

The Responsibility and Opportunity of the Sunday School in Temperance Work

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The Sunday School is the future Church, so whatever our vision of what the Church ought to be, must be planned now, that the foundations may be strong and true.

The Church's product ought to be lives refined of selfishness and perfected in love. Tender Christ-pity should fill our hearts for the tempted ones, and in that heart-love will surely be born the desire to save every one from the fate of the drunkard.

Since intemperance affects man's welfare, and the happiness of his home, as well as hinders the work of Christ's Church at home and abroad, it ought to be a matter for grave alarm that the Church is not more aggressive in the battle against intemperance. To insure a strong and virile force in the Church of the future, we must begin the training with the girls and boys. When

plainly written for many centuries. Only now are we beginning to understand His meaning, and to realize the literal truth of "Wine is a mocker"—mocking man's strength and happiness.

After all, God and conscience are the strongest habit-compelling forces. Give variety to your teaching by showing how the scientific experiments of today endorse God's word of warning. When French and British city governments send out municipal posters on "Alcoholism and Physical Degeneracy," it is time for the guardians of youth to warn not only about physical, moral and intellectual degeneracy. Note the remarkable recent discoveries, mostly by German professors, that a single glass of beer at night would diminish by some seconds the time in which a railroad engineer could put his hand on the throttle when a red flag suddenly

foreign missions, may be unwound, and will produce a very striking effect.

2. A temperance exercise or song from the Primary Department is always interesting.

3. A blackboard talk will clinch the lesson.

4. Select testimonies in favor of total abstinence as given by great soldiers and athletes. Call for them to be read by different scholars.

5. Gather testimony from missionary lands about the devastating influences of rum, and your school will marvel that Christianity conquers at all in heathen lands.

Do we realize that by training the girls and boys to total abstinence principles and by further training them to recognize their obligations as Christian citizens, we are laying the foundation for a deeply spiritual and unselfish character, which shall bless the church and the nation as well? Surely for such a result the best thought and research is not too much to give. Let us join in enthusiastic service for the safety of our homes, the honor of Christ's Church and the uplift of the nation.

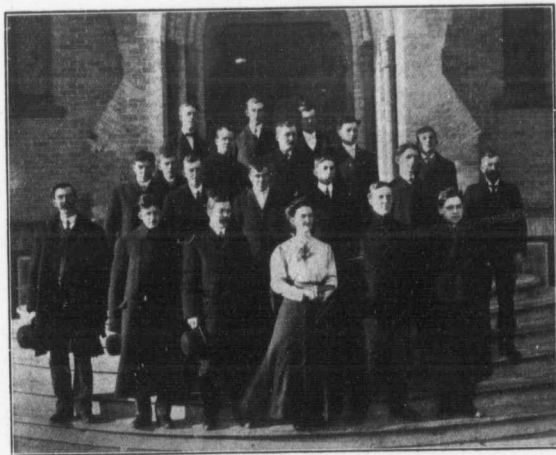
An Athletic Bible Class

The Pastor, Rev. W. J. Rogers, B.A., reports for us that in November, 1907, the young men's class in our Millbrook Sunday School was organized and got into chapter. The class is known as the Miss Hampton's Bible Class. The number of members of organization was sixteen. Since that time it has grown until at one time the number had reached forty-five. At present there is not so large a membership owing to many removals. The difficulties with the young men in the class is the size of Millbrook. As soon as they get a little experience and training they move to the larger centres of population or to the North-West. Miss Hampton's class has trained a number of workers. Some of them have gone to valiant work for the Master in other places.

In the spring of 1909 it was felt that the class should stand together in their summer recreations. A meeting was called and a strong athletic committee was appointed. It was decided to make baseball the class game, and a team entered the baseball league of Millbrook. The team was known as the A. B. C., B. B. C.

When the long autumn evenings came a new problem arose. There were many places for young men, but no place where they were free to go and spend an evening away from temptation. The class athletic committee rented a room, a table and four chairs for a table, and a radio installation; had electric lights installed and furnished the room with a table and chairs, a club room and gymnasium, thus providing a place where young men could spend an evening under good influences and under the direction of the class. Simple gymnasium appliances, as well as basketball ball, hand ball, bagatelle, crockinole, checkers, were purchased. Of course, during the summer season, the room was not so much used, but in the fall and spring it was a boon to many a young man. Plans are now being perfected for the work of the coming summer.

The Rev. Dyson Hague, of Nova Scotia, in his *Ways to Win*, tells of a rather timid young member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, who for some time tried in vain to induce a friend of his to attend the church services and Bible class. He used to call for him every Sunday, but it was of no use. Finally, however, he won him, and when asked how he did it, replied, "Well, I got tired of calling on him so often, so at last I decided to go and board at the same house with him!" That was personal effort in dead earnest. No wonder that he got his man!



PART OF MISS HAMPTON'S BIBLE CLASS, MILLBROOK, ONT

God's people put conscience and courage into temperance effort and citizenship; the day of victory is nigh. To realize such a force in the Church of the future, we are building in the Sunday School to-day. Sunday School workers! Do you realize your responsibility and golden opportunity?

"Out from the hearthstone the children
go

Fair as the sunshine, pure as the snow
A licensed wrong on a crowded street
Waits for the coming of the guileless
feet.

Child of the rich and child of the poor,
Pass to their wreck thro' the dram-
shop's door.

Oh, say, will they ever come back as they go.

Fair as the sunshine, pure as the
snow?"

It is our privilege to so train them that they may retain their purity and strength. Teacher! What opportunity have you and how can you best use it?

We have a quarterly temperance lesson, and that lesson should be prayerfully prepared. God's teaching has been

came in sight, and when a single second's delay might spell death, not only for the engineer but also for the precious lives entrusted to him. It was these experiments that convinced President C. W. Elliott, of Harvard University, at seventy years of age, that total abstinence was expedient.

Temperance teaching should lead to decision, and this decision we call pledge-signing. Knowledge is not power unless it is applied, and no teaching fulfills its purpose unless it fits the conviction and decision of the learner. Knowledge crystallizes in character. Knowledge is assurance teaching. Then remember that the signing of the pledge is like the planting of a seed, it must grow. Convictions may be weakened by neglect, or strengthened by added inputs in new view-points and facts. Each temperance Sunday gives us the opportunity of so presenting the truth that we strengthen the obligation. A few new suggestions are added that may be used by the teacher, or from the platform.

1. Prepare object lessons. Ribbons of varying length, representing money spent for liquor, tobacco, chewing gum.