

"No drunken fathers staggering home,"

(Edna) "No frightened children then,"

(Violet) "No broken-hearted mother's tears,"

(Edna) "No wretched, outcast men."

(Fanny) "Well, girls, I now am quite convinced,
You really make me think
That half the misery in the world
Comes from the love of drink.
So let us pledge ourselves once more,
Our sign, this ribbon blue,"

(Holding it up all together).

"We will to our own hearts and homes,
And to our pledge be true,
And in this Temperance cause do all
The good that we can do."

Cousin Joy.

FIELD STUDY FOR JULY.

WHAT is our Field Study this month? "The Extinction of the Liquor and Opium Traffics, and all Covetous Hindrances to Christianity." Well, that is a very important and comprehensive subject. It sounds large. Suppose we analyze it and try to find out what it means. The dictionary tells us that extinct means extinguished; to extinguish means to quench, to put out, to destroy; extinction means destruction; both words from the same root. In old days, long before you can remember, when candles were burned for light instead of the oil, gas or electricity now used, "extinguishers" were made to put out the flame—a little cap pressed down on the blaze.

The same word is applied to larger fires—conflagrations. Fire is often said to be a good servant, but a bad master. When it is in danger of becoming a master, that is, when it bids fair to destroy, it is put out, quenched, extinguished. What would we think of the inhabitants of a city who would stand idly by and make little or no effort to save life or property? But you say, how does this word apply to trade—or traffic? Surely traffic must not be destroyed. It must, if it be a traffic in deadly things. Suppose a firm should claim a right to import deadly serpents and let them loose in a city. Do you think the authorities of the city or even the government would stand calmly by and say, "We will regulate, but not prohibit them; it is all for the good of trade." Dear children and young people, the liquor and opium traffics, our subject this month, are traffics in the most deadly of serpents, the most destructive of fires. Shakespeare says:

"Oh! that men should put an enemy into their mouths, to steal away their brains."

And Shakespeare is right—in a world like this we need to be wide awake and in possession of all our senses.

Do you ask why these traffics are allowed? "We could not afford to do without them; we must have a revenue for our country," say the politicians, and so they tax and license and regulate what ought to be destroyed. There is a verse in the Bible which reads, "Ye shall be ashamed of your revenues, because of the fierce anger of the Lord." There is another which says, "Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right."

And there are many wise people who think thus, and they are striving to bring about a better day. They see that the vast amount of money spent to maintain the prisons, hospitals, poor-houses and lunatic asylums of our country, made necessary chiefly because of this curse, would be a revenue that might build up the country and bless humanity. And now they are trying to get a vote of the people to see "if the country is ready for prohibition." They call this a Plebiscite, which means the voice of the people. It is something in which we all are interested, as a Christian community. Let us pray and use our influence to bring about this better state of things. Slavery, another traffic in human life, was put down a quarter of a century ago on this continent at the point of the sword, in a terrible civil war. Let us hope and pray that in this still more enlightened age civilization and wisdom and good judgment may prevail, rather than the shedding of blood.

Anything that we love or covet more than God and the carrying out of His plan for the world, is a covetous hindrance to Christianity.—Ed.

QUESTIONS FOR JULY.

- Will you please state the Field Study for this month?
- Please explain the word extinction?
- What do you mean by the word "extinguisher?" Please illustrate.
- What is often said of fire?
- When does it become a master, and what is done then?
- What question is asked next, and how would you answer it?
- When must trade or traffic be destroyed?
- What illustration is given in reference to this?
- What question is asked, and how will you answer it?
- What is said of the Traffics which are our study this month?
- What does Shakespeare say?
- Why is Shakespeare right in saying so?
- What do the politicians say about these traffics?
- How do they act in regard to it?
- Will you give God's message about it?
- What else does He say about it?
- What do the wise people see?
- What are they trying to do?
- What is a Plebiscite?
- Can we help it in any way?
- What was done with African slavery on this continent 25 years ago?
- What ought to prevail now in regard to these other traffics?
- What is a covetous hindrance to Christianity?