

A Pointed Temperance Sermon

IN a recent number of the Texas Christian Advocate, W. F. Packard tells the following interesting story.

The Rev. Mr. Dodd lived in the neighborhood of Cambridge, England, over a hundred years ago, and observing the very prevailing vice of drunkenness around him, more especially among the students of the university, the good man thence took occasion to explode, in the course of his ministry, that detestable practice. Soon after, Mr. Dodd being on a journey, was met by some of the Cambridge students on the road. They, seeing him at a distance, immediately consulted how to make sport with the old gentleman, and before they came up with him, resolved upon demanding, after a little ceremony by way of introduction, a sermon, instantly to be preached from the stump of a hollow tree that happened to be on the spot. Accordingly, at the meeting the customary salutations of "Your most obedient sinner," etc., mutually passed, and the students replied, "Sir, we have a query to beg, which is, whether you have been preaching against drunkenness or not, of late?" Mr. Dodd answered in the affirmative. They then said that they had a favor to request of him, which they must absolutely insist on his compliance with, and that immediately, which was that he should preach them a sermon from a text of their own choosing, as they knew him well capable of preaching extempore, to which Mr. Dodd returned: "Gentlemen, this is no less unreasonable than extraordinary; to require a man, publicly, to deliver his thoughts upon any subject whatsoever previous to appropriate deliberating the same in his own mind." Therefore he begged that they would desist from their requirement. But they were peremptory in their demand, and by no means would hearken to his refusal. So they directed the good man to his pulpit aforementioned. Mr. Dodd, seeing them thus absolute, required of them the subject matter of his discourse. They answered, "It is the word 'Malt'."

Mr. Dodd then proceeded: "Beloved, I am a little man, come at a short warning, to preach a brief discourse, on a small subject to a thin congregation, in an unworthy pulpit.

"Beloved, my text is Malt which I cannot, you see, divide into words, it being but one, nor into syllables, it being but one; therefore, of necessity, must reduce it into letters, which I find to be these: M-A-L-T."

"M, my beloved, is Moral.

"A is Allegorical,

"L is Literal, and

"T is Theological."

"The Moral is set forth to teach you drunkards good manners; therefore, M, my masters, A, all of you, L, listen to T, my text!

"The Allegorical is when one thing is expressed and another implied. The thing spoken of is Malt, the thing meant is the oil of Malt, which you rustics make, M, your meat, A, your apparel, L, your liberty, T, your trust.

"The Literal is according to the letter: M, much, A, also, and L, little. The Theological is according to the effects it produces, which I find to be of two kinds: First, respecting this world, and secondly, in respect to that which is to come.

"The effects it produces in this world are, in some, M, murder; in others, A, adultery; in all, L, licentious lives; in many, T, treason. The effects produced in regard to the world to come are, M, misery, A, anguish; L, lamentation, T, torment.

"Thus I have given you a brief definition of my text; it now remains that I make some improvement of the foregoing observations. First, by way of

exhortation, and second, by way of communication.

"First, by way of exhortation: M, my masters, A, all of you, L, leave off T, tipping.

"Secondly, by way of communication: M, my masters, A, all of you, L, look for, T, torment!

"And to conclude, take this with you: A drunkard is the annoyance of Modesty, the spoil of Civility; his own Shame; his wife's Sorrow; his neighbor's Scorn; the brewer's Agent; the ale-houseman's Benefactor; the devil's Drudge; a walking Swillbow; the picture of a Beast; the monster of a man!"

The effect this witty discourse had upon the students of the university has not been handed down in the private family archives whence this incident is taken, but it can well be imagined.

A Flourishing Junior League

Exmouth Street Junior League, St. John, N.B., is growing in numbers and usefulness under the wise superintendency of Miss E. B. Bettie, from whose letter we quote as follows:

We have a membership of about seventy-five, about fifty girls and twenty-five boys between the ages of seven and fifteen years, with an average attendance of fifty. We meet every Monday evening at seven o'clock for three quarters of an hour.

The first Monday of the month we term our Consecration Service. At this we have roll call, pledge exercise, reception service for new members (we use the one which appeared in the Era a short time ago), the Bible reading with a short talk on the Junior Topic, beside the Junior League Prayer and the usual hymns. The second Monday is our Literary evening. At this service we have Bible study, award, or memorizing the books of the Bible, the Disciples, Apostles, etc. The Literary Committee always provides something in the way of a programme, that is a solo or duet or recitation, and selects the hymns. This year we are taking up the reading of the story "The Red-Cross Knight," which is most interesting and instructive. The third Monday is devoted to Missions. The hymns and Bible reading are along this line as far as possible. Then we have Missionary Telegram service and items of interest from our various Mission fields. We simply take one of our mission stations and, in imagination, visit that place and find out what we can of the work being done there. The last Monday is devoted to Bible Study, a talk on the Junior topic, and any matter in which five Mondays occur. I have thought of planning for a social. Last winter we had a coasting party, after which we met in the school room and enjoyed refreshments furnished by the Seniors.

Since the re-opening after the vacation season, we have decided to run the four departments the same as in Senior League. Accordingly at the meeting for election of officers one of our brightest boys who is a member of the church, was elected President, four girls as Vice-Presidents, a boy Secretary, and a boy Treasurer. We have a Police Committee, whose duty it is to keep good order, and a Room Committee, composed of the younger boys, and look after the Bibles and Hymn Books and see that each Junior is supplied with them, and also put them in their proper place at the close of the Service. We are striving to change the programme as much as possible this year, for we realize that the Juniors soon grow tired of "sameness" in the League.

Occasionally we have invited some member of the Senior League to visit us and speak on the Topic. This I believe

is not only a help to the Juniors but awakens and sustains the interest of the Seniors in the Junior Society. Very soon we shall have to part with some of our older Juniors and we trust that when they graduate into the Senior Society they will be just as active as they have been in the Junior work.

The Junior Superintendent, I make a rough draft of the programme for a month. These outline programmes I give one each to the President and Vice-Presidents, and they in turn go to their respective committees for the items. We realize that the Junior League is the training school for the Senior League, and in thus helping them to help better themselves we feel they will be far better fitted to fulfill the duties which will fall to their lot when they become Seniors. At our first Junior League Anniversary Service which was held in connection with the Sunday morning service, three of our Juniors united with the church, and Juniors to that at an evening service among a number of adults, about a dozen or more of our Juniors, mostly boys, were received into full membership. I do not say that it was altogether an account of their being Juniors, but that played a most important part."

An "Autumn Tea," given by the Social Department of the Epworth League of Maple Street Methodist Church, Collingwood, was pronounced to be one of the most pleasant functions held for some time.

The church parlors were decorated with masses of beautiful autumn leaves and rowan berries. On the windows were pleasant looking "Jack O'Lanterns," which beamed good naturedly on the guests.

Tea was served from six to eight o'clock. The menu cards were in the form of maple leaves. After a daintily served supper, an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was given. One special feature was a "Ladies' Orchestra," which was enthusiastically received and, encored. The net proceeds of the evening's entertainment amounted to over thirty dollars.

The members of the Social Committee worked very earnestly to make the "Tea" a success, and felt well repaid by the expressions of pleasure from those who responded to their invitations to spend an evening with the Epworth Leaguers.

A measuring Social was a season of much enjoyment and profit in the Copenhagen Epworth League, and is thus described by Miss Mabel Gillot:

"Different ones were asked to make and fill half-pound boxes with home-made candy, also to bake cakes. We held the Social in the hall, and on entering each was measured and asked to pay a cent a foot and a cent for every inch over the number of feet in their height. A person five feet, four inches high would have to pay nine cents. After all were gathered, part of the programme was given, then the boxes of candy were auctioneered off, and the programme was completed. Next came lunch of cake and coffee. The evening was enjoyed by all and the proceeds more than expected.

The Juniors of Harriston led by their Superintendent recently took full charge of the adult League programme with splendid effect.

The Leaguers of Harriston have a good plan that is suggestive to others in the form of a Donation party. The donations which constitute the admission fee are to consist of something new or in good condition that is suitable for Christmas distribution among the poor by the Deaconesses of Toronto.

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