

him should lead them to revenge his death. "Counted him as a prophet."—That is, believed that he was a true prophet of God.

6. "Herod's birthday was kept."—By a great feast to the nobility of Galilee. (Mark vi. 21.) "Daughter of Herodias."—Her name was Salome, her father was Phillip. "Danced before them."—That is, before the assembled guests of Herod. It was counted in the East disgraceful for a woman to do this before such an assemblage.

8. "Instructed of her mother."—Who now saw an opportunity to be re-anged against John. "Charger."—A wooden trencher or platter on which food was served.

9. "Was sorry."—He still feared the people and was disturbed by his conscience. "Them which sat with him at meat."—He feared their ridicule if he should hesitate.

12. "Went and told Jesus."—They went to Him for comfort. They probably also became His disciples.

THOUGHTS.—Herod—Conscience in the Wicked.—All persons have a moral nature—a conscience—the voice of God in the soul. It is the categorical imperative in the heart of man. The conscience distinguishes between right and wrong; commands the right and forbids the wrong.

The conscience may be silenced for a time; it may be unheard amid syren voices calling to pleasure. It may be put to sleep by false doctrine; it may be deliberately stifled; it may be seared as with a hot iron.

The conscience is indestructible. It never dies. If asleep, the time comes when it awakens; if callous, it becomes sensitive; if deaf, it becomes alive to the least whisper. Some word or some memory touches the soul as with a magic hand, and it awakens to realize all its guilt.

The conscience may pierce the soul with a thousand forebodings of ill. It wraps the guilty one with a girdle of thorns. It crowns the wicked with poisoned jewels that fester while they blaze. It was so with Herod.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

DAILY READINGS.

First Day—John the Baptist Beheaded—Matt. xiv. 1-13.

Second Day—Herod's Guilty Conscience—Mark vi. 14-29.

Third Day—Belshazzar's Drunken Feast—Dan. v. 1-31.

Fourth Day—"Keep thy heart with all diligence"—Prov. iv. 14-27.

Fifth Day—"Let us watch and be sober"—1 Thes. v. 1-18.

Sixth Day—"Not in rioting and drunkenness"—Rom. xiii. 1-14.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Mar. 20.—"The evils of all intemperance."—Prov. xxiii. 20, 21, 29-35.

TOPIC THOUGHTS.

God made men masters over all the earth; many have become slaves to its products.

All intemperance is evil. He is the basest slave who is in the chains of appetite.

We may be intemperate in anything—in our conduct as well as in our speech.

As many people are intemperate in their pleasures as are intemperate in the wine cup.

The beings whom God meant to be kings are made brutes by intemperance.

Gluttony is but another form of drunkenness.

Only they who master themselves can acceptably follow the great Master.

Intemperance in speech is an evil by which Satan ensnares many good people.

The liquor evil is the greatest evil of the day. Every jail, almshouse, and insane asylum, is a monument to strong drink.—*Christian Endeavor Manual*.

TELLING TESTIMONIES.

Drink is the mother of want and the nurse of crime.—Lord Brougham.

While you have the drink, you will have the drunkard.—George W. Bain.

Nine-tenths of the cases to be tried are caused by drink.—Chief Justice Bovill.

Choose rather to punish your appetites than to be punished by them.—Epictetus.

Alcohol is the mother of sin.—Mahomet.

The only terrible enemy Britain has to fear is strong drink.—H. R. H., Duke of Albany.

Its ravages are greater than pestilence, war and famine combined.—Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone.

Strong drink is not only man's way to the devil, but the devil's way to man.—Dr. Adam Clarke.

Wine is the most powerful of all agents for exciting and inflaming the passions.—The great Lord Bacon.

Ninety per cent of the crime in the army is through strong drink.—Lord Wolseley (commander-in-chief).

I dread the white man's drink more than all the assegais of my enemies.—King Khama (African chief).

I never suffer ardent spirits in my house, thinking them evil spirits.—Sir Astley Cooper (the great surgeon).

Intoxicating drink is the greatest factor of crime, pauperism, orphanhood, disease and insanity.—Prof. F. W. Newman.

DOES IT PAY?

Does it pay to have fifty workmen poor and ragged in order to have one saloonkeeper well dressed and flush with money?

Does it pay to have one citizen in the county jail because another sells him whiskey?

Does it pay to hang one citizen because another citizen got him drunk and deadly?

Does it pay to have a dozen intelligent young men turned into thieves and vagabonds that one man may get a living by keeping a saloon?

Does it pay to receive \$200 for a saloon licence, and then pay \$20,000 for trying a man for murder, induced by the goods the licensed saloonkeeper sold him?

Does it pay to have a thousand homes blasted, ruined, defiled and turned into halls of misery, strife and want that some brewer may build up a great fortune?

Does it pay to have twenty mothers and their children dress in rage, live in hovels and daily famish that one saloonkeeper's wife and children may have plenty?

Does it pay to have hundreds of thousands of men and women in almshouses, penitentiaries and hospitals, and thousands more in the asylums for idiotic and insane people, in order that a few heavy capitalists of the whiskey ring may profit by such atrocity?

Does it pay to tolerate a traffic which breeds crime, poverty, agony, idleness, shame and death wherever it is allowed?

Yes, verily it doth not pay.—*Ex.*

THE DEMON OF THE HOME.

When the demon of drink enters the home the angel of peace departs; poverty follows in the demon's wake, for drink is a spend-thrift vice. It is terrible to ruin the body; it is terrible to ruin the home, but it is more terrible to ruin the soul, that spark of God's intelligence. We despise the thief; we shrink in horror from the murderer, but they are men. But the drunkard—who will say that this unloving, unthinking, unreasoning thing is a man? God made man little less than the angels, but the drunkard makes himself little less than the brute. The demon of drink goes up to high heaven and defies the mercy of God, for no drunkard can enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The lower side of the drunkard's grave empties into hell. There are seventy five thousand drunkards going down to their graves every year. If this is what drink will do, what will you do? We cannot sit down and fold our hands. If we have a heart that loves humanity we must do something, and there is one thing we can do; we can abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors. The way to straighten a crooked stick is to bend it in the opposite direction. If you are strong, give to your neighbor of your strength if he is weak.—Rev. P. A. Doyle.

THE BAR-ROOM HAS A BANK.

You deposit your money—and lose it.

Your time—and lose it.

Your character—and lose it.

Your health—and lose it.

Your strength—and lose it.

Your manly independence—and lose it.

Your self-control—and lose it.

Your home comfort—and lose it.

Your wife's happiness—and lose it.

Your children's happiness—and lose it.

Your own soul—and lose it.