

# Temperance

## Treating.

(By Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D.)

Several years ago a gentleman of my acquaintance fell into the habit of using intoxicants until he seldom passed a day without some symptoms of drunkenness. He sometimes came home to his family in a state of beastly intoxication. Under their piteous appeals he consented to go to an inebriate asylum; and after a few months of treatment he came back apparently reformed. Sunshine again filled the house that had long been shadowed with shame and sorrow. He continued sober for several months, but one day an old friend met him in New York, greeted him cordially, and invited him to go into a down-town restaurant and take a social glass with him. Under a sudden impulse he yielded, and that one glass aroused the latent appetite; the chained tiger was loosed again and my poor friend went home that night pitifully and disgracefully drunk! During the brief remainder of his life he was a wreck.

That whole wretched tragedy of a ruined life was the result of a single act which goes under the deceitful name of 'treating.' That friend who offered the ensnaring glass proved to be a deadly enemy! Grant that he had no intention to work a fatal mischief; grant that he had no thought of doing a serious harm. He did it, however, as surely as if he had been actuated by a fiendish malice.

'For evil is wrought by want of thought,  
As well as by want of heart.'

## Twin Curses.

There is much said and written about the appalling number of persons who drink. Yet two or three times as many use tobacco. While more money is spent for drink, it must be remembered that, relatively considered, tobacco is much cheaper than alcoholic liquors. A glass of beer costs as much as many smokes or chews, and a glass of whiskey, brandy or wine as much as a dozen cigarettes or a whole plug or bag of tobacco.

Our annual consumption of alcoholic liquors is over one billion gallons, or about sixteen gallons to each man, woman, and child. The most of this is lager beer—containing about four or five percent of alcohol,—the remainder being wine—containing from ten to twenty percent of alcohol; whiskey, brandy, and other liquors, containing about fifty percent of alcohol. The total amount of pure alcohol in all liquors annually consumed in our land is less than 100,000,000 gallons, or about five quarts for each individual.

Our annual tobacco crop is nearly 500,000,000 pounds. This is over five pounds for every man, woman and child. From this is made over three billion cigarettes, over four billion cigars, about one hundred million pounds of smoking and nearly two hundred million pounds of chewing tobacco. According to a fair calculation, to consume our annual tobacco crop, it requires that no less than twelve million boys and men smoke or chew three hours daily. —J. A. Conwell, in American Paper.

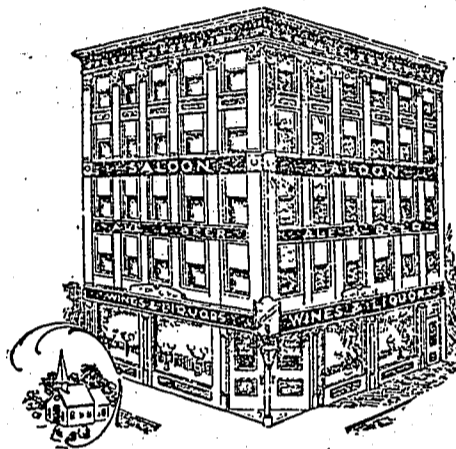
## Why Abstain?

This was the subject of an address Mr. Gourlay, of Teddington, gave to the Wesley Guild there recently. He began by referring to the answer Christ gave to the lawyer who asked, 'Which is the great commandment in the law?' The summary Christ then gave of the law was two-fold: Love of God, love of neighbor. The speaker's reply to the question, 'Why abstain?' was similarly two-fold: Abstain for your own sake, that you may the better love and serve God; abstain for the sake of others, that you may better fulfil the command to love thy neighbor as thyself. Under the first heading he said there were three good objects towards which personal abstinence would powerfully contri-

bute: Health of body, purity of morals, holiness of life. Under the second head he gave five reasons for abstaining for the sake of others. The speaker's whole argument had been set out in colored letters on a large sheet of card board, which at the beginning of his address was covered over by slips of cartridge paper. These slips were withdrawn line by line as he proceeded with his address, until the whole diagram was displayed.

## Christ or Bacchus?

America's drink bill for 1897 was, in round numbers (\$1,000,000,000) one billion dollars. While during the same period the amount given to Foreign Missions by all religious denominations was the almost insignificant sum of five and a half millions (\$5,500,000). Five and a half millions given to advance the Kingdom of Christ, ten hundred millions given to spread the kingdom of darkness. The following diagram, which was prepared for the 'National Temperance Almanac,' will enable our readers to better realize the vast difference between the two amounts, and is a striking object-lesson to every Christian church in the land:



The comparative sizes of the Mission Church and the Saloon show the relative amounts spent on missions and strong drink.—'National Advocate.'

## Correspondence

Moorhead, Minn.

Dear Editor,—It is nearly a year since I wrote my first letter to you; since then I have spent most of my time in the doctor's office, having my eyes treated. In my other letter I told you about my eyes giving out. I am wearing glasses now and will always have to. I would have spent a great many lonely hours if it had not been for the doctor's pictures. He has gathered pictures from all over the world. In one room there are four hundred and eighty pictures and sixty casts, and in the waiting room there are two hundred and thirty, including fifteen casts. His private office is also covered with curious pictures and casts. A great many people come from quite a distance to see his collections.

My papa was in Nova Scotia for a visit this winter. He had not been home for twenty years, so you may imagine his joy at getting back to see all his friends and relatives and dear old home country, for though he has had twenty years of life in Minnesota he still loves dear old Nova Scotia. I am sure I would like to visit there, but I am afraid that I am too much of a Minnesota girl to want to live there, although nearly all our relatives are there, and I would like to see them all.

I am so sorry about the dear old Queen's death, for she was loved not only by her own subjects, but by all lovers of true womanliness and virtue everywhere.

At the beginning of the Boer war my father wrote a long letter to the Moorhead 'News' about it.

I do not like war, but I suppose, like a great many other things, it has to be. Papa wishes England victory at any cost.

I enjoy the temperance pieces, as we are all doing all we can for its work.

I am keeping house now for papa while mamma is visiting some friends in California. I like to keep house and cook.

Wishing you and your papers a long life

and a prosperous New Year, also the many readers of the 'Northern Messenger,'

I am your earnest reader,

ELSIE E. B.

Dundas.

Dear Editor,—I have three sisters and two brothers. We have a sweet baby, Rose, and a sweet baby, Bessie. I go to the country school. I walk one and a half miles, and my teacher's name is Miss Armstrong. I love my teacher well. I am in the second class. My birthday is on April 25.

ANNIE H. M. (Aged 7.)

Deloraine.

Dear Editor,—My sister takes the 'Messenger' and I like to read it. I like all the stories in it. We live about a mile from Whitewater Lake, and we can shoot geese. I am a Christian boy. I am ten years old. I see by your correspondence that you must have a lot of people who take your paper. My sister got it as a birthday present. I liked 'Black Rock' and would like to have another story. I have one grandmother and no grandfather.

WALTER K.

Norwich.

Dear Editor,—I think the 'Messenger' is the best paper we ever had in our school. My cousin is here from British Columbia and I enjoy hearing the news from that place. I go to the Sunday-school of the Presbyterian Church, and have three sisters and two brothers older than myself.

FLORENCE A. (Aged 10.)

Cushing.

Dear Editor,—We take the 'Messenger,' and like to read it very much. We live at Cushing, Que. We have one sister. For pets we have two cats, named Tibbie and Kittle; two dogs, Jack and Puppy, and three dolls. Papa is a farmer, and he has four horses, and forty-two cows. Santa Claus brought us quite a few presents.

DOLLY AND PERCY. (Aged 10 and 8.)

Winslow, Ont.

Dear Editor,—My father has taken the 'Messenger' for a long while. I have one sister and four brothers, and a little niece. I do not go to school every day for I have two miles and over to go. I take music lessons. I wonder if any little girls' or boys' birthday comes on the same date as mine—Dec. 29?

LILLIE MAY Mc. (Aged 11.)

Brown's Corners, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I go to Sunday-school and we take the 'Northern Messenger,' and I like to read the Correspondence. I have five sheep and two calves, and a dog for pets. My birthday is on Oct. 11.

WILLIE S. (Aged 11.)

N. E. Margaree.

Dear Editor,—My father has taken the 'Northern Messenger' for two years. I have three brothers and two sisters. I go to Sunday-school in summer, but I cannot go in winter, I am so far from the church—two miles and a half. I see lots of letters in the paper, and I like to read them.

DOLLIE JANE I. Aged 13.

Glen Robertson.

Dear Editor,—I live on a farm. I have five sisters and four brothers. I go to school every day. We got into a new school house and like it very much. We have been taking the 'Northern Messenger' for two years and like it very much.

N. H. (Aged 11.)

Stony Island, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I have taken the 'Northern Messenger' for some time and I like it very much, especially the 'Correspondence.' After I finish reading it, I send it to a friend of mine in the United States. I am twelve years old. I wrote to your paper when I was nine years old, and I spoke of my grandparents, who lived with us. They were very old people, but they are both dead now. I go to school and I am in the ninth grade. I have one brother and no sisters. I have a dog and two cats for pets. There is a nice sand beach, nearly a mile long, near out house. There is a nice place to drive in summer, and there is a lot of shells and pebbles there, too. Now, dear Editor, I wish you and all your readers a happy New Year.

B. B. R.