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Sunday School Banner

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

TORONTO, JUNE, 1905.

Save the Boys.

WE want to keep before the teachers and readers of The Banner for a whole month the lesson of the cartoon on our cover. Our great work is to save the boys. Read in connection therewith, the words of Dr. Cuyler—as true to-day as when uttered twenty-five years ago:

"The first temperance meeting that I can now remember was held near my early home when I was about eight years old. Up to that time the habit of drinking and of offering intoxicants was fearfully prevalent in that farming community. Nearly every farmer gave it to his hired hands, especially in harvest time. Nearly every head of a family had hard cider on his table, and often 'treated' his visitors to some intoxicating beverage. When a raising or a mowing bee or any other rural gathering took place, there was

plenty of hard drinking and many went home tipsy.

"We boys were tempted by the sight and the smell of it. I recall an incident that occurred in the home of my excellent grandfather, in whose home I lived. The old gentleman was in the habit of offering liquor to his guests. One day, after he had been treating his visitors to some very choice berry bounce, they had left a residuum of the liquor in their glasses, or what the toppers call 'heel-taps.' I gratified my curiosity by draining the glasses 'just to see how it tasted.' My good and godly mother, who hated the sight of a 'bottle devil,' discovered my prank and gave me such a dose of 'the rod' as would have satisfied Solomon himself.

"I never forgot that flogging nor the attendant lecture on the mischief and danger of ever touching a drop of intoxicating drink. Very soon afterward a temperance society was started in our neighborhood, and public addresses were delivered. The first speeches against drinking and the woes of drunkenness produced a profound impression on my boyish mind. I then signed a pledge of total abstinence, and I have adhered to it until this day. The whole community was revolutionized by the temperance reform. My grandfather was one of the first to banish the accursed thing from his estate. Even now that whole region experiences the beneficial effects of that reform. Asking one of my companions lately how the temperance cause was thriving in that region, he replied, 'We have not one licensed drinking-house in that whole township. Even the boys are no longer tempted by the "heel-taps" in their father's houses. What was done in that Cayuga Lake region by wise and thorough temperance organization can be done again in every village and rural region.'

"The main thing now is to save the boys and young men. As for the confirmed drunkards only a small percentage can be, or will be, permanently rescued by all the efforts of all the Moodys, Reynolds, Sawyers, Willards, and their noble co-workers. The fetters, once bound on, are terribly hard to be broken off. To save the young requires immediate effort."

We may have our minds on a thing without having our hearts in it, but if we have our hearts in a thing our minds will be on it. Thoughtlessness is the tell-tale of indifference.

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