

on Temperance and Sabbath Observance can have no value unless they secure a larger and more efficient protection for the virtue and moral cleanliness of the child. The treatment of these subjects looks for such civil action through the demand of a sanctified use of the ballot as will wipe out the liquor traffic and stop all or any legal sanction for the desecration of the Lord's Day. We surely do not seek such action for the mere gratification of shutting up certain avenues of unholy gain for unholy men. Such a motive or reason would be insufficient and, perhaps, unworthy. The necessity for action lies deeper. Who in our Canadian Methodism is not prepared to enlist to the death for the abolition of a traffic that puts the life and salvation of every child in jeopardy? Not only must it be removed as a villanous snare for the straying feet of youth, but too well, also, are we assured that so long as this traffic is permitted to pour its wretchedness upon us, many children born into the world will suffer irreparable damage; therefore, it becomes the imperative obligation of every Christian man and woman to be solemnly devoted and covenanted to secure its destruction. It cannot be legalized without sin.

Nor, for the sake of the salvation of the children, can we afford to look in any complacent way upon an irreverent or undevotional keeping of the Lord's Day. "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." We must set our faces against all attempts upon the part of chartered corporations to oppress the laborer by the robbery of his day of rest. We regret to have to notice an additional temptation and peril for our young people with the advent of the bicycle. Too many are making it an instrument of sin. If the devil takes his pleasure spin on Sunday it yet remains unwise and foolish that any should make fast time with him to hell. God forbid that they should be the sons or daughters of our Methodism.

Beloved, we are God's stewards in behalf of the children. We are bound by every law of Christian brotherhood to give and labor, to serve and wait for their salvation. All that we hope for is lost if they come short of attaining high ideals of Christian joy and righteousness. We thank God for the encouragement in the returns of last year's efforts within the bounds of the Conference. There were 1,873 members of our Sunday School who, during the year, asserted their allegiance to Jesus Christ, and when you are informed that the net increase of church members for the year is 1,697 we venture to leave you to draw the significant conclusion. We are encouraged, also, by the unfailing promises of God. The Lord never laid the mountains on surer foundations than the place He makes for our feet in trusting Him while we plan and labor for the winning of the child to Christ.

It remains for us to invite your liberal co-operation in all the work of the Church for the coming year, and to this we urge ourselves, knowing that the time is ripe. "Say not ye, There are yet four months and then cometh harvest? behold I say unto you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." (John iv. 35, 36.)

JAMES VAN WYCK, *President*.
FRANCIS E. NUGENT, *Secretary*.

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