

TWO GIRLS' INFLUENCE.

BY FAITH AISHLEAD.

"I know you would not think my reason of any account, Emily, but I never wish to pursue the acquaintance of any one who is not a strict temperance man, a total abstainer from all that intoxicates." So spoke Bessie Sayres, as she stood with her friend in a deep window from which they had just responded to the bow of a gentleman who was passing.

"O, well, Bessie, of course," said Emily, with an uneasy laugh, "I believe in temperance principles, too; but then, you know, we cannot expect young men to be as strict as we are; they have so many more temptations."

"I do," said Bessie, quietly, "and I think that all the more reason why they should be strict, in order to avoid temptation."

Emily Rutherford looked unconvinced. She was a pretty girl, prettier than Bessie, but there was a look of indecision about her fall red mouth, that contrasted forcibly with the decided lines around her friend's.

"Well, Bessie," she said at last, after a few moments' silence, "you know, as well as I do, that no one ever saw Mr. Ashland under the influence of liquor."

"No," said Bessie, "but he makes no secret of his views on the subject, that one can take a glass occasionally, or even daily, and suffer no harm."

"Do you think he does suffer from it?" asked Emily.

"Possibly not himself," said Bessie, "though even that is doubtful to my mind; but look at his influence, Emily," she said, laying her hand on her friend's arm.

"Think of Charlie Maynard—is his influence over him what you would like?" Emily flushed. "Charlie ought to be able to take care of himself," she said; "I should be ashamed of him, if he could not."

"It is no good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak," quoted Bessie, softly.

"Mr. Ashland professes to follow the teachings of the Book from which those words are taken."

Emily turned away uneasily. She always felt dissatisfied with herself, when with Bessie. She knew the right way, but dread of ridicule kept her from coming out as a strong temperance worker.

In the circle of society in which she moved, wine was a common beverage, even in a small company, and she remembered how, just a few evenings ago, she had smilingly handed Charlie Maynard a glass of the sparkling poison—for it was poison to Charlie. His blood was fevered by a small amount, and his gay laugh and unsteady step were but the forerunners of a blinding headache, and bitter remorse and self-upbraiding.

"I think, though, Bessie," she said, as her friend followed her to the door, "that you are rather extreme in your views. It surely would do no harm for you to show some appreciation of Mr. Ashland's attentions, and not so studiously avoid meeting him."

Bessie smiled. "You must allow me to do as I think best in the matter, Emily," she said, gently; and then the girls separated with an affectionate good-bye.

"You look gloomy, Tom!" It was Charlie Maynard's cheery voice that broke upon Mr. Ashland's reverie. The latter sprang to his feet, and welcomed the young man in a tone the reverse of gloomy; but when they were seated by the open grate, with a light stand between, on which stood a decanter and two goblets, his face grew grave again. The firelight flashed and flickered on the cut glass, the wine sparkled and glowed, and as Charlie, in response to a word from his friend, raised his glass to his lips, he paused and said, "If I were you, Tom Ashland, I would not touch this again."

"What do you mean, Charlie?" asked the other, surprised.

"Simply this," said Charlie; "I believe that Miss Sayres thinks well enough of you to encourage you if it was not for your indulgence in this. She is almost a fanatic on the subject of temperance, it seems to me."

"Why do you not take your own advice?" said Mr. Ashland, with a half-laugh.

"O, Emily would not impose any such condition on me," said Charlie, flushing.

"If what you say is true, Charlie, I will let this be the last I will touch," said Mr.

Ashland, pouring out what remained in his glass over the ashes. "Will you join me in it?"

"Not now," said Charlie. "I have not so much at stake as you, so I'll wait awhile before I join the 'temperance army.'"

"Better come now," said Mr. Ashland; but Charlie still shook his head.

Ah, Emily! if you had only made the stand you should, when Charlie asked you if you objected to the use of wine, what a different sequel your life might have had.

The months sped by, and found Tom Ashland keeping his word firmly through all temptations, and surely winning his way with Bessie. Charlie and Emily were settled in a snug little home not far from Bessie's. Emily seemed happy, but sometimes a shade of care would flit over her girlish face, and as the months grew to years this deepened and settled on her brow.

Long before this, Bessie was Mrs. Ashland, and her husband's interest in the work she had always had so at heart, was scarcely second to her own.

Charlie Maynard was the one always nearest to their hearts, always first in their prayers, but it was not until years after Emily had laid down her weight of grief and sorrow and gone to her rest, that those efforts were rewarded, and Charlie ransomed from the power of the destroyer.

Bessie would never give him up, never listen to Tom's discouraged words, when he told of some fresh fall of Charlie's, and said, "I am afraid it is of no use, Bessie."

"It must be of use, Tom," she would say. "I'll never believe that Emily's bitter repentance was not accepted, as long as Charlie is within reach of our efforts. But, O, if she had only used her influence in the right direction, earlier."

When Charlie was at last enabled to overcome his fatal weakness, he looked like an old man, although only in middle life. What wonder, then, that he often sighed as he contrasted his blighted powers with the vigorous manhood of his friend, and thought of the wasted years of his life, which even the most earnest efforts could not wholly redeem?

Reader, on which side is your influence?—Church and Home.

HINTS TO TEACHERS ON THE CUR-RENTLESSONS.

(From Peabody's Select Notes.)

Dec. 7.—Prov. 23: 29-35.

ILLUSTRATIVE.

I. Strong drink a foe. When drink, like a strong man armed, once gains entrance, its first concern is to overpower the watchmen on their towers—caution, judgment, self-respect, natural affection, common sense, and the reserve force of justice, honesty, and religion. When these guardians of the fortress are killed or maimed, the powder magazine, as well as the rich spoils of man, lies open to the enemy's tender mercies which are cruelty.

"O God, that men should put an enemy in their mouths, to steal away their brains!"—M. Briggs.

II. Warnings. A little steamer once shot the rapids at Niagara, and, though the captain declared, "The fact of my having gone through safely with my boat does not demonstrate to my satisfaction that the river is navigable," many men have been ambitious of testing it. Paul Boyton took the precaution of sending down some logs, and when he saw the heavy timbers come through, splintered and soaked, he left Niagara the same day. We have not forgotten the fate of Matthew Webb, another famous swimmer, who also looked long and intently upon the seething waters, and thought that he could go through.—M. Briggs.

III. The enchantress Cice, in Homer's *Odyssey*, is a good illustration of the power of intemperance. She invited the strangers to her marvellously beautiful palace, tempted them with her luxurious feasts, but those who partook thereof she turned into beasts. Only Ulysses, protected by a certain flower, was safe from her enchantments. That flower for us is Total Abstinence.

IV. The veiled prophet of Khorassan, in Moore's *Lalla Rookh*, is an exact and vivid picture of this modern fiend. Over the features of this great chief, Mokanna, was hung a glittering silver veil to hide, as he said, his dazzling brow, too bright for man to look upon. His followers, each,

"Kneeling pale With pious awe before the silver veil. Believes the form to which he bends the knee. Some pure redeeming angel sent to free This fettered world from every bond and stain, Andching its prime to that glorious day again."—"On his white flag Mokanna's host unfurled: These words of sunshine, Freedom to the world." Then he persuaded the beautiful, innocent Zelia to be his bride,—the elect of Paradise, the bride of Heaven.

"Together picturing to her mind and ear The glories of that heaven, her destined sphere Where a' was pure, and every stain that lay Upon the spirit's light should pass away." Under such promise, he hurried her to the charnel house, and while the dead stood around them, and their blue lips echoed their vows, she pledged in a goblet of burning blood that she would be his, body and soul. Never would she leave him; and the wide charnel echoed, "Never, never." Then, too late for her, he revealed to her his

"Ha, ha! and so, fond thing, thou thought'st all And that I lov'd mankind—I do, I do!"—As critics love them—

"As the Nile bird loves the slime that gives That rank and venomous food on which she lives." Then he drew away the silver veil that hid his maimed and monstrous features, exclaiming:

"Here judge if hell, with all its power to damn, Can send one curse to the foul thing I am." That is almost word for word the picture of the wine cup. It promises all manner of joys; it sings of Paradise; it seems an angel of delight,

"Sent to free this fettered world from every bond and stain, And bring its primal glories back again." It unfurls its banner, inscribed with "these words of sunshine: Freedom to the World." It persuades the young, the brilliant, the innocent to partake of its feasts and wed themselves to it. And when it has bound them by the chains of appetite, of habit, and of disease, irrevocably, then it bears its victims to the charnel house of the dead—of the millions of the dead whom it has slain, and they echo, "Never, never, never, shall we part." It casts off then its shining veil, and reveals its loathsome, monstrous features: it shows them the evil it has done to others and will do to them; it piles up its losses, its miseries, its remorse, its utter ruin before them, and well may exclaim:

"Here judge if hell, with all its power to damn, Can send one curse to the foul thing I am."—P. PRACTICAL.

I. SUMMARY of the evils of intemperance. 1. It injures the body. 2. It ruins the soul. 3. It disables the mind. 4. It unfits for daily life. 5. It brings poverty. 6. It leads into bad company. 7. It is opposed to religion and morality. 8. It injures family and friends. 9. It tempts others. 10. It leads to crime. 11. It fills poor-houses and prisons.

II. The Cure. 1. Don't begin. 2. Touch not, taste not, handle not. 3. Keep away from drinking places. 4. Keep away from the company of those who drink. 5. Sign the pledge. 6. First and chiefest, give yourself body and soul to the Lord Jesus Christ. 7. Use all the helps of prayer and religion. 8. Work continually for temperance and religion. 9. Keep yourselves familiar with the arguments for temperance. 10. Prohibitory laws. 11. A temperance atmosphere.

"OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES."

Not long since a good sister of the W. C. T. U. was visiting at a beautiful home in one of our cities, where some brandy peaches were passed at the tea-table. A little boy of the family watched her closely, and when he saw her decline them, a bright smile illumined his face, and leaning confidently upon her lap he said, "Oh, I know why you didn't take the peaches! It's because there's brandy in them, and it will help make us like to drink brandy and then we might get to be drunkards."

"I can't think where the child learned such nonsense!" said the lady of the house, apologetically.

"Oh, I'll tell you," said the little fellow, "I learned it at Sunday school; my teacher told me all about it, and I'm never, never going to eat any brandy peaches. Don't

you see, mamma, the lady don't eat them, and I'm so glad she's temperance too." And the little fellow crept close to his friend with a new air of fraternity, while the embarrassed mother left her own peaches untasted.

"Ah," thought the W. C. T. U. worker, "there's a temperance missionary in this house, whose influence can scarcely be counted."

Let us send out these little missionaries from every Sunday school armed with definite and clear instruction on these points where our insidious enemy is creeping in among the lambs of the flock.—Union Signal.

Question Corner.—No. 22.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

ACROSTIC.

The initials of the following form part of a letter written by an earnest man who was imprisoned in Rome, and who is said to have been made a martyr in that city. Who was he? and where are these words found? Give chapter and verse.

- 1. Where our Lord performed his first miracle.
2. The king of Judea who ordered the babies killed?
3. A name given to these children.
4. The animal that is a type of Christ.
5. Birds which the disciples were commanded to imitate.
6. One of the names of our dear Lord.
7. Another name, meaning God with us.
8. The Israelite without guile.
9. The mountain to which our Lord often went to pray.
10. An apostle (supposed to have been identical with No. 8).
11. The mother of John the Baptist.
12. An emblem of subjection.
13. The time to begin to serve God.
14. Something with which the sorrowful Mary anointed the feet of Jesus.
15. An adjective describing the Passover bread.

- 16. The meaning and joy of Easter.
17. The disciple who denied his Lord and then wept bitterly.
18. The animal on which our Lord rode into Jerusalem.
19. The foundation upon which the wise man built his house.
20. The count? to which Joseph and Mary fled with the infant Jesus.
21. The ruler who went to see Jesus by night.
22. The doubting apostle.
23. The old man, who in the temple took the child Jesus in his arms.
24. What Christ is making in heaven for those who come unto God by him.
25. The town in which our Saviour lived when he was a little boy.

- 26. One of the first disciples chosen by Christ.
27. A man who was raised from the dead.
28. The sacrament by which we commemorate the death of Christ.
29. The birds offered by Mary when her child was named.
30. The office held by Caiaphas.
31. A beloved son who was a type of Christ.
32. The town of Galilee in which the widow's son was raised to life.
33. An angel who was sent to show glad tidings.
34. The name through which all good comes to us, and the only one through which we may find everlasting life.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN No. 20.

- 1. Balaam, Num. 24: 17.
2. Manasseh was the elder, Ephraim's family was the greater, Gen. 48: 14, 20.
3. Ephraim and half of the tribe of Manasseh were situated in the centre of the country west of the Jordan and the other half tribe of Manasseh on the east of Sea of Galilee, north-east of the tribe of Gad.
4. See Judges 12: 1, 6.

SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

STEPHEN—Acts VIII. 50.

- 1. S-amarita . . . . . John IV. 7.
2. T-homas . . . . . John XI. 16.
3. E-phraim . . . . . John XI. 54.
4. P-into . . . . . John XVIII. 36.
5. H-erod . . . . . Matt. XIV. 6.
6. E-gypt . . . . . Matt. II. 13.
7. N-azarath . . . . . Luke IV. 16.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been sent by Altag Brown, Albert Jesse French, Lizzie E. Caldwell and Frank Smith.