

had nearly a year before resolved to quit drinking and had done so. Now he drinks not only occasionally, but with increasing frequency. His friend married only a few months earlier, and at whose board wine and light liquors are always to be found, was only a few weeks ago assisted home in a state of maudlin intoxication, and with him one of the most promising young men of his town. Can we afford to be careless when too often carelessness means culpability? Every young wife is, for a time at least, a social leader in her circle, and as such often exerts a wonderful influence. May the new homes here be temperance homes, and may every young wife and husband agree that at their hearthstone shall no stumbling block be placed which might cause a brother to offend.

But who is going to settle all this quibbling about High License, Scott Act, Prohibition, and all the rest? If the evils of intemperance can be abolished only by legislation, where are we to look for temperance legislators? If party prejudice must be overcome, where is the vulnerable point toward which to direct the attack? If financial and political intrigues are to be upset, where is the thin end of the wedge to seek an entrance? What can be done with things and people as they are, wiser heads than mine are trying to demonstrate. But almost everything ultimately depends on what is now being done with the children. These embryo men and women are to bring the final solution of so many of our perplexing problems. Would that every parent and every teacher could be made to feel the full measure of their responsibility to these little ones whose now plastic characters are in their hands! Temperance boys and girls will be temperance men and women. Train them for their coming responsibilities as if each individual child would have some important question to settle for the world. Infinite patience, God-given wisdom, unflinching love and unwavering faith are required

of the leaders of these little ones. What wonder if many faint by the way? But, like most arduous undertakings, the work is comparatively easy when rightly undertaken and faithfully carried on. Begin the instillation of right principles with the dawning of moral intelligence; and, above all, from the first symptoms of personal incompetence direct them to the Fountain of Life, whereat alone the dark places may be made plain.

The wisdom of the W. C. T. U. in endeavoring to ensure an early instillation of temperance principles is universally and deservedly commended. Their plan of procedure is admirable; but once more we must be reminded that only individual faithfulness can ensure its success. Here the weight of responsibility rests principally with the Band of Hope and public school teachers. The truly successful teacher feels a personal interest in every one of her, or his, charges, and exerts an influence which must fill the developing man or woman. Alas, that unfaithful teachers exert an unequally powerful influence! A schoolmate of my own once declared that two teachers had influenced his life more than any one else in the world, not excepting his own parents.

(Concluded next month.)

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