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‘IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING.’ Ps. 137. 45.

## THE CHARACTER AND PROPHECIES OF DANIEL—By REV. A. W. HERDMAN.

The Bible is unequalled for displaying character and analyzing motive. It is impartial in its judgment. The falsehood of an Abraham is noticed, the denial of a Peter, the anger of a Moses and even the sins of the man after God's own heart. But it has nothing to say against Daniel. He is classed with a Job and a Samuel as one of the three that has power with God to intercede for a nation. And would you know the secret of that power, you must ascertain the elements of his character. A little reflection will serve to show you that Daniel in Babylon was the right man in the right place. Early removed from Judea in company with other Hebrew youth, he yet preserved the fear of God and manifested the power of religious principle, in a dissolute Heathen Court. And the first mention we have of Daniel is as a *model of temperance*. It is remarkable but thousand of years before temperance societies arose did Daniel exemplify abstinence from the cup that inebriates. The King's chamberlain had charge of Daniel and his companions to give them so much food and wine daily from the royal table to preserve their looks and strength, but these brave youths excused themselves and asked that the experiment would be tried whether with ordinary fare they would not be as healthy and look as well when lo! at the end of the term their countenances appeared fairer and fatter than all those who partook of the royal dainties; a good account of temperance certainly, and a proof of how safely its provisions may be carried out in all circumstances and by all conditions of men. I am aware that there is more in this incident than what meets the eye, that the royal food had been offered in sacrifice to idols, nevertheless it proves the wholesomeness of temperance and exhibits the principles of Daniel and his

companions, even at a tender age and at a Heathen Court.

Now our Nova Scotian youth sometimes visit other countries where drinking customs prevail, but it cannot be harder for them to take a stand than it was for Daniel, only let them take it at once and on principle and they will be respected; but how many are unable to say *no* when it comes to the blush! Had Joseph been as weak, he would have fallen before the temptress. Had Daniel been no stronger, he had never been proposed as a *model of temperance*. But this “is a paltry affair,” some will exclaim: but call nothing paltry that helps to form the mass or to mould the character. From a tiny brook rises the mighty Mississippi. The sight of the steam issuing from the kettle suggested to Watts the idea of the steam engine, the fall of an apple to Newton the gravitation of worlds. So who shall call that insignificant that helps to compose the mighty mass or to form a man's character for eternity? In Daniel this denial was the commencement of a resolute course that ended in his becoming a Prince. In a Reuben compliance was the drifting into the rapids that whelmed his bark. ‘Treat not then, O youth, the beginnings as indifferent, they are the first step in an upward or downward course, that will lead you on to joy or misery forever. Plant your foot firmly at first then and show principle in little things.

But it is in his public capacity that we are called more especially to witness Daniel's principles and therefore we notice as a second trait, his *discretion and fidelity in administration*.

Here be it observed that to Daniel were other courses open than the one he adopted. He might have resigned himself to despair and proved useless as others in similar circumstances have been, or he might have harboured revenge against his captors, or he might have built castles in the air and neglected present