DRUNKENNESS.

PROVERBS 23: 29–35.

The principal terms used in the Hebrew Scriptures to designate the products of the vine—various forms of wine and strong drink—are: *chemer* and *chamer*, thick, sticky syrup, sometimes mixed syrup; *yayin*, "pressed out," the juice of the grape—applied to the simple juice of the grape, and to that which was intoxicating; *yegels*, a vat or trough, Deut. 16: 13; *mainsak*, the mixed wine, Prob. 23: 30; *sobe*, anything sucked up, Isa. 1: 22; *enob*, round, ripe grape, or grape cake; *asis*, pressed upon, mead; *shekar*, strong wine or other liquor; *tirosh*, mead, new wine.

EXPLANATIONS.

Who hath woe? this verse contains a strong warning against the vice of intemperance, by means of a vivid picture of its ruinous results. "The sharp touch of the satirist produces [in the "*oy*"] the actual inarticulate utterances of drunkenness." *Sorrow*, grief brought on needlessly, such as drink brings on. *Redness of eyes*, "blurred eyes." *Tarry long*, often till daylight and sometimes days together. *Wine* "*yayin*," the general terms for wines of all sorts. *Go to*, the same term used elsewhere to indicate searching for knowledge; there is evident sarcasm in this use of the word. *Mixed wine*, mingled with spices.

Tarry long, lest thou be tempted to taste. *Giveth his color*, sparkleth. *Moveth itself aright*, or "glideth down smoothly," a picture of "a pellucid stream flowing pleasantly from the wine-skin jug into the goblet or the throat." *At the last*, its end; not at first, or it would not be touched. All sin will be bitterness in the end, and this sin particularly. *Biteth*, how many have experienced this, as, alas! too true. *Like an adder*, a very poisonous species of the adder, the asp or cerastes. Isa. 11: 8. *Strange women*, should be rendered "strange things," standing parallel with perverse things (*Lange*); the drunken man sees strange things, sometimes *perverse things*, babblings; things that would shame him when sober. These things are personified as wisdom is in Prob. 8.

Midst of the sea, like one who is unconscious; his head swims; when the ship is in the trough of the sea and the man on its deck. *Top of the mast*, a lively image of the reeling, swaggering, unsteady, senseless drunken man. *Stricken*, the words of the drunkard when coming out of his maudlin sleep. Stricken me? but I wasn't sick, says the drunkard. *Felt it not*, without feeling at the time. *When...awake?* omit the question; "When I awake I will seek yet again." Such is the persistence of the drunkard.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

1. We are to avoid the power of sins which have beautiful outward appearance, and which attract through strong tastes and convivial companions.

2. One of the most dangerous features of intemperance is that, though it beats its victims daily, it renders them insensible to their sufferings and blind to what causes them.

3. What is true of the sin of wine drinking holds good in regard to sin generally: the first effects may be agreeable enough, but the end is death.—*Abridged from Scholar's Hand Book.*

OVERWORK.

"You see, my dear working friends, I am great upon you sparing your strength and taking things cannily. 'All very well,' say you, 'it's easy speaking and saying "Take it easy;" but it the pot's on the fire, it maun bile.' It must; but you needn't poke up the fire forever, and you must now and then set the kettle on the hob and let it sing, instead of leaving it to burn its bottom out. I had a friend who injured himself by overwork. One day I asked the servant if anybody had called, and was told that some one had. Who was it? 'O it's the little gentleman that *aye sings when he walks!*' So I wish this age would walk more and 'rin less. A man can walk farther and longer than he can run, and it's poor saving to get out of breath.

I am constantly seeing men who suffer and indeed die, from living too fast; from true, though not consciously immoral, dissipation or scattering of their lives. Many a man is bankrupt in constitution at forty-five, and either takes out a *cessio* of himself to the grave, or goes on paying ten per cent for his stock in trade; he spends his capital instead of spending merely what he makes, or better still, laying up a purse for the days of darkness and old age. A queer man, forty years ago, Mr. Slate, or as he was called *Schlate*, who was too clever, and not clever enough, and had not wisdom to use his wit, always scheming, full of go, but never getting on, was stopped by his friend, Sir Walter Scott, (that wonderful friend of us all) one day in Princes Street, 'How are ye getting on, Schlate?' 'Oo, just the auld thing, Sir Walter: *ma pennies a' gang on tippinny errands.*' And so it is with our, nervous power, with our vital capital, with the pence of life—many of them going on 'tippenny errands.' We are forever getting our bills renewed till down comes the poor and damaged concern with dropsy or consumption, blazing fever-madness or palsy."—*Dr. John Brown in Spare Hours.*

WATCH THE FLUES.

A careful farmer's buildings should not burn unless set on fire by lightning. On the farm there are no fires for manufacturing purposes; fires cannot be communicated from one's neighbors; that class which furnishes incendiaries is lacking: and all household fires can be kept under the eye of the farmer and his family. The newspaper reports of the burning of farm buildings show that the fires can nearly always be traced to negligence, and in more than half the cases to faulty flues. The season is now at hand when all the occupied rooms will be heated, and the danger from defective flues is consequently great. Let there be no delay in examining all flues, to make sure that they are perfectly safe. If any are found defective repair them at once. The most dangerous place in a flue is the point where the pipe enters it. If the flue is not built from the floor up (a common way of construction once,) this point is in the garret, and rarely noticed. Unless the pipe fits the opening very closely, sparks will escape, and falling upon the adjacent wood-work, made dry and combustible by the heat from the pipe and flue, will occasion a conflagration. At least twice every year, the joints about where the pipe enters the flue should be plastered, pressing the mortar firmly against the flue and into the crevice between it and the pipe.—*American Agriculturist.*

HEADS AND HANDS.

Even in families that do their own work the ability in the mistress of the home to direct the labor of others is quite as important to comfortable and successful housekeeping as the strength and skill to do herself what is necessary to be done. The most willing hands of the young and inexperienced must be guided or there will be a great waste of time and material. The necessity caused by a lack of physical strength often develops the talent to do this until the weak woman surpasses her stronger sister in making the best use of a small income. System and division of duties in the home work are also a constant discipline in order and economy of time of almost inestimable value to boys and girls' forming their habits for life. So the half invalid mother need not be a burden to her family in any sense. Mind can multiply the power of muscle, and enforced leisure will give time for intellectual culture and attention to all the amenities of family and social intercourse.—*Western Adv.*

USEFUL HINTS.

Paint is more durable on out-door wood work when applied in the fall than at any other season of the year.

If the boys' bedroom is kept neat and in order, and furnished as comfortable as possible, the respect thus shown to their tastes will tend to increase their self-respect and the cultivation of gentlemanly habits.

It is a poor economy for a farmer's family to stint themselves in cream and eggs that they may have more money to buy coffee and tea. Health and convenience would both be served by using what was on hand.

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.

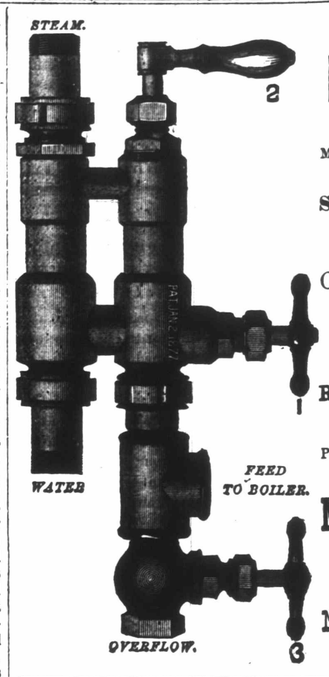
Many old pastures cannot be conveniently ploughed. If free from weeds, harrowing the bare places late in the fall and sowing a little timothy and June grass will insure a much larger amount of feed next season.

It is well to have one or two late hatches of chickens. With a warm place during winter, they will be ready to begin laying early in spring and will continue laying later in summer than those which hatch earlier thus insuring eggs during a longer season.

There is a great danger to health this time of the year from staying too long in cold rooms, arranging drawers and cleaning out closets. Carry the work to the fire, or do it a little at a time, rather than take the risk of a fall cold. By bringing box or bag to the sitting room, one can work and join in the family chat at the same time.

In boiling potatoes, Prof. Mattieu Williams states that if pared first a considerable portion of the potash they contain is lost in the water; and that on this account they should always be boiled in their skins. But some think steaming potatoes is better than boiling, particularly if they crack open, as the best potatoes generally do.

Canned articles from the best houses may sometimes be unfit for use, but probably a very large proportion of cases of illness following eating canned viands arises from carelessness in leaving a portion of the food in the can after it is opened. Bad effects do not invariably follow this, but it is a most dangerous practice where fruit or fish is put up in tin. Of course, in glass there is no danger.



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