

TO YOU.

A Few Words to Professing Christians Who Uphold the Traffic in Intoxicating Liquors.

BY ALEXANDER ROSS, M.D.

YOU PRAY "Thy kingdom come," and then vote to grant licenses to men who prey upon the hearts and homes of mothers and children.

YOU PRAY "Thy will be done," and then vote to grant licenses to saloons and grog shops to graduate paupers and criminals.

YOU PRAY "Lead us not into temptation," and then vote to place the worst of temptations in the way of others.

YOU PRAY "Give us this day our daily bread," and then vote to legalize the sale of whisky, which takes bread from the mouths of mothers and children.

YOU PRAY "Deliver us from evil," and then vote power to the liquor seller to place the worst of evils in the way of your neighbors.

YOU SEND for money to send missionaries to foreign heathen; and then vote licenses to whisky dealers to send your brothers, sisters and neighbors down to perdition.

YOU GRANT licenses to sell whisky and rum, which make criminals; and then imprison and hang them for committing crimes while under the influence of liquor.

YOU SEND a few missionaries to the heathen on pretence of saving their souls; and then send cargoes of rum to damn both body and soul.

FOR A PREFERENCE you make long prayers for sinners; and then cast your vote for a traffic which makes sinners.

YOU GATHER your skirts up with holy horror, and rejoice that you are not as other men are; and then receive money from whisky-sellers whom you have licensed to destroy the most sacred things of life; home, family, virtue, truth and character.

YOU KNOW that the ill-gotten money of the whisky distiller, and beer brewer, represents the broken lives and homes of thousands of our people, and still you receive it into the same contribution box with the mite of the poor but honest widow.

YOU KNOW that by your vote or cowardly silent acquiescence, this accursed traffic in liquor, has blighted thousands of lives; that thousands of homes are blasted with misery and ruin; that thousands of widows and orphans are to-day suffering poverty and disease as a direct consequence of this devilish traffic, and still you have the impudence to pray, "Pardon our sins and transgressions."

TAKE BY all the rules of justice, morality, virtue and right, are you not worse than the heathen? Are you not cowardly pharisaical hypocrites? Think of it! and answer the questionings of your own conscience. What's to be done? The red hot question of the hour is, how can we uproot and extirpate this intoxicating demon? that has, octopus-like clutched in its stanic embrace both Saint and Sinner, State and Church. In my opinion, there is but one effectual way to crush this accursed traffic in liquor, and that is by righting a great wrong—give woman the right of suffrage; make her legally, socially and politically the equal of man. By doing this act of justice, we will not only rid our land of the traffic in liquor, but a score of kindred wrongs to women, that are a reproach to our manhood, and a disgrace to our civilization.

A VANISHING VALUE.

The medicinal value of alcohol is slowly vanishing. Here are facts from England and Wales. There are twenty-seven workhouses where intoxicants are not at all allowed. The experience of doctors in these has proved the use of alcohol unnecessary. In 1871 the total cost of intoxicants used in workhouses and infirmaries amounted to £82,664, in 1881 it amounted to £80,303, and in 1885 it was reduced to £44,820. The most marked feature of progress toward sobriety in England is this decrease of intoxicants in workhouses. There has been a reduction of more than twenty-five per cent. in four years past, and of forty-five per cent. in the last fifteen years.—Lewis D. Mason, M.D., in Journal of Inebriety.

DRINK AND LONGEVITY.

BY JOSEPH COOK.

The life insurance organizations are a pest on which the doctrine of total abstinence now stands in the solidity of commercial triumph. Only the benighted and belated student of the signs of our times can any longer apologize for moderate drinking as beneficial to health. It is now nearly a generation since life insurance societies began in England to place total abstinence in one section and moderate drinkers in another, and to find

the total abstainers far superior in longevity to the other class. When I was in London I took much pains to ascertain the experience of life insurance societies in this matter, and I quote here a statement from a letter received by me from a Secretary of one of the foremost of these organizations:

"During the past sixteen years we have issued 9,346 policies on the lives of non-abstainers, but we are careful to exclude any who are not strictly temperate, and 3,300 on the lives of abstainers. 624 of the former have died, but only 91 of the latter, or less than half the proportionate number, which, of course, is 100." Here is a fact attested by sixteen years' experience in a society conducted by cool business prudence. Official statements show that the total abstainer has often been paid in life insurance societies from 10 up to 17 and 23 per cent. bonus over and above the moderate drinker.

The United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution held, last May, its 46th annual meeting. It has an accumulated capital of \$4,000,000. From 1846 to 1886, inclusive, a period of 21 years, it has had a temperance section and a general section. Out of every 100 in the temperance section who were expected to die, 71 died. Out of every 100 in the general section expected to die, 97 died. The temperance section, therefore, had an advantage of 26 per cent. over the general section; or, more nearly, 53 in every 200.

Similar facts I have collected in Australia, where life insurance societies are organized very generally so as to make a distinction between total abstainers and the merely temperate. Many, whose lives are assured as total abstainers, were not always abstinent. The contrasted figures will grow yet more striking when the abstainers are such from birth. These facts represent commercial results.

The economic justification of total abstinence and of the abolition of the liquor traffic is found in the fact that they would add something like 20 to 25 years in a hundred to the duration of ordinary lives, and diminish the present death rate in that proportion. The nearly one thousand million dollars paid annually to retail dealers in liquor in the United States might therefore far better be cast into the sea. The National Bureau of Statistics authorizes the assertion that the profits of retail dealers in liquor, on the cost of what they sell, are 135 per cent.

The indirect economic damages of the liquor traffic in the manufacture of paupers, criminals and madmen are ghastly in their enormity and permanent total. Mr. Gladstone was not extravagant when he said in full Parliament "that the ravages of intemperance, because continuous, have been a greater curse to the Anglo-Saxon races than war, pestilence and famine."—The Chautauquan.

TOBACCO—A PARABLE.

Then shall the kingdom of Satan be likened unto a grain of tobacco seed, which, though exceeding small, being cast into the ground, grew and became a great plant and spread its leaves rank and broad, so that huge and vile worms formed a habitation thereon.

And it came to pass, in the course of time, that the sons of men looked upon it, and thought it beautiful to look upon, and much to be desired to make lads look big and manly. So they did put forth their hands and did chew thereof. And some it made sick, and others to vomit most filthily. And it farther came to pass that those who chewed it became weak and unmanly, and said "we are enervated and can't cease from chewing it." And the mouths of all that were enervated became foul and they were seized with a violent spitting; and they did spit, even in ladies' parlors, and in the house of the Lord of Hosts. And the saints of the Most High were greatly plagued thereby.

And in the course of time it also came to pass that others snuffed it; and they were taken suddenly with fits, and they did sneeze with a great and mighty sneeze, inasmuch that their eyes filled with tears and they did look exceedingly silly. And yet others cunningly wrought the leaves thereof into rolls, and did set fire to one end thereof, and did suck vehemently at the other end thereof, and did look very grave and call-like; and the smoke of their torment ascended up forever and ever.

And the cultivation thereof became a great and mighty business upon the earth; and the merchant-men waxed rich by the commerce thereof. And it came to pass that the saints of the Most High doled themselves therewith; even the poor who could not buy shoes, nor bread, nor books for their little ones, spent their money for it. And the Lord was greatly displeased therewith and said: "Wherefore this waste; why do these little ones lack bread and shoes and books? Turn now your fields into corn and wheat; and put this evil thing far from you; and be separate, and dole not yourselves any more; and I will bless you and cause my face to shine on you."

But with one accord they exclaimed: "We cannot cease from chewing, snuffing and puffing—we are slaves."—Christian Secretary.

LOOK CAREFULLY at pages Six and Seven of this Paper.

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