

'My Boys.'

'Would God that all people might be roused to a new desire to know young men and lead them to Christ?' And to know the man we must study the boy. For eleven years I was teacher of a large class of growing boys. Their ages averaging ten years when given into my care. Perhaps my experience may be useful to others.

There was one thing I insisted upon from the first—obedience. A teacher will only be respected when her class realizes that she holds the reins of authority. How did I secure it? Studied my lads, each one—his disposition, his surroundings, his associates, weighed each and all carefully, deciding which way would secure the desired end. All public speakers know that there are two methods of carrying an audience with you: by persuasion and by conviction. Make each boy an audience of one to yourself, using whichever plan is suited to his case. Then be a comrade. During the week let them know that they are in your thoughts. Sometimes send a few puzzles to this boy, a page of conundrums to that; loan another a real boy's book; or write them little letters. Perhaps they have done well in school, or had a jolly game of ball; maybe 'mother' has been sick, and found her 'little man,' a first-class nurse—at least to her mother heart it was so: write and tell him you are so glad to have such a lad in your class.

If my boys were good, attentive, prompt in obedience, reciting their verses well, on the last Sunday of the month I read them a story—something just exactly for a boy, full of interest, but teaching generosity, truthfulness, true manliness, bravery, or other noble quality.

The 'knickerbocker age' is soon passed, and the age of boyish chivalry begins. Let the boy feel that he is a knight going forth to slay evil, and truly,

'shall need all the strength that God can give,
Simply to live, my friend, simply to live.'

Teach him that there is right and wrong in the world, but can never be a middle ground; never a case 'of two evils choose the lesser,' but always 'of two evils choose neither.'

Above all things, hold his confidence; trust him. If he fails you, trust him again. Be interested in his interests. When he is wrong, or is getting off the track, tell him so; but do not, do not, I beg of you, crush his spirit in the telling, nor discourage him. Oh, hold your boy very carefully now. Distinguish between real wickedness and natural boyish enthusiasm; lead neither too loosely nor too tightly. We had a horse, when I was a girl, that kicked the traces if reined in too hard. Boys are prone likewise so to do.

An artist studies his object three times as long as the time required to model it. You are moulding a soul: study it long and deeply; study it on your knees.

We organized a charity circle to help the poor and needy, all offerings to which were voluntary and anonymous. We met the first Monday of every month. A business meeting was held in the early part of the evening, followed by a social time. Every lad was allowed to bring two boy friends. I wore my prettiest gown, and always had one of the boys assist me in receiving. There were a few plants scattered around, plenty of light, games, music, magazines, books and maps, but never refreshments.

Every Thursday I was 'at home' to them and their friends, boys or girls. I met them each one, on the equal plane of guest and hostess; made each one feel that he was a man, my friend, of whom I was proud. I read their favorite books, they mine. I visited their homes and whenever they were out of town wrote to them. They are men out in the world to-day, of strong Christian character, regular communicant members of the church, several holding office in Church or Sunday-school, sons of God, epistles known and read of all men.

It meant ceaseless work, faithful prayer, a woman's trust always; but they were the sweetest years of my life, the surest investment ever made, reaping the highest interest ever paid.—A. K. P., in 'Sunday-school World.'



A Trumpet Call.

When the song springs from the vine,
And chants the praise of wine,
The evil seeds
In such smooth words and terse,
With not a hint of curse,
To soul, and home, and purse,
Will grow bad deeds.

A legion cups are thine,
But each, or coarse or fine,
Will taint the breath;
They tempt souls to their fall,
A lie looks in them all—
Sweet first, at last they pall,
The end is death.

A pledge we sign with joy,
Up, every girl and boy,
To fight the drink.
Let each one find his place,
And then from God seek grace,
To set through life the face
Against the drink.

Would we our country save
We must be true and brave,
And steadfast stand.
Have faith in God, and pray,
Work, vote, and haste the day,
That from the demon's sway,
Shall free the land.
—Rev. A. G. Lawson, in 'Temperance Advocate.'

Scientific Temperance Teaching.

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LESSON XXXI. — FURTHER ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF TOBACCO.

1. What did you learn in the last lesson about the effects of tobacco?

That it poisons the blood and through it all the organs of the body.

2. Does it produce many positive diseases?

Yes. Dr. Shaw, a celebrated physician, counts eighty diseases produced by the use of tobacco.

3. Can you mention any of them?

Paralysis is often caused in this way. The soothing power of the poison means the destroying of strength, and the nerves, robbed of their power, finally become perfectly dead.

4. Have you ever heard of such a case?

Many cases are recorded by physicians. One is described as a progressive paralysis. First sight was lost; then speech; next motion of the neck, and then of the arms, and so on through the body. For a week before death the poor man was unable to move or to communicate what he wished to his friends, though he was perfectly conscious and terribly anxious to tell them his thoughts.

5. How does tobacco affect the memory?

It destroys the memory. Many cases are on record, in which educated men have lost nearly all the knowledge gained by years of study. Some of these men have been brave enough to give up the cause of their trouble, when they have gradually regained their power of mind and memory.

6. What other diseases have you heard of as caused by tobacco?

Epilepsy is another, in which the sufferer has terrible convulsions. A boy of fifteen was subject to this trouble. Finally, his parents discovered that he was using tobacco and kept it from him, and he recovered from his disease.

7. How does tobacco affect all the work of the brain?

Tobacco destroys the brain power. Nearly all old tobacco-users are stupid and half-idiotic, with wretched memory, and unable to do anything bright or clear.

8. Does tobacco ever produce insanity?

Yes, many times. Such cases are sometimes mentioned in the papers, and many are recorded in medical journals. Sometimes even delirium tremens results from the excessive use of tobacco.

9. What other horrible disease did we mention in the last lesson as caused by tobacco?

Cancers are very often caused in this way, and may be on the face, the lips, the tongue, or the throat.

10. How are these great sores produced?

By the constant irritation of the surface by the poison of the tobacco. Chewers often have cancer of the tongue, that side of the tongue being affected against which the tobacco is constantly held.

11. What do you know about cancers of the lips?

A medical journal some years ago mentioned one hundred and twenty-seven cancers cut from the lips of patients, nearly all of whom were smokers. Sometimes the whole lower jaw has to be cut away to arrest the disease.

12. Do these diseases cause great suffering?

Yes, indeed. The suffering is too great to be endured.

13. Do tobacco-users easily recover from ordinary diseases?

No; their poisoned systems cannot resist disease. Mild cases of typhoid fever are often fatal to the tobacco-user. Slight wounds fail to heal, and in cases of epidemics, of any kind, the tobacco-user is almost sure to become a victim.

14. Why is this?

Because the whole body is full of poison.

Hints to Teachers.

The present lesson will be full of interest to the children if carefully taught. Explain all the unfamiliar words, and draw out from the children their own knowledge concerning the topic, and be careful to impress the lesson that they may never forget its awful warnings. Dr. Edward P. Thwing's little pamphlet, 'Facts about Tobacco,' will be found exceedingly helpful for further truths and illustrations.

Result of a 'Dare.'

A certain elderly gentleman, who was uncommonly nice in his tastes and habits, made exception in one respect. He chewed tobacco. Of course he did not manifest this habit in public. He was very secret about it, and the fact of his indulgence was known to but a few intimate friends. One of these asked him, on one occasion, how it happened that he, who was so particular about everything else, should have taken up this offensive practice.

'Oh,' he remarked, with a sad smile, 'when I was a schoolboy, the lad who sat next me chewed tobacco. He used to dare me to take a quid, and I had not the moral courage to decline. Thus I formed the habit, which has clung to me throughout my entire life.' Of course this gentleman has lived long enough to perceive that it would have been a greater mark of courage had he declined the 'dare' of his school companion. Boys do not stop to think of that. They are so fearful of being charged with cowardice that they really make cowards of themselves without knowing it. — American Paper.

People say 'Look at Maine and other places where prohibition has been tried and has failed for lack of enforcement.' This is the mistake that Principal Grant made in his letter attacking prohibition. He drew an inference from a comparison that was, in one important point, incorrect. The Maine act merely prohibits the manufacture and sale of alcohol within the boundaries of the state, but liquor may be brought into the state for private use without restraint. The proposed Dominion act prohibits the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors, except for medicinal purposes, sacramental and scientific purposes, and includes the whole of the Dominion.

The Maine law differs materially from the proposed Dominion act, in the essential point that importation is excluded in one and not in the other, that the Dominion act must be considered on its merits. If successful, Canada will be precedent for the world.

The liquor traffic is a cancer in society, eating out the vitals, and threatening destruction, and all attempts to regulate it will not only prove abortive, but will aggravate the evil. No, there must be no more attempt to regulate the cancer; it must be eradicated. Not a root must be left behind, for until this is done all classes must continue in danger of becoming victims of strong drink.—Abraham Lincoln.