

OUR DRINK BILL.

This striking illustration is borrowed from *Onward*. It originally represented "John Bull's Drink Bill," but it fits Uncle Sam's just as well. And, indeed, it represents a fearful fact. The drink bill of the United States for 1891 was, in round numbers, the enormous sum of \$1,200,000,000, according to the calculation of the editor of *The Voice*. Another statistician, estimating the consumption of liquor at only \$850,000,000, sets down our tobacco bill as \$600,000,000, and says that we pay annually for bread, \$505,000,000; for meat, \$303,000,000; for iron and steel, \$290,000,000; for woolen goods, \$237,000,000; for sawed lumber, \$233,000,000; for cotton goods, \$210,000,000; for boots and shoes, \$196,000,000; for sugar and molasses, \$155,000,000.



Mis- Educa- Tea, Coffee, and Cocoa. Milk. Bread. Alcoholic Liquors.

000; for public education, \$85,000,000; and for Christian missions, \$5,500,000. These figures are only approximately correct, of course, yet they furnish abundant food for reflection, and for reflection that is not of the most pleasant character. And yet,—and yet,—it is within the power of the young Christians of this country, if they will yield themselves to the moving and power of the Holy Spirit, to turn this deplorable list utterly end for end, so that the larger sums shall go for Christian missions and education, and the smaller sum or sums, still more insignificant, shall go for alcohol and tobacco. What will you do about it?—*Golden Rule*.



W. H. WITHROW, Secretary for Canada.

PRAYER-MEETING TOPICS.

OCTOBER 1, 1893.

Junior Epworth League.

THE FRUITS OF FAITH.—Rom. 1. 8; Heb. 11; James 2. 18; Rom. 1. 11; 15. 29; Matt. 10. 42; 2 Cor. 4. 7-13; Matt. 5. 16.

Junior E. L. of C. E.

WHY SHOULD WE BE PROUD OF BEING CHRISTIANS?—Luke 22. 54-62; Rom. 1. 16.

HOW TO ORGANIZE JUNIOR LEAGUES.

II.

PRESENT the matter before the Senior League or Society, and appoint a committee, to co-operate with the pastor on Junior work; and let the committee select the best available person for Superintendent, and then, in conference with the one chosen, choose as many Assistant Superintendents as may be required. Then let the committee, in conjunction with the Superintendents, call together a few choice boys and girls who would be likely to join, and after singing and prayer, explain the object, plan and working of the Juniors, also the pledge, motto and badge. Give each one a copy of this Leaflet and a Pledge Card to be taken home for the information and consent of the parents. Arrange for a second meeting to which each one can invite another with a view to membership. At this meeting let the pledge-roll be signed by all whose parents have consented, Junior officers elected, and a report of organization sent by the Secretary to Dr. Withrow, Toronto; and in the Province of Ontario, also to the Superintendent of Junior Work, Rev. T. A. Moore, Niagara Falls. At the next meeting, the Constitution and By-laws should be carefully read and explained to the members and the committees appointed. Then the organization is complete.

If there be no Senior League or Society, bring the organization of a Junior before the Sunday-school Committee, and proceed in a similar way. Instead of selecting a few boys



Alcoholic Liquors.

and girls as a nucleus, the pastor, having explained the purpose and working of the Junior League to the congregation and Sunday-school, may invite all the boys and girls within a certain age limit to meet for organization. The interest and co-operation of the parents should always be secured, and the signature of at least one of them obtained to the membership pledge. Large numbers ought not to be an object at first, and extra effort should not be put forth to secure members until the Society is in good running order. Strive to improve the quality rather than increase the quantity of the membership.

SHOULD THEY TAKE THE PLEDGE?

Yes, by all means, let every Junior be pledged. It lifts up a definite standard of duty that will be helpful to every boy and girl. There is nothing required by the pledge that is not easily understood and should not be done by all who wish to belong. The pledge is reasonable in form, possible in performance, and practical in results. Care, however, should be taken that the Pledge Cards be signed in the presence of the parents, who also will countersign; and that those who sign the Active Members' pledge are trying to be Christians. Diligent inquiry should be made at least monthly whether the members are faithfully observing the pledge. At the consecration service the President might ask, "Have all the members kept the pledge faithfully since last roll-call?" In response, all who have kept it will rise.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE EPISTLES.

A. D. 58.] LESSON I. [Oct. 1.

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL.

Rom. 1. 8-17.] [Memory verses, 16, 17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.—Rom. 1. 16.

OUTLINE.

1. Paul's Thankfulness, v. 8.
2. Paul's Desire, v. 9-13.
3. Paul's Message, v. 14-17.

PLACE.—Corinth.

CONNECTING LINKS.

This is a part of the same letter from which Lesson XII. of the last quarter was taken.

EXPLANATIONS.

"First"—Paul's letter to the Romans begins with a formal salutation, which runs through seven verses. This lesson (verses 8 to 17) is really a preface, and at its start the apostle breaks out in thanksgiving. "Through Jesus Christ"—Paul's "thanksgiving" he offers as a sacrifice through the great High Priest. "Spoken of throughout the whole world"—Nothing could well happen in Rome and not be heard of in the ends of the earth. The praise of these Roman Christians was, of course, sounded by Christian brethren. "I serve with my spirit"—Not like the bulk of

the Jews, with ritualistic practices. "Making request"—We should not wonder that our prayers are sometimes answered in a surprising way when we consider how this prayer of Paul was answered. "That I may impart unto you . . . that I may be comforted"—Paul longs for this visit to the world's capital that he may do men's souls good and be blessed while blessing others. "Oftentimes I purposed"—Compare Romans 15. 23 with Acts 19. 21. "Let hitherto"—Hindered up to date. "Among other Gentiles"—In the mass, the Roman Church was Gentile. "Am debtor"—Am under obligation. "The Greeks" stand here for all cultivated people; the "Barbarians" for rude rustics. "Revealed from faith to faith"—Probably this sentence means: God's righteousness is in the Gospel message revealed to be by faith for faith; that is, in order to be by faith received. "The just shall live by faith"—He alone that is justified by faith shall be saved.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Show where this lesson teaches that—

1. True Christians pray for each other.
2. True Christians impart spiritual gifts to each other.
3. True Christians feel themselves to be debtors to all who need them.
4. Faithfulness to God is to be founded on faith in God.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. How did Paul pray for his Christian friends in Rome? "Without ceasing, always."
2. Why did he so greatly long to see them? "To impart some spiritual gift."
3. What does he say about the Gospel of Christ? Golden Text: "I am not ashamed," etc.
4. What does he quote from an ancient prophet? "The just shall live by faith."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Universal redemption.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Is there then any special providence over men?

Yes; our Lord said: "Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they?"—Matt. 6. 26. And to his disciples he said: "The very hairs of your head are all numbered."—Luke 12. 7.

WHICH WAY DO YOU LEAN?

"If the tree fall toward the south or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall lie."—Eccles. 11. 3.

The tree will not only lie as it falls, but it will also fall as it leans; that is, we shall go after what we are inclined to—is not that so?—which makes it all in all to us what the bent of our mind is.

Twenty-years ago there were two boys in my Sabbath-school class, bright, lively fellows, who interested me very much, only one of them made me sometimes feel anxious. I often found him out evenings in company with young rowdies. When I asked him how it happened, he used to say he was only out on an errand; the boys spoke to him and he could not help their speaking, he was sure.

Perhaps that was so, still it made me uneasy. I once said to his mother: "Is not Willie out nights too much?" "Willie out nights! Oh no, Willie does not go out nights." Was I mistaken then?

The other boy, whose name was Arthur, I never met among the rowdies. His evenings, I am sure, were spent at home. I always found him studying his lessons, or reading with his sisters, or amusing himself at home.

That was twenty years ago. Both boys had begun to show which way they were leaning, and how their tastes inclined them. Twenty years will show it plainer.

The other day I heard of Willie. Somebody met him in Chicago.

"What is he?" I asked. "A good-for-nothing, certainly, if not worse," was the answer, "a shabby, idle, drinking fellow, whom nobody wants to employ."

"Oh, I am sorry to hear it—sorry but not surprised. I wonder where Arthur is!"

"Arthur! Why, didn't you know he has just been taken into partnership with that old firm he served his time with? They could not spare him, so they had to take him in."

"Good!" I said, "good! It is just what I should have expected. He leaned right as a boy."

The Boy with the Five Loaves.

BY LYRA INNOCENTIUM.

THAT time the Saviour spread his feast
For thousands on the mountain side,
One of the last and least
The abundant store supplied.

Haply the wonders to behold,
A boy, 'mid other boys he came,
A lamb of Jesus' fold,
Though now unknown to fame.

Well may I think how glowed his cheek;
How he looked down, half pride, half fear;
Far off he saw one speak
Of him in Jesus' ear.

"There is a lad, five loaves hath he,
And fishes twain; but what are they
Where hungry thousands be?"
Nay, Christ will find a way.

In order, on the fresh green hill,
The mighty Shepherd ranks his sheep
By tens and fifties, still
As clouds when breezes sleep.

But who can tell the trembling joy,
Who paint the grave, endearing look,
When from that favoured boy
The wondrous pledge he took?

Keep thou, dear child, thine early word;
Bring him thy best; who knows but he
For his eternal board
May take some gift of thee?

Even as he made that stripling's store,
Type of the feast by him decreed,
When angels might adore
And souls for ever feed.

A BOY'S LOVE FOR HIS MOTHER.

NEXT to the love of her husband nothing so crowns a woman's life with honour as this second love, the devotion of her son to her. We have never known a boy to "turn out badly" who began by falling in love with his mother.

Any man may fall in love with a fresh-faced girl, and the man who is gallant to the girl may cruelly neglect the poor and weary life. But the big boy who truly loves and honours his mother at her middle age is a genuine knight who will love his wife in the sear-leaf autumn as he did in the daisied spring. There is nothing so beautifully chivalrous as the love of a big boy to his mother.

Reduced in Price.

ORIGINAL PLATE EDITION

OF THE

Pansy Books

Cloth, Gilt, Crown 8vo, Frontispiece.

- 1 Ester Ried.
- 2 Ester Ried Yet Speaking.
- 3 Tip Lewis and His Lamp.
- 4 Three People.
- 5 The Randolphins.
- 6 Household Puzzles.
- 7 Interrupted.
- 8 Julia Ried.
- 9 Mrs. Solomon Smith Looking On.
- 10 Sevenfold Trouble.
- 11 Chrissy's Endeavour.

This fine edition, printed on heavy paper, and strongly bound in cloth, averaging over 400 pages per volume, we have decided to reduce from 50 cents per volume to

35 cents each.

In ordering ask for the **Original Plate Edition**. It is much stronger in binding and of larger print than the English editions at the price.

Usual discount to Schools.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

METHODIST BOOK AND PUBLISHING HOUSE, TORONTO.
C. W. COATES, Montreal. S. F. HURSTIS, Halifax.