

CHOISE LITERATURE.

FAIR DEALING.

The amount of adulteration and substitution that is daily going on in the production of various articles of food, as well as in many other manufactured substances, has become so great that a keen observer often feels almost afraid to purchase even the barest necessities of life, lest he may in some way be deluded and cheated not only to the detriment of his pocketbook, but also of his health. Legislation has of late been resorted to in endeavours to stop some of these abuses; but in most cases the laws passed have proved inadequate to conserve the purpose of their passage, either through their unfortunate unconstitutionality or through their possessing some defect which affords a loop-hole of escape for the transgressor of their actual spirit.

Many manufacturers and producers claim that they are benefiting mankind in turning out articles which are really healthier and cheaper than those which have the virtue of being "strictly pure and genuine." This may be so; we live in an age of invention, and also of progress in hygienic and gastronomic knowledge, and it would be strange if there were not improvements in food, clothing, etc., as well as in mechanics and other sciences. But that does not excuse putting false labels upon these goods, calling oleomargarine butter, cotton seed oil olive oil, and like deceptions. Why not call an article by its right name and give the public a fair chance to try its good qualities in comparison with those of that for which it is a substitute? The only true answer that can be made to this question is, that the sales of these goods would be infinitely small in comparison with what they are now under this deceptive practice. Such an answer puts many persons, both producers and agents, in a very bad light; yet in plain fact there can be no doubt that they are deliberately dealing fraudulently with their customers in order to acquire money; for that which is supposed to be given them is an entirely different article. No matter how these misnamed goods may affect the health of the consumer, they are undoubtedly guilty of conscious fraud in palming off on him that which is not what it purports to be. Last year there were seventeen million pounds of oleomargarine disposed of in this way, and without doubt many other articles were sold in the same manner.

The legal remedy for this evil has yet to be discovered; and it is to be hoped some ingenious statesman will soon appear up and propose efficacious legislation upon this subject. Such a man would rank high among the world's philanthropists.

But there is another view to be taken of this practice. It tends to impair the morals of all trades, and raises barriers of distrust between man and man. The buyer cannot trust the seller, and the seller is fearful lest his customer will try some sharp dealing with him. If this feeling of distrust existed in business alone it would be bad enough, but its influence extends even farther. Men meet in the church and in society; they profess Christian principles and form friendships; but how can they believe that either are absolutely genuine when they know that a few hours afterwards they will meet again, this time in commercial centres, and each will not scruple to delude the other? From an ethical and moral point, these dealings cannot be excused, and a man should think well before countenancing in any way such traffic. The quality is no excuse, in fact worse than no excuse; for some trading might be done upon its merits without disguising its true origin. A man that engages in such trade knowingly and deliberately is committing a

double sin—first, in defrauding the purchaser; and, secondly, in setting a bad example to employees and the trade at large, for whose future integrity he is in a measure responsible.

SLANDER.

'Twas but a breath—
And yet the fair good name was wilted;
And friend once fond grew cold and stilted
And life was worse than death.

One venomous word,
That struck its coward, poisoned blow,
In craven whispers, hushed and low—
And yet the wide world heard.

'Twas but one whisper—one,
That muttered low, for very shame,
The thing the slanderer dare not name—
And yet its work was done.

A hint, so slight,
And yet so mighty in its power,
A human soul in one short hour,
Lies crushed beneath its blight.

ALPHABET OF BIBLE PROVERBS.

- "A soft answer turneth away wrath."
- "Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right."
- "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established."
- "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."
- "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure or whether it be right."
- "Fools make a mock at sin."
- "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways and be wise."
- "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly."
- "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread."
- "Judgments are prepared for scorners."
- "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."
- "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord."
- "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."
- "A naughty person, a wicked man walketh with a froward mouth."
- "Only by pride cometh contention."
- "Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction."
- "Remove far from me vanity and lies."
- "Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me."
- "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."
- "Understanding is a well-spring of life unto him that hath it."
- "Evil pursueth sinners, but to the righteous good shall be repaid."
- "Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker."
- "Xalt her, and she shall promote thee."
- "Yet a little slumber, a little sleep, so shall thy poverty come as one that travelth, and thy want as an armed man."

HOW TO SAVE THE BOYS.

Women who have sons to rear and dread the demoralizing influences of bad associations, ought to understand the nature of young manhood. It is excessively restless. It is disturbed by vague ambitions, by thirst for action, by longings for excitement, by irrepresable desires to touch life in manifold ways. If you, mothers, rear your sons so that their homes are associated with the repression of natural instincts, you will be sure to throw them in the society that in some measure can supply the need of their hearts. They will not go to the public houses at first for love of liquor—very few people like the taste of liquor; they go for the animated and hilarious companionship they find there, which they discover does so much to repress the disturbing restlessness in

their breasts. See to it, then, that their homes compete with public places in attractiveness. Open your blinds by day and light bright fires at night. Illuminate your rooms. Hang pictures upon the wall. Put books and newspapers upon the tables. Have music and entertaining games. Banish demons of dullness and apathy that have so long ruled in your household, and bring in mirth and good cheer. Invent occupations for your sons. Stimulate their ambitions in worthy directions. While you make home their delight, fill them with higher purposes than mere pleasure. Whether they shall pass boyhood and enter upon manhood with refined tastes and noble ambitions depends on you. Believe it possible that, with exertion and right means, a mother may have more control over the destiny of her boys than any other influence whatever.—*Appleton's Journal*.

WHAT MAKES THE HOME?

Home is not made up of spacious rooms, new carpets, old tapestry, far-fetched pictures and decorated china. Wealth, taste, that most indefinite nebula called "culture," and accomplishments will not of themselves make home. They are most valuable in their place, but they cannot give out what is not in them. Nor is the absence of these things a guarantee for a home. Dirt, impurity, intemperance, and want of feeling, can add misery to the poet's cherished "lowly cot." To make a home we need gentleness, kindness, fitting employment, good sense, principle that controls selfishness, and conscience trained to respect authority, duty, and Deity. We must have woman's gentleness, giving out fragrance as a rose does, and woman's ingenuity making rough places smooth. We must have man's presence, strength and honour, his force, his firmness on the side of right. We must have forbearance bred of love, and patience, and prudence, and sweet-voiced charity. And we must have, like the pure air of the dwelling filling all, a heart-deference to One above, a God, a Father, whose will fixes duty, and whose approval is the joy of the sensitive, innermost soul.—*Ex.*

PROFANITY.

Vast effort and much time are devoted to the temperance cause. Grand results have been attained in this work, and we still implore the divine blessing upon every true effort put forth to crush the insidious monster. But while many a heart quakes at the wine-cup's glow, how often the foolish, wicked oath is passed unheeded by! Comparatively little is thought of it. Many an active temperance worker is not arrested by that frightful sound, but rushes on to his reform club where he discourses both long and loudly upon the evils of King Alcohol, not for a moment realizing that he has just passed, unheeded, the widest gateway his foe in question ever had opened for his admittance. Numberless efforts have been instrumental in staying the liquor traffic, but what one public attempt has been made to stay the dangerous foe, profanity! If a human being libels his neighbour, our law provides for the offence, yet the name of the Holy and Just One may be continually defamed without rebuke. God's name cannot be impaired, though polluted lips breathe curses upon it; yet He who said, "Thou shalt not kill," said first, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."

While we believe something should be done openly to crush this evil, much more can be done by domestic effort. Let every parent, brother and sister trample upon the serpent, that its deadly fangs poison not those surrounded by their influence.—*Lua, in the Morning Star*.