

Temperance

An Appeal for the Boys.

(By C. S. Burnett, in 'Union Signal.')

W. C. T. U. Medal Contest Recitation.

A question in importance overshadowing all others faces us to-day. It is this:—What is to be the character of our citizenship in the new century we are so soon to enter? However great our interest in politics, in tariff, or silver or labor, we realize there is a still greater question—one which, indeed, is the end of all politics and government—The Child.

Building character is the great work of our public schools. We want to place on this broad domain a people 'who shall know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain.'

The putting into the generations that shall follow us the character that can be trusted anywhere is the thing to be aimed at. We want our boys to be

'Truly equipped for life's mystic battle,
Helmet fastened and sword in hand.'

We must fight the great battles of the world through the children. The secret which decides the fate of any battle is found in the preparation which goes before. It is true of battles for reform.

The eye of this generation should be fixed upon the young. There is an army marching forward, in which every man may be a hero, made strong in mighty conflict. Put your ear to the ground and you may hear them, 'Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching.'

Whether they march to victory over self, victory over foes without as well as foes within, depends upon the habits they are forming during childhood and youth.

Within recent years an insidious vice has sprung up all over our land, and our brightest boys are falling victims to its prey.

This vice is the narcotic habit in all its forms, and especially in its worst form—the cigarette. The evil has grown to such mighty proportions that state legislatures and school boards have listened to the appeals of the brave band of white-ribbon women, and have given legislation and secured the enforcement of the laws in many places.

Parents, will you do your part? Will you aid in the educational work? Will you aid in the enforcement of law? You can get evidence needed for conviction if you try. I ask you to look in the faces of so many of our boys who have formed this habit, and see how the better nature is being crushed out by this vice, and know that no boy is safe so long as our laws are violated with impunity. Your boy may be tempted and may fall. Just as good boys have fallen. Place the barriers of enforced law about him. The man who would wrong your son by selling this poisonous drug to him deserves greater punishment than he who robs you of your property; yet you are raising no voice, lifting no hand to protect them. Why? Partly because you do not know the dangerous nature of the 'deadly cigarette.' A committee of United States senators appointed to investigate the nature of cigarettes, when legislation against their sale was pending, brought in a report that they are all injurious to youth, and Congress passed the law that the women petitioned for. A petition for this law was signed by the teachers and ministers of the District of Columbia, and two hundred and fifty-seven physicians.

Professor Hartigan, of West Virginia University, says:—The effect of continued use of this narcotic is to paralyze the will so that considerations that would influence a well man have little weight with an old devotee of the pipe or quid. He also says: 'The use of the cigarette has a tendency to foster in the young inclinations destructive of high moral principle.' The testimony of teachers and Sunday-school workers everywhere confirm this.

Professor Mardis says:—'Fifteen boys fell out of the tenth grade in one year from use of tobacco.' He now has an Anti-Tobacco League in every room, with excellent results.

Professor Morris, of Alliance, Ohio, says: 'Tobacco is our greatest enemy.'

The principal of St. Clairsville, Ohio, schools, says:—'Boys lose interest in school work, become truants, fail in examination and fall out of school soon after the tobacco habit has been fixed.'

Young women, be strong. Fit yourselves for the highest. In the meantime use every power you possess to save our boys from every vice that is degrading them. Your frown upon these bad habits will arrest the thought of young men when all else fails. Demand in them as high a standard of morality as they demand in you. Be kind but firm.

Now, friends, to you all we appeal. Can you see this destruction of our young manhood going on all around you and lift no warning voice to save?

Philanthropy and patriotism alike urge you by example, and counsel all your powers as citizens to save our boys from this, their greatest foe. Save them from tobacco, and you can save them easily from the saloon. We appeal to you in the name of all you love and hold dear, to help us wrest this nation from the nicotine habit.—'Union Signal.'

Willing Workers.

(By Mrs. F. G. De Fontaine, in 'Union Signal.')

(A Temperance Song.)

Work, boys, work, while still it is day;
Work, boys, work, 'tis better than play.
Work with a will and work with a might,
Fight with the foe by day and by night;
Vanquish him, banish him out of sight,
Dally not with him, 'go for the right.'

Fight, boys, fight, till the battle is won,
Fight, boys, fight, till you hear the 'well done.'

Fight with the young, and fight with the old

Bring them all saved at last to the fold.
Vanquish him, banish him out of sight,
Dally not with him, 'go for the right.'

Shout, boys, shout, with your banners on high;

Shout, boys, shout, till the news reach the sky.

Shout it abroad o'er sea and o'er land,
God bless the work of the temperance band.

Vanquish him, banish him out of sight,
Dally not with him, 'go for the right.'

Why Should I Sign the Pledge

(Mrs. S. M. I. Henry.)

'I'm not a drunkard.'
'I don't drink anything to speak of.'
'If I want a drink I take it; if I don't, I let it alone.'

'I never take so much that I don't know what I am about.'

'I can drink little or much; it never hurts me.'

'I can drink, or let it alone.'

'Why should I sign the pledge?'

Because—

1. You don't want to be a drunkard. I never found a man that did; and the disappointment of men who wake up to find themselves drunkards, is something too terrible to take the slightest chance on, and a pledge of total abstinence taken and kept, will turn any man or woman from the path of the drunkard and the shame to which it leads.

A deliberate promise is the strongest tether with which any man can bind a good purpose. You have a purpose to be sober, reliable, pure; then bind the habits of your life to it with a solemn promise to abstain forever from all intoxicating liquors, including wine, beer and cider, and you are safe from that dragon.

2. You should sign the pledge and stop all use of intoxicating drink, because if you drink it ever so moderately you are in danger. The subtle poison of alcohol has just one way with human blood and nerves and brain, and if you take one glass to-day

of light wine, you are in the path that leads to the drunkard's death. You may follow in the road that is filled up with drunkards, who all began with the first glass, which opened the gate to all that has followed of shame and sorrow.

3. You should sign the pledge, even if you never touched a drop of alcoholic drink, that your name and influence may be on the right side of the question. If you have a boy or girl, that you may lead your child in the right way. As a citizen, for the sake of the tempted and weak who need the strength which would come to them from your name on the pledge; as a member of society, that the social world may sooner adopt the fashion of purity; as a man, that every other man and woman may know just where you stand, and that no one shall dare call your position in question. 'It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, or anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended or is made weak.' (Rom. xiv., 21.)—'Dominion Leaflet.'

Testimonials to the Value of 'World Wide.'

Principal PETERSON, LL.D.,
McGill University.

Montreal, Jan. 2, 1901.

(To the Editor of 'World Wide.')

Care 'Witness' Office, Montreal.

Dear Sir,—I procured a copy of the first number of 'World Wide' before leaving Quebec yesterday, and read it with pleasure and a great deal of interest on the journey to Montreal. I am sure it ought to have a highly prosperous career before it, and the price at which the paper is to be offered to annual subscribers should put it within the reach of all. It will be a pleasure to act on your kind invitation to make suggestions with regard to the reprinting of such articles or papers as may, from time to time, come under my notice. Meanwhile I send you my best wishes for the success of the enterprise, and remain,
Yours faithfully, W. PETERSON.

A. JOHNSON, LL.D.,

Dean of the Faculty of Arts, McGill University.

(To the Editor of 'World Wide.')

I hope your enterprise will be successful. The plan of your journal will be highly appreciated by readers of literary taste who wish to free their opinions and their knowledge from the narrowing influence of locality.

'Such a publication as you aim at will tend to the same effect as that produced, to use a well-known simile, when a man habitually living in a cave, steps forth and surveys nature under the broad canopy of the heavens.

It will help to guard against, what Bacon calls, the 'Idols of the Cave.'

January 2, 1901.

A. JOHNSON.

TORONTO 'GLOBE.'

The Toronto 'Globe,' in its issue of Jan. 2, says:—

'John Dougall & Son, proprietors of 'The Montreal Witness,' are publishing 'World Wide,' a weekly reprint of articles from leading journals and reviews of Europe and America. The publishers have determined, very wisely, we think, not to spend money on fine paper, but to be content with what is absolutely necessary, and the result is that for two cents the reader gets sixteen pages of very useful and instructive matter not easily accessible to the ordinary reader. There are several very good publications of this kind. The 'Review of Reviews,' 'Public Opinion,' and 'The Literary Digest,' but the matter in the new one is so well selected that it seems likely to make a field for itself, while it has the advantage of being specially prepared for Canadian readers.'

BILLY BRAY.

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