

die, which is unnatural, let us not fear to talk to them of heaven and the risen Saviour who is preparing our beautiful home there.

LESSON III. (April 19.)

THE LAW OF LOVE. Rom. 13. 7-14.

(Temperance Lesson.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Rom. 13. 10.

Primary Notes.



Approach. There was once a great king, of whom we read in the Bible, who had many servants. Among others he had a man whose business it was to bring him a cup of refreshing drink whenever he wished it. This man was called the king's cupbearer. He was an important man. The king thought much of him. His name was Nehemiah. Because he was a cupbearer he had a chance to be near the throne and to ask a favor of the king. But do you know that we are all cupbearers in a way? Everyone is thirsty for a drink of water at some time, and everyone has another sort of thirst inside for something else—a thirst or a longing to know things, to have things, to enjoy things. And we are all the time giving people a cup of knowledge, a cup of gladness, a cup of help or—O the pity of it—a cup of evil—a cup of unkindness or of hurt.

Show a cup. Pour into it some ink fluid. Show it part full, then fill it till it runs over. Would any kind hand bear such a cup to a poor, sick, or thirsty man? Only the hand of hatred, or perhaps of thoughtlessness, would pour such a cup and fill it full to overflowing.

But it would not be half as bad to pour such a cup as to fill a cup with the worst poison of all, alcohol, as found in wine and whisky, and offer it to one who was burning with thirst, only to make him long for more poison, which is the way with alcohol. Burn a spoonful of alcohol in the cup to enforce this thought, of the consuming thirst induced by liquor.

The Lesson. There is another cup which we can pour, and that is what we might call the cup of blessing, or of good things. The lesson tells us what it is that will give such a cup and fill it full, too. It is found in the first word of

the Golden Text, "Love." Love is always wishing to do good and help somebody. Love always wishes to pour a cup full of blessing and help. It is never satisfied with half a cupful. "Love worketh no ill," that is, does no harm. Would love fill a cup with poison for a neighbor? Would love let the neighbor fill one for himself, if it could be helped? Would love be sorry for the poor neighbor who hurt himself with such a cup of poison? O surely, surely.

Bring out by questions the many ways in which selfishness, anger, impatience, and such tempers, together with thoughtlessness, can work ill or do harm. Perhaps many poor men are tempted to drink to make them forget their troubles through other people's unkindness or forgetfulness. There are many ways to hurt people. It is as bad to leave something harmful in a person's way and not take it out, as to put it there for him to stumble over. So, if we don't help when and as we ought, we are doing harm by leaving the good undone.

Memory Stone: Love. The lesson shows us what will help all the harm. If we love enough, we will do no ill, but always good to all. There would be no drunkards if love always filled the cup of blessing full instead of forgetting to do good and leaving the evil a chance to work. Along the safe path that we are walking Jesus's love keeps us every one, if we trust and follow him. We write this on the memory stone to remind us first of his love and then of the love we ought to show to others. Let us grow up to be loving. If our cups are small now, fill them full with love just the same. Let them run over, even to poor drunkards.

Thought for Teachers. Let us not forget that in temperance lessons we have our special opportunity for positive teaching. While fortifying the children with "Thou shalt not touch"



let us seek for them the love that will prevent their being tempted, and move them to help others.

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