

2. It is desirable that they should pursue a systematic course of Bible study before coming to China, and have some experience in Christian work at home.

Further, we suggest that they should labor in connection with established missions in order that the good results of their work may be preserved, and that they may have, when needed, the assistance and protection of their brother missionaries.

Open doors are all around us, and though idolatry lifts a hoary head, and ancestral worship binds the people as with chains of adamant, yet with God "all things are possible," and mountains of difficulty melt like snow flakes before the rising of the Sun of righteousness.

God is on the side of his own glorious life-giving word; we ask you to come in the power of consecration and faith, with sober expectations and readiness to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus, and take your share in the most glorious war that was waged on earth—the war against the powers of darkness and sin—assured that God will accomplish his own purposes of love and grace to China, and will permit you, if you listen to this call, to be his fellow workers in "binding up the broken-hearted, proclaiming liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

That the holy and loving spirit of God may incline your hearts to respond to his call is our earnest prayer.

Yours in our Lord,

Signed on behalf of the two hundred and four ladies assembled in Conference at Shanghai?

RUM CAUSES FINANCIAL RUIN.

It may be set down as a fact that the drinking man can never accumulate money, unless he is the fortunate possessor of a bonanza—a business, that is, as to profits, beyond any consideration as to expenditure, no matter how reckless. Rum has burned a hole in his pocket which leaks faster than any ordinary business or money making avocation will replenish it. Bankruptcy and financial ruin are inevitable. The drinking man is at a sad disadvantage in his business, because the money which should be used to push trade, or tide over dull times, or extend his operations into new lines or new territory, is spent for rum and in the excesses which follow in the trail of that demon. He becomes more and more involved and tries retrenchment in all ways but the one which is his ruin. He will lop off all needless expenditure save that for rum and its attendant vices. But they are like the horse-leech's daughters; they cry "Give,

give," until the man gets desperate; he who was reckless incidentally, now becomes reckless habitually. The crash of financial ruin comes and his course from that time is a direct plunge into habitual drunkenness, poverty and finally death.

Reader, did you ever consider the grim fact—for fact it is—that ninety percent of the men engaged in legitimate lines of trade in this country fail sooner or later? And did you ever trace this back to its cause? The pathway of trade is strewn with wrecks and nine out of ten of them were caused by rum. It should be plain to all in these days of fierce competition in trade, the legitimate profits in any line of business are too small to stand the drain on the pocket imposed by the rum habit. Apparently the cheapest of dissipation, drinking is the most costly. All other extravagances have a limit, but the thirst for rum is limitless. It is like the ocean which receives all the rivers in the world, yet is never any fuller. The more you drink the more you must, and there can be but one end to both the drinker's money and his physical endurance. Rum not only costs fightfully in money, but it takes away the power to make money. It is as dangerous to a man's finances as it is to his body, his mind and his soul.

But though it is a fact that ninety percent of our business men fail, sooner or later, the influence of rum in causing the failure of at least nine out of every ten is not so clearly seen. We do not mean to say that these all fail because they drink up the money that should be used in business. While many do this, there are many others who do not, and yet whose downfall is just as surely the result of rum as if they had done so. To do a successful business in these rushing days, when every avenue of trade is the arena of keen competition, requires brains. It will not do that a man shall have business sagacity, that he shall be sharp in bargaining and quick-witted to avail himself of every opening for profit. He must not only be all these, but he must remain so; and he must give all his attention to business. Now, he cannot do these things and dally with rum. With many men a single glass of the infernal stuff benumbs the brain; and the man in this condition, with his mental facilities clouded with the fumes of rum, can never hope to succeed in the struggle with a competitor of equal natural ability who never touches rum, and so keeps his head clear, his wits keen, and all his faculties on the alert. He who drinks will surely fall behind, through his dulled wits. His trade deserts him, he has lost the ability he once possessed through soaking his brain in rum, and he goes to the wall. The cause is stat-