

gree of sainthood was he supposed to have attained.

The modern saint is one who serves and gives his life and thought for others. Many such may be found. Every paper records some heroic act of rescue, some noble deed of benevolence. There is the Red Cross nurse upon the field of battle, the Sister of Charity moving about in the quiet ward, the engineer who gives his life that the passengers may be saved.

No, the saints are not all dead.—*Rev. Jesse S. Gilbert, in "New York Christian Advocate."*

#### ABSTINENCE THE SAFE POLICY.

**D**OCTOR H. CLAY TRUMBULL, in the *Sunday School Times*, gives the following interesting illustrations of the fact that total abstinence is the best policy.

Some years ago the Editor, then a Philadelphian, was at luncheon given in the Rittenhouse Club by Dr. William Pepper, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, after the exercises of Commencement Day. As Provost Pepper was moving from one small table to another where his guests of the day were seated, he sat by the Editor's side for a while, and he said familiarly, among other things:

"I notice that you do not drink any wine to-day. Do you never drink wine?"

"No, I never do," was the reply.

"Do you refrain from preference, or from conscientious motives?"

"Partly from both causes. I need to be always in good physical condition, in order to enable me to do my best work at all times. To secure this I refrain from everything in the line of narcotics or brain stimulants. I avoid all that which would deaden my nerves or excite my brain, and which might lead me to think for a time that I am not as weak or as tired as I am. I want to know what is my true possession of capital. I am careful not to borrow to-morrow's income for to-day's expenditure. I want to go to bed at night with no brain balance over-drawn."

Dr. Pepper, who was eminent as a physician, as well as an exceptionally hard worker with his brain and nerves, said heartily, as he brought down his hand on the Editor's knee:

"I must say that that is sound reasoning, from a physician's point of view."

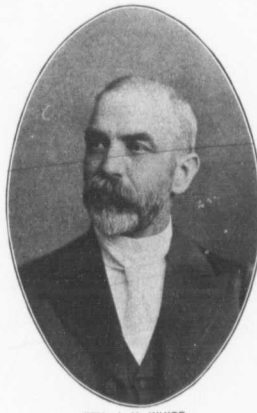
Thus as a matter of personal preference, within the sphere of Christian liberty, and in accordance with the best judgment of eminent medical authority, not swayed by extreme total abstinence practice or preference, the Editor is, and for more than threescore years has been, a rigid total abstainer, and this course he recommends to others.

Not only in view of his personal preference and best judgment, but as a matter in which example may be influential beyond our thought, he has deemed total abstinence the only safe course. An instance illustrating this, that occurred thirty years ago, impressed itself forcibly on his mind.

Being in San Francisco in 1872 he heard much said about the California wines, and he was repeatedly urged to

try them. An old friend, whose guest he was, was particularly desirous that he should test their superiority, mentioning a favorite brand in particular, as he was aware of the fact that in younger days the Editor was an apothecary, and had some knowledge of the difference in wines. A few days after their conversation on this matter, they were together invited to a dinner at a neighbor's. Then came a new trial.

Two valued servants, who had for years lived in the Editor's family in Hartford, were now in the family where he had been invited to dinner. At the dinner were several kinds of wine, but as they were proffered to him he declined. The hostess for the evening urged that he should try their choicest California wines, naming especially their favorite brand of his old friend. The bottle was already open, and the others were drinking from it. Why should he not try it, he was asked, enough to express his opinion on it? But he declined. His hostess urged him yield, until he thought she was



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pressing the matter unduly, and he was therefore the firmer, and the dinner was ended.

The next day he met the elder of the two servants, whom he respected and valued for her worth. To his surprise she said, as to the dinner of the evening before:

"When we were preparing for the dinner, my mistress was considering what wines we were to have. I said, 'Mr. Trumbull never drinks wine.' She said, 'He'll drink wine at our dinner to-night,—you see if he doesn't.' I said, 'If Mr. Trumbull tastes your wine, you can take off a month's wages of mine.' I just knew you wouldn't touch wine."

And the Editor thanked the Lord that he had not lost his good name with her as a total abstainer who could be depended on. He then realized anew that we are always in the balance before our fellows, always being watched to see what we do; and that for our own sakes, and for the sake of others, total abstinence is our only safe rule.

#### KID-GLOVE AND COAL-OIL MEN.

**MR. FRANK THOMSON**, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad, who died a few months ago, was known as one of the foremost of living railway managers. There was no part of the business with which he was not familiar.

A wealthy man once brought his son to him, saying: "My son has gone through college. Can you make a place for him where he will succeed?"

Mr. Thomson was silent a moment, and then said, "That depends on whether he wants to take a kid-glove course or a coal-oil course."

"What do you mean?"

"If he takes a kid-glove course, he goes in as a clerk, to perform a certain amount daily of writing, for which he will be paid a salary. In the other course he goes into the shops and learns the whole business, from the lowest drudgery up."

Mr. Thomson himself, when a boy, chose the "coal-oil course." He worked four years in the car shops at Altoona, barely earning his living, but learning the mechanical details of the business.

Thomas A. Scott, the famous railway manager, was a friend of the young man, but gave him no help, leaving him to work his own way. At the end of the four years he sent for him and gave him a responsible position on the Pennsylvania Railway.

The civil war broke out that year. Colonel Scott was appointed Assistant Secretary of War, the Government believing that his experience in the railway work would have taught him how to handle in transportation great bodies of troops. A problem of peculiar difficulty of this kind arose. "I know of but one man who can manage this business," said Colonel Scott to the Cabinet. "He is not here."

"Send for him, then," said Mr. Stanton.

The next evening Frank Thomson, then only twenty years of age, appeared.

"Do you mean to tell me," cried Mr. Stanton, somewhat sneeringly, "that we have waited twenty-four hours for this red-headed stripling?"

"He will do the work," replied Scott, quietly. And he did it.

Mr. Thomson was probably peculiarly qualified by nature for his especial business; but there is a strong prejudice among American boys against work which involves manual labor, and a preference for clerical duties as being more refined.

It is a fatal mistake. Great prizes now await the thoroughly equipped, practical man in work which lies outside of mere book learning, and the boy is wise who grapples with this work with his bare hands and tries to win them.—*Youth's Companion.*

I BELIEVE in total abstinence. Because those people who use liquor in moderation would be absolutely as well without it, and because those people who use liquors to excess would be immeasurably better off without it, I believe the ideal condition would be the absolute prevention of the use of alcoholic beverages.—*Hon. John Monley.*