

like, assumes the hue of that on which it feeds. It is as much the duty of Christian parents to provide wholesome food for the minds as for the bodies of their families. The best way to exclude pernicious reading is to supply them with that which is good. Your Church supplies this important want as fully as it can be met in any other quarter, and at a smaller cost, and infinitely more valuable than can be secured elsewhere. If we use wisely these precautions, we may claim the fulfilment of the promises of God: "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee, and thy seed after thee in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee;" "I will pour My spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: and they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water-courses."

We should utterly fail in the discharge of our duty if we did not urge you to deep and constant interest in the great question of Temperance. We need not tell you of the evils growing out of the licensed liquor traffic. It has not only darkened the homes and blighted the prospects of thousands of our country and the world, but is seeking to entrench itself in high places, and control the legislation of our land, as it never did before. Let all our Methodist people be true in the testimony they bear on this question. For the sake of your families, for the sake of your brethren who are weak, for the sake of suffering humanity, for the sake of the cause of God, be (1) total abstainers yourselves, and (2) give your full sympathy and support to every effort made to secure the entire prohibition of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors; for this, we believe, our country is prepared; and this, we also believe, our rulers would give us, if we were consistent with our principles in all respects.

Finally, brethren, pray for us. The great want of the Church is spiritual power—that the ministers, office-bearers, and membership serve the Lord in the beauty of holiness; "that holiness to the Lord shall be written upon the bells of the horses;" then, and only then, shall we be prepared to fulfil our original mission, and "spread scriptural holiness through the land." We challenge you, beloved in the Lord, to this service of united, earnest, believing prayer, for a more abundant effusion of the Holy Ghost. Why should Pentecost be an event of the past and not a perpetual fact? The wise and weighty words of our founder are worthy of our remembrance: "Let others do as they will, what is that to you?" Act as Christian men—as those who fear nothing but sin; seek nothing but heaven, and desire nothing but the glory of God. Join us in this resolve, and in this service; then the year upon which we enter will surpass in spiritual blessings all the years of our history. This is blessedly possible. Our God is a covenant-keeping God, and He will not deny us. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us; unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Signed on behalf of the Conference,

MARMADUKE L. PEARSON, *President*.
JAMES J. RICE, *Secretary*.

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Jas. Walla
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