

or useful, or advantageous, physically, mentally, socially or morally. If it were universally discarded, not one interest of universal humanity would suffer the slightest detriment, but the contrary.

2. The habit is an *unclean* one, to use the mildest epithet. It has always been a marvel to us, how men of refined tastes and cleanly habits in other respects, even to fastidiousness, could so offend their own nature as to use the vile weed. Their breath, their clothes, their study, their home, their very atmosphere, is saturated with an offensive odor, even when they only smoke; and when they chew the signs of absolute filth are everywhere visible.

3. The habit is an exceedingly *offensive* one to the mass of society. It is offensive to the sense of propriety and to a degree that has shocked us a thousand times. The young man—not gentleman—with a young lady on his arm, puffs the fumes of his cigar into her face at every step. You can't walk the public streets, or get into a crowd, and not be half strangled with tobacco smoke, or incur the risk of being "fouled" with tobacco juice. Such a breach of *good manners* would not be tolerated in any other form. The public has grown accustomed to it, and the offender has lost the native sense of manliness by long habit. The offense amounts to a *social sin*.

4. As a habit it is *injurious to health*. The testimony of physicians—the testimony of all experience and observation—settles this point beyond dispute. Within the narrow range of our personal knowledge, it has in several cases resulted *fatally*. And such cases are multiplying rapidly. And so common has become the serious injurious effects of it that a "tobacco pulse" has become a well-known term among medical men, and many men of seemingly perfect health are declined as risks by life insurance com-

panies for this season. The injury is no less real and serious because insidious, and low and unobserved in its progress and results.

5. It is a very *expensive* luxury. The cost of it is simply enormous. We will not attempt to give the figures. The average smoker of cigars spends more money daily than the average toper. Tobacco does not cost the nation as much as strong drink, but the cost runs up into the hundreds of millions. The Church of God to-day expends more on the useless and noxious habit than on the cause of missions to the heathen, and the cause of missions and philanthropy and charity at home combined.

These are *grave* reasons for every man to ponder. And they are emphasized by various considerations. We name but two. The first is the obvious one that in the nature of the case all evil habits tend to strengthen each other. The relation of the tobacco habit to the drinking custom is close and natural, and they inevitably play into each other's hands. The other is the rapid and astounding growth of the *cigarette* habit among the boys, and even girls of the period. The testimony of physicians as to its effect on both body and mind is of the most decisive and startling character. The teachers of our public schools do not hesitate to sound the note of alarm at the fearful prevalence of the habit among those under their charge. And no one can walk the streets of our cities and not see painful evidence that there is a *craze* among the rising generation for this most injurious form, both to the physical and mental, of the tobacco habit.

Surely the ministry, by precept and by example, should set its face like a flint against a habit that leads to such dire results. And every parent, every Christian, every lover of humanity should cooperate in so good a work.