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I'M TOO YOUNG.

"I think, George, I'm too young to be a teetotaler; it's a very good thing for you, but I'm too young," said Jane right to her cousin, who was spending the Christmas holidays at her parent's house.

"Are you too young to know right from wrong, Jane?" "Why, now I think you are laughing at me, George! Why I'm in the Bible class at school. I shall be nine next day, and you ask me if I know right from wrong!"

"Well, Jane, don't be angry—you complained of being too young just now; but if you know right from wrong, why abstinence from strong drinks is right, and drinking is wrong. And if you are not too young to know, you must be too young to do, what is right?"

"I never do drink, George, only a glass of wine at our school breaking up, and a little taste of punch with uncle when I go to see him—that's all."

"Are you in the habit of often seeing people drink these things?"

"O no, George! My parents are teetotalers, you know. I have no such drinks at home. I only see them at uncle's, and at our breaking up."

"Why, Jane, in that case, you take them as often as you get them, and the drunkard does no more."

"Dear me! how harshly you speak—comparing me to a drunkard! Who ever heard of a little girl being a drunkard?"

"Little girls grow to be women; and women, Jane, are sometimes so lost, as to be drunkards. I have read in the works of a great poet these words, 'The child is father to the man;' meaning, that the habits we get in childhood, stick with us. Do you think the strip of muslin you are wearing would ever be done by you, if you never begun?"

"What a simple question! Why to be sure it would not." "Well, simple as it is, the case of poor lost drunkards is that strip of muslin. Every drop they took, from the first beginning, helped on to the completion of their bad habit, as surely as every stitch you take helps on till the work is completed. Is not that plain?"

"Why yes, it seems so." "Every thing, Jane, both good and evil, must have a beginning; and the habits we get in childhood are often so strong, we can never throw them off. You mentioned, just now, uncle John, and his punch; and you know he learned to take strong drink in his youth in the navy, and now he is quite disabled with the gout. What is the reason he does not become a teetotaler?"

"Oh, he says he is too old, and that he learned to drink in his youth."

"He was not too young, Jane, to learn to drink! You think yourself too young to learn to abstain."

"Oh, if I ever thought for a moment I should be a drunkard, I would not think myself too young."

"And do you suppose any one ever does think of becoming a drunkard?"

"Why, no; I dare say they get into a bad habit before they are at all aware of it. But, George, how could I refuse to take wine at the breaking up; I should be laughed at."

"And would you do wrong, for fear of being laughed at? O, that is not like a child who reads her Bible. You know you should do your duty, through good report and through evil report. Some wicked people laugh at religion, would you be ashamed of religion on that account?"

"O no! for our Lord has said, 'Whosoever is ashamed of me before men, of him will I be ashamed.'"

"Well, then, why be ashamed of teetotalism, which is a plain carrying out of our Lord's command, 'Do good, as ye have opportunity, to all men.'"

"Well, I think I have been wrong."

"I think you have, Jane. You are not too young to read your Bible, and to understand parts of it. Neither are you too young to be a Christian. How then can you be too young to understand this plain fact, that if you would for ever avoid the snare of intemperance yourself, and set a good example of perfect sobriety to others, you must abstain from drinks that cause intemperance."

"Well, George, I thought it did not matter much about children being teetotalers; but you have taught me better. I see that we are never too young to do that which is right."

EFFECTS OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON HEALTH.

Tract, No. 4, issued under the authority of a Committee of the Free Presbytery of Paisley.

Alcohol is the intoxicating principle of ardent spirits, wines, ales, cider, and all other inebriating liquors common in this country. It is classed by Orfila, Christison, and other writers on poisons, along with ether, opium, tobacco, &c., as a narcotico-acrid poison; that is, one which destroys life by producing irritation and stupefaction; and it is obtained by the process of distillation from liquors which have undergone the vinous fermentation. It does not, however, exist in any of the fruits or grain used in their manufacture, and is only formed by the destructive fermentation of the saccharine matter or sugar which these contain. If a pound of sugar is fermented, about one half of its constituent elements reunites