

PRAYER AND CONSECRATION.

Prayer has been, since the creation of man, the means by which he has asked and received blessings from his Creator. Consecration is the entire abdication of self and willingness to be and to do in all things according to the will of the Master. We are all familiar with the words, and we trust with something of the spirit which they imply; and it might be asked what can be written that has not already been better said and written thousands of times on these subjects. But we know that "as iron sharpeneth iron so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend," and as we are met to stir each other up to love and to good works, we might find a few suggestions profitable in leading us to search our hearts and find how far our work has been influenced by prayer and consecration. God has in all ages raised up those who were specially consecrated for the requirements of certain epochs in his kingdom on earth, such as Abrahah, Moses, David, and the prophets in the old dispensation and in the new. Our blessed Lord in his absolute consecration shines forth as the sun in his strength compared to the lesser lights of Apostles, Martyrs, Reformers, and Missionaries who counted not their lives dear unto them so that they might follow Him. The history of the early and reformed churches shows that woman was not wanting in heroic deeds and patient suffering even unto death in her consecration to Him who has raised her from degradation to be one of the most powerful of earthly means in working out His plans. In reading the lives of this noble army, we find that prayer was as necessary to them as the air they breathed, that "out of weakness they were made strong," and our Lord Himself spent whole nights in prayer, being human as well as divine, he needed strength to endure and suffer.

As temperance workers we have strong enemies to contend against, in the customs of society, the greed of gain, the vested interests, the government license, the indifference of christian people, and especially of our sisters in the faith who are ever ready to consider any missionary or charitable scheme of more importance than this. In fact "the world, the flesh, and the devil" are arrayed against us, and do we not need heavenly weapons for the warfare which must yet be long and severe before the liquor traffic and the use of spirits as a common beverage are done away with. Truly the adversary of souls showed his power and knowledge of the human heart when he forged this chain to bind victims to his chariot wheels.— Shall we not then, as weak women this day assembled to devise means of carrying on the Master's work, join in earnest and importunate prayer and consecrate ourselves anew to His service.

Dear Sisters, let it never be said we have nothing to do at our Union Meetings—that we ONLY hold a prayer meeting. Why, that is the very oil needed to keep our lamps burning. Only to pray! Is not prayer

The Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death,
He enters heaven with prayer.