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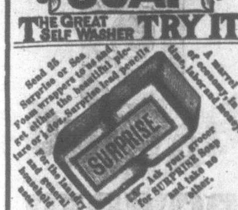

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THE HOME.

Our Angel Children.

JEAN LOUDON.

Mine truly was the sweetest baby
In all the world so wide;
And, though now in heaven, he may be
Still my pride.

Others have had prettier children,
But surely none so sweet;
Others have had brighter children,
Much more fleet.

In mere earthly knowledge gaining;
But in the things divine
None required so little training,
None like mine;

For he seemed so heavenly-minded,
And, ever since his birth,
E'en to others' eyes—unblinded—
Not of earth.

So I scarce can say I wondered
When the dear Lord said, "Come;"
And all ties to earth He sundered—
Bore him home:

With those arms of love around him,
Up to the throne so white,
'Mong the children who surround him
Day and night,

Singing praises to their Saviour—
He placed my darling son;
He could grant no greater favor
Than this one:

For the smallest are the dearest,
And need most tender care;
So the babes are ever nearest
To Him there:

And, to comfort lonely mothers,
He sends us in the night
Visions sweeter than all others
Have in light.

Though their little ones are near them,
Our babes are better far,
Pain and want can never fear them,
Nor sin mar.

And He shows us angel faces
Radiant with God's own light,
Forms that gained celestial graces,
Robed in white.

Longing to welcome us to heaven
When'er our summons come;
Then, through His precious blood forgiven,
We'll enter home.

—*Journal and Messenger.*

Health Maxims.

The following health maxims are particularly timely:

"Don't worry."

Don't hurry. "Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow."

"Simplify, simplify, simplify."

Don't over-eat. Don't starve. "Let your moderation be known to all men."

Court the fresh air day and night. "Oh, if you knew what was in the air!"

Sleep and rest abundantly. Sleep is Nature's benediction.

Spend less nervous energy each day than you make.

Be cheerful. "A light heart lives long."

Think only healthful thoughts. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

"Seek peace and pursue it."

"Work like a man; but don't be worked to death."

Avoid passion and excitement. A moment's anger may be fatal.

Associate with healthy people. Health is contagious as well as disease.

Don't carry the whole world on your shoulders, far less the universe. Trust the Eternal.

Never despair. "Lost hope is a fatal disease."

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."—*Christian Union.*

—A mother of four boys who read a recent article in these columns, entitled Children's Vacations, has a word to say on the other side of the question. In her judgment a child cannot spend even one day wholly in play without evil effects. The mere feeling of dissatisfaction with self, which is inseparable from a day spent in absolute usefulness, gives a certain restlessness that borders upon ill humor. Her method is to alternate healthful work in the berry pasture, the haying field and going on errands with oral instruction, selecting a quiet hour to read aloud from a child's History of the United States, or from the life of some hero, like Livingston, and then having the boys note down what they can remember. For younger children it is a good plan to write on the blackboard a few curious questions for them to talk about and think over til the next day, when an older person can give the needful explanation. Sometimes a child will select a map from the atlas, and ask questions for half an hour to mamma and the others. In this way more real enjoyment is secured, and habits are formed which will prove of inestimable value through life.

THE FARM.

Practical Directions for Draining.

A very interesting and instructive report on underdrai ing was made by Mr. T. C. Thurlow to the Essex (Mass.) Agricultural Society, from which the following extracts are taken:

There is on nearly every farm some piece of land, perhaps it may be a natural hollow near the build ng, where the water is dammed in for a part of the season by higher land, where the wash and dried leaves have accumulated for years. Such a piece is eminently suited for underdraining. Sometimes by digging and maintaining a large open ditch through this high land, into which other covered ditches may run, a natural outlet would be formed, and thus secure the most perfect drainage at a simple expense. This open ditch should be dug quite wide at the top, narrowing down gradually to the bottom, and should be looked after every year, keeping it a little deeper than the drains that run into it. Oftentimes, for acres, surface drains can be run into this open ditch made by ploughing the lands into beds, which will answer a very good purpose, but for all hoed, especially where it is desirable to work the land early, thorough underdraining would be adviseable where the land is damp enough to require it.

As to the best material to be used, there may be some doubt. Possibly stones may be used to advantage in some locations, or logs of wood with holes running through them lengthwise, or three strips of boards, nailed together in a triangular form and covered in bottom of the ditch, have been known to do good work for many years. But where tile can be obtained as cheaply as in most locations, there is no doubt it is every way the best.

I prefer to drain land in August, September or October. I do not think it judicious to commence work later in the year. Underdraining should be commenced and prosecuted in a dry time, finishing it up as quickly as possible. In the commencement, look over carefully the piece to be drained, using judgment and common sense in locating the ditches. The outlet must be the lowest point, and the main ditches should be through the lowest land. The laterals should enter the main ditches in the direction of the outlet, and no two should be placed opposite. The distance apart will depend upon circumstances. On moist or moderately wet land, for grass or other field crops, thirty, forty or even fifty feet will do; but on wet, retentive land, designed for valuable stock or chance vegetables, fifteen, twenty to twenty-five feet apart would be necessary.

If the piece to be drained is large and nearly level, it would be better to employ an engineer with leveling instruments, and have the depth to be dug marked on stakes all over the piece. Although a very slight fall will do, even two inches to the hundred feet, yet it is always best to have more if possible.

Before commencing to lay the tile, be sure the grade is true and uniform through all the ditches. Go over it with a hoe the last time, to remove bunches and the small stones that may be left. Should there be any doubt in regard to any of the laterals, it would be well to try them with a straight edge and spirit-level; then, if there should not be sufficient fall it would be necessary to sink the main ditch deeper. Should any of the ditches run through quicksand, or springy places, it would be necessary to lay the tile on firm, flat stones or good strips of board or plank. In regard to tile, the round is every way better than the old horseshoe shape; two inches diameter is usually large enough for the laterals and for the upper ends of the mains; toward the outlet it is well to use larger tile, according to the amount of water that will naturally flow through them.

Every year, on the approach of winter, the tiles should be examined, and all sediment and rubbish removed. The trenches should be filled in as soon as possible after the tiles are laid, the bottom soil first and the good soil at the top. Never lay your tile in topsoil, so many are tempted to do so, because it is softer and finer, for it will eventually encourage the roots of trees and grasses into and around the tile, and thus destroy its usefulness.

One of the greatest obstacles to tile draining is that the roots of certain trees will so penetrate the soil for food and moisture that where they come in contact with the drain they will enter and choke it. I know of no trees so bad in this respect as the elm and willow, and drains should never be laid in the immediate vicinity of these trees. Willows, especially, should be destroyed before drains are laid near them. I have never known fruit trees or evergreens to penetrate the drains; but probably they would if the rich soil were there to draw them. Certain grasses, too, are troublesome. In the vicinity of Exeter, N. H., the common horse-tail rush was so troublesome that it had to be exterminated from several field before the tiles would work successfully. Knowing these various obstacles, the farmer should be on his guard against them.

TEMPERANCE.

The Question of Temperance.

BY REV C. R. B DODGE, M. A.

[Published at the request of the N. S. Central Association, before which it was read June 23, '88.]

By a resolution at last Association, so I have been informed by the clerk, I was requested to prepare a paper on the subject of Temperance, and though in some measure a departure from the custom, which we may speak of as established, of having a short and concise report merely from the chairman of the committee, I willingly assume the increased task. It is always a pleasure for me to carry out the wishes of my brethren whenever I am able; but in the present instance my willingness is greatly strengthened by the extreme urgency and importance of the subject, as also by the fact that at last Association very many were pained by the slight attention which it received. It is true that there are, and ever must be, questions more vital both to the individual and to society than that of temperance, and which in consequence should ever have the precedence in the minds of Christian people, and the promotion of which should be of chief concern in all their deliberative gatherings; but it is not always the case that the greatest subject demands the greatest amount of immediate attention. It is a matter of daily experience in the lives of us all, that though we may have a certain definite purpose always before us, yet it is frequently needful—even in the accomplishment of that purpose—for us to turn aside, and separately consider some duty or subject that may seem wholly extraneous to it. So it seems to me that in our denominational gatherings, especially at the present time, though fully impressed, as I know every delegate is, with the supreme importance in general of what may be distinctively termed denominational or church work, or, in other words, the work of extending the gospel, yet that it is absolutely imperative that we should devote a large share of earnest attention to the question, how our land shall be freed from that worst of all social enemies, *strong drink*. For many years this subject has been growing in importance in the minds of people generally. The time was when the evil, like that of slavery, was scarcely recognized—at least not recognized as one that it came within the duty or power of philanthropists to regulate or extinguish. But gradually the scales have fallen from the so long blinded eyes, and they have been opened to see the hellish visage of the most destructive agent that has ever gone to and fro in the earth. Don't think that this language is too strong, for it is not. It is impossible for language to be found too strong to represent this dire evil. Like a forest fire that sweeps the whole land, and blackens everything that it does not kill, so this enemy of our race has raged every where, and seared and sored every heart. According to Chief Justice Davis of the United States, it is responsible for 80 per cent. of all crime. Gladstone has declared that it is responsible for more harm to man than the three great historic scourges, war, famine and pestilence, combined. Dr. Willard Parker, an eminent physician, lays at its door 35 per cent. of lunacy 45 per cent. of idiocy, 75 to 90 per cent. of pauperism, and 10 per cent. of deaths. The New York *Tribune* is quoted by the editor of the *Homiletic Monthly* as saying: "This traffic lies at the centre of all political and social mischief; it paralyzes energies in every direction; it neutralizes educational agencies; it silences the voice of religion; it baffles penal reform; and obstructs political reform." No; to speak too strongly of the evil of alcoholic drink is impossible in the English or any other tongue. Look at its proportions here in our own land! Canada, with its 4 000,000 inhabitants, consumes over $40,000 000 worth of liquor, or an average of $10 for every man, woman and child. But let us come nearer home. The city of Halifax, within the bounds of this Association, according to a statement in its daily press, spends annually for liquor six times as much as for the maintenance and spread of religion, both at home and abroad. And in the county of Lunenburg, also within the bounds of this Association, it has been carefully estimated that two years ago $35,000 were expended upon strong drink.

To this appalling evil the eyes of this our generation are to-day quite fully, as I have before said, awake. It is scarcely needful, therefore, that much time and energy should farther be spent in enlightening the people upon this aspect of the subject. Though they do not know all—alas, what fearful knowledge the knowledge of *all* would be—yet they know sufficient to justify their leaders in taking a step in advance, and commence the stupendous task of grappling with this foe. And this step has already been taken, and it is because of this—because the declaration of war has been issued and some advance companies are already in the field, that this Association, it seems to me, and all our deliberative gatherings, need to take earnest council together and decide what it is within their power to do toward aiding in successfully encountering this general enemy. Believe me, it is necessary that we should thus deliberate and that we should dispose of our forces to the best possible advantage, and have their discipline reach the highest attainable perfection. The real fury of the beast that we have to encounter is, I believe, scarcely realized by even those who have measured his proportions and his possible wrath with the greatest care. Up to the present very few restraints, comparatively, have been placed upon his ravages. True there are enclosures which he finds it difficult to enter, and the fact that he has discovered these has led to a few spasmodic outbursts of wrath. But the field in which he may roam at will is yet sufficiently wide for him scarcely to realize that he is being surrounded and gradually enchained. But when the time comes, as it most surely is coming and coming rapidly, that this monster of the pit shall realize that its liberty has departed from it, then there shall be, I believe, a commotion such as the world has seldom, if ever, seen. Why, think of it! In simply the two countries of Canada and the United States there is in the liquor traffic about $2,000,000 000 of invested capital and this is chiefly held by the world's most unscrupulous men. And the investment of money is as nothing compared to that of the gnawing and insatiable appetite possessed by many millions of men in whom desire rules supreme. In view, therefore, of the magnitude and unscrupulous character of this foe, I say that it is becoming in us to arouse ourselves to the highest possible point of courage and also of caution.

As I have before stated it is no longer a question of whether we shall fight or not. The declaration of war has been given, and either one of two things are now necessary, namely, either for us to fight or to die Believe me, this is the only alternative now before us as order loving citizens. Lay down your arms; refuse to take the field against this foe; and this foe, which is in the field, and which is fully organized and equipped for fighting, will quickly sweep before it all the puny obstructions that have hitherto been raised, and engulf, in a few brief years, our fair country and its fairer children and institutions, in one common and miserable ruin. Oh, it pains me exceedingly to see the frequent lethargy of good people in reference to this matter. Many even hesitate to express themselves openly against the liquor traffic. Delegates before me, may this—shame, shall I say? yes, I might say that, but I wish more particularly to say dangerous hesitancy to enlist in a time of eminent peril, never be yours.

But the most important question and the most perplexing one everywhere is just what shall be the plan of campaign? Different methods have been proposed and are being tried in different places. And it is a necessity that there should be this diversity in method. Those do wrong, it seems to me, who rail at leading temperance workers in New York, for instance, for advocating high license. There the enemy is strongly entrenched and a high license strictly enforced must be a great gain over the present condition. And conversely those in New York do wrong, it seems to me, who would have Michigan, for example, adopt high license, when they have got beyond it, and, as the recent vote proved, are nearly if not quite ready for prohibition. What is needful, therefore, is that each province, or state, or company of workers, whatever may be their boundary, shall calmly and earnestly consider what means it is best for them to immediately take toward the suppression of alcohol in their midst; and having decided upon a method, to push that method until it becomes apparent that something more stringent is required, and then pass on at once toward the more stringent measure. But, though the methods pursued may thus differ widely, the ultimate goal must be the same, and, I believe, is the same, or is fast getting to be in the minds of temperance people generally. Prohibition, and nothing short of absolute and entire prohibition will do. Every root of the cancer must be extracted before the physician can be said to have accomplished his work.

Now the question for us as a province and as a Dominion to answer is, what is the thing that is especially needful for us under our present circumstances to do? And it is this question which we as an Association of temperance as well as christian workers, are called upon to help answer. Thank God for the advance that our fair and beloved country has already made. Ours is to-day an enviable position in the eyes of the world.

But the fact that we are in the van in this great reform shoulders us with weighty responsibilities. Just now is a momentous time with us. We are standing on advance ground. Shall we hold that ground or be driven from it? By the grace of God, brethren, let us hold it! Yes, and let us press resolutely forward and occupy new ground until the enemy is entirely routed and the victory is ours.

Now the question arises, in order to do this what is necessary? My time is failing me or I should like to go into detail. I would like to see this Association thoroughly aroused on this subject. Permit me to state briefly a few things that, it seems to me, are especially essential for us at the present time; and here I am but emphasizing the suggestions contained in the report. On the very peak of importance I should place temperance legislators and councillors. Without these the cause of temperance can not surely and permanently advance among us; and we want these to be elected because they are temperance men, and to be given to understand that they are expected to carry out the will of the people.

Again, we want the laws which we have at present amended from time to time as may be found needful, but more particularly and emphatically we want the laws which we have enforced by regularly appointed and salaried officers. Lunenburg county affords a grand example of what may be accomplished through such an officer. Two years ago, there was scarcely a county in the province that consumed more liquor and that contained so little temperance sentiment among the mass of its people. However, through the persistent efforts of a very few men comprising the Alliance, a judicious and fearless Inspector was appointed by the Municipal Council, and as a result, during the past year the amount of liquor consumed has been reduced at least two-thirds, and many who were formerly engaged in the traffic have left the county.

Then again, and in order to bring these things to pass, we want the hearty and outspoken co-operation of not only every good man, but of every good woman as well. Show your colors, sisters, as well as brothers. Work in election times for the temperance candidate. Let everyone know that temperance is of chief concern in your mind, and that absolute prohibition and freedom from rum you are bound to have, and that before you die.

And another indispensable, and the last that I shall name, though I might name many more, is an aggressive pulpit and press. The influence of these cannot be over-estimated. In respect to the latter I think that we must all feel that so far as our denomination in the maritime provinces is concerned we have got what we want. Is the same true of the pulpit? That it is just as sound I doubt not, but is it as aggresive as it should be?

In this conflict against King Alcohol it is pre-eminently true that there is an opportunity for everyone to assist. Even the children can help, as indeed they are—and in some instances, nobly too. May there be no flinching, therefore, nor indifference, but a willing putting forth of effort the very extent of ability on the part of every good citizen; and soon the much looked-for day will be ushered in. Oh, what a happy day it will be when our land from Cape Breton to Vancouver shall be freed from the curse of intoxicating drink! May God hasten the time of its appearing, is my prayer, and may the same be the prayer of all.

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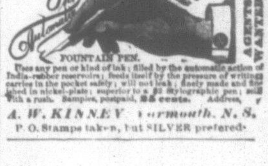

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