



Temperance Department.

THE ORDERLY'S LECTURE.

"I never intend to sign any temperance pledge. It is narrow-minded and unmanly to sign away one's liberty," said Dick Lester. "I will do right because it is right, not because one time I promised not to do wrong."

His cousin Ned looked perplexed, but just then the supper-bell rang and the boys went into the house ignorant of the fact that Ned's father had heard them discussing the question of pledges. A few days after Mr. Norton called the boys to him, and asked Dick, who was the visitor, if he had ever seen a great hospital.

Dick had not, so Mr. Norton said that he had intended to visit one that morning, and both he and Ned had better go with him.

We have not space to tell you how strange it seemed to them this great building with its many floors divided into wards, its wards filled with sufferers of every age, class and color.

"It makes a body feel as if most of the people in the world must be sick," whispered Dick to Ned.

"And so they are, so they are, my boy," said the attendant doctor. "I often think the Lord sends sickness upon a few, and the rest go to work to bring it on themselves. We have about one hundred incurables sent here from the insane lunatic asylum," he added, turning to Mr. Norton. "They are so full there we had to take them in."

"I would like to go into that ward," said Mr. Norton, and accordingly they crossed a hall, and the doctor knocked on a heavy door. It was soon opened by an "orderly," who led the visitors into a great room perfectly bare of furniture save long wooden benches set about in the form of a square. On the benches sat seventy or eighty miserable human beings. Their heads were shaved, their garments a kind of coarse sack, but it was their faces that shocked one most—not a gleam of hope, joy, thought, or even transient interest, in one of them! Some might have been cut from wood, so motionless they sat. A few shook with incessant sally giggling, one or two mumbled sounds with out sense.

"Are they quitted?" asked Mr. Norton.

"Pretty nearly so," answered the orderly. "You see that man over there with the best head here. He was a fine scholar, I've heard—writer, and all that. Well, sometimes he has fits of terror, like, but generally it is just black melancholy softening of the brain from hard drinking. This short fellow here was picked up in the city streets about five years ago with delirium tremens talked Russian, or something nobody understood—and gradually lost his wits. Sometimes he mumbles nonsense in half a dozen different languages, so people say. No, the most of them would sit here all day, if I did not turn them out in the yard. There they never talk together. Give them a flower and they will chew it up likely as not. Well, it is dreadful, no mistake. They are worse off than beasts, to my thinking."

"Have you any idea what caused this condition of things with many of them?" asked Mr. Norton.

"Not knowing the history of some, we can't, of course, tell, but the doctor says, beyond a doubt, intemperance was a first cause. He knows it of many cases here. See that man over there nodding and grinning. Finest political orator in the county once, now he can't feed himself. I tell you what it is," said the orderly, "no society hires me to talk out as a temperance lecturer, but if I was one, I could come down pretty flat-footed. I've been fifteen years serving in hospitals and asylums, and I've taken notes so to speak. My opinion is, if the rum business should dry up forever, there would be, in about a generation or two, empty asylums, empty hospitals. Buildings like these would be banquet-halls deserted, and the few odd lunatics and idiots would be regular curiosities. It would be a rare day for the worthy poor and sick, too, they would get the help they can have now."

"How strange," said Ned. "I thought idiots were always born idiots, and craziness came on folks, like sickness, without any particular reason."

"Well, sir," said the orderly, "I can tell you sickness and lunacy and idiosyncrasy have a pretty particular reason very often, and up here, where we keep a sort of receiving office for the Potter's Field, we are not too delicate to call that reason 'drink.'"

Mr. Norton saw by Dick's face that he was moved by horror and disgust. He knew that these rows of staring, living faces those dismal, hollow-eyed creatures—had been

powerful illustrations to the "orderly's" temperance lecture. When they were out again in the sweet summer air, Ned's father said, "Perhaps if some of those poor wretches had not been so 'manly' when they were young, they might not be so below the level of beasts now."

"What do you mean?" asked Dick. "If they had signed away their liberty not to drink a first glass and never broken their pledge, would they have been there, do you think? Or was the 'liberty' they enjoyed when young free enough to pay for the sort of manliness they have now?"

Neither boy said anything, but what they thought they never forgot. The orderly's lecture and his living examples made two converts to the cause of total abstinence—put two names to a temperance pledge.—Annette J. V. in Temperance Banner.

REPORT ON POPULAR NARCOTICS

READ BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS AND CHURCHES, AT CLOVERVILLE, O., 11, 1877, BY OUID MERR.

It is beyond doubt that existing uses of alcoholic liquors and tobacco (to which opium and one or two other drugs should be added) are seriously undermining the physical stamina, and depraving the intellectual and moral strength of our countrymen. The Christian Church is greatly hindered in her work through want of a clear and justly earnest testimony upon the whole subject of narcotic drinks and drugs.

It is our opinion that unless plans be devised for thoroughly instructing children and youth as to the pernicious effects of smoking and chewing (as well as of drinking), accompanied with wise parental repression, followed by the emphatic sanctions of Christian discipline, it is sadly probable that great numbers—some from religious families even—will be swept away by these popular habits from health, sobriety and virtue. Educational and church influences together as yet feebly restrain or reform.

Of the nature and effects of distilled and fermented liquors, forty years of public discussion have abundantly instructed those who are willing to know the truth. But of tobacco essential facts are hardly known. Professional reformers and philanthropists have generally been shy of teaching the popular tobacco habit. Many Christian congregations are wont to treat proposed enquiry into the mischiefs of smoking and chewing with the same dread and dislike as was common for the general public to show on the first introduction of temperance truth and pledges years gone by.

PROPERTIES OF TOBACCO

The United States Dispensatory (pp 500, et seq) instructs us that tobacco of commerce is the dried leaves of a plant of strong stupefying, penetrating odor, and of a bitter, nauseous, acrid taste. Its essential element, nicotine, is a virulent alkaline poison. Taken moderately into the stomach, tobacco quiets restlessness, calms mental and corporeal inquietude, produces a state of general languor or repose, which has great charms for those habituated to the impression. In larger quantities it gives rise to confusion of the head, vertigo, stupor, faintness, nausea and general depression of nervous and circulatory functions, which increased, eventuate in alarming and fatal prostration.

The "Quarterly Journal of Science," quoted and evidently endorsed in the "Popular Science Monthly," of December, 1872, instructs us that "Nicotine, the essential principle of tobacco, is so deadly an alkaloid, that what is contained in one cigar, if extracted and administered in a pure state, would cause a person's speedy death. Tobacco belongs to the narcotic and exciting substances which have no food value. Its stimulating adds no vital force, but abstracts or takes it away. It involves the narcotic paralysis of a portion of the functions whose activity is essential to healthy life. Let it be clearly understood that the temporary stimulus and soothing power of tobacco are gained by destroying vital force, and that the drug contains absolutely nothing of use to the tissues of a healthy body. Nor is the poison easily expelled from the system. It remains sometimes years after persons have ceased to use the weed. Indeed, nicotine has been detected in the tissues of the lungs and liver after death."

COST OF TOBACCO.

The Internal Revenue report for the fiscal year ending June, 1876, instructs us that the Government tax on this single article for the State of New York was \$7,040,985; warranting the conclusion that from thirty to forty millions of dollars are annually wasted in this commonwealth for one nauseous and hurtful indulgence, a large share of which comes from laboring classes and the poor, who, having spent their scanty earnings for tobacco and strong drink, hand over their suffering families to the pauper boards for sober industry to support.

The Internal Revenue report also informs us that the amount of Government taxation from the whole country for cigars, tobacco and snuff during 1876 was \$39,796,339. The number of cigars on which duties were paid in the same period was almost two thousand millions. Adding to these one hundred and ten millions of pounds of tobacco manufactured for chewing and smoking, with what no doubt escaped the United States collectors, and we have an amount of actual losses and wastes from this tobacco indulgence of not less than two hundred and fifty millions of dollars a year. It hardly need be added that this enormous burden (which might be greatly diminished by the wise faithfulness of good men) is one chief cause of abounding pauperism and vagabondage, as well as of those sharp necessities among railway men and miners, which precipitated the recent bloody riots in several states.

TOBACCO AS A POISON

Here some are ready to object, "Tobacco cannot be poisonous, as the books allege, since great numbers who smoke and chew, during long life, do not seem to themselves injured." To this we reply, many of these same objectors, in later years, have nervous trembling, dyspepsia, heart palpitations, dizziness, and sometimes incurable ailments, which they are astonished to learn from medical counsel, have been caused chiefly by tobacco. Facts of this sort are frequent. It is true also, that persons of heavy, plethoric habit and such as live plainly, often perspiring from hard work in the open air, do not so soon nor so severely suffer as others. Tobacco injures native-born Americans sooner and perhaps more than Germans, those of nervous temperament and sedentary life quickest and most fatally.

There is a wonderful power in the human stomach to resist and neutralize the poison of drugs and drinks. Some can take opium for years with apparent impunity. Hungarians eat arsenic daily, and as they think without harm. It is often amid natural laws as it is under the Divine moral government: "Because sentences against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Nevertheless, it is as sure as fate that all these stimulants and narcotics derange the organization, and, sooner or later, strike at the life.

1. Medical authorities agree in teaching that one of the effects of smoking, soonest noticeable, is partial paralysis of the nerves distributed to the heart: whence comes hurried and enfeebled action of that organ. This induces palpitations and not seldom is a chief cause of those organic derangements ending in fatal heart disease.

2. Vertigo or dizziness of the head, caused by irregular supply of arterial blood in the brain (which the laboring heart can but intermittently furnish), is a common result of the free use of tobacco.

3. Injury of the retina and nervous tissues of the eye is another effect. An eminent English physician states that out of thirty-seven patients suffering from amaurosis, (loss of sight by paralysis of the optic nerve,) twenty-three were inveterate smokers.

4. Dr Willard Parker, eminent authority of New York City, says: "It is now many years since my attention was called to the insidious, but positively destructive effects of tobacco on the human system. I have seen a great deal of its influence upon those who use it and work in it. Cigar and snuff manufacturers have come under my care in hospitals, and in private practice. And each person cannot recover soon and in a healthy manner from cases of injury or fever. They are more apt to die in epidemics, and more prone to apoplexy and paralysis. The same is true also of those who smoke or chew much." These statements receive confirmation in Dr Stillé's great work on Materia Medica. See Vol. 2, pp 373, 374.

5. That recent and very able work, "Diseases of Modern Life," by Doctor Richardson, of London (pp 321, 322), sums up the effects of tobacco thus: "Smoking produces disturbances in the blood, causing undue fluidity and change in the red corpuscles, in the stomach, giving rise to debility, nausea, &c., in the mucous membrane of the mouth, in the heart, producing debility of that organ and irregular action; in the organs of sense, causing in the extreme degree dilatation of the pupils of the eye, confusion of vision—with other analogous symptoms affecting the ear, in the brain, impairing the activity of that organ, and oppressing it, if it be duly nourished, but soothing it, if it be exhausted."

7. Perhaps the worst thing to be said of tobacco is the medical testimony which follows: "The parent whose blood and secretions are saturated with tobacco, and whose brain and nervous system are semi-narcotized by it, must transmit to his child elements of a disturbed body and erratic mind; a deranged condition of organic atoms, which elevates the animalism of future being at the expense of the moral and intellectual nature." And here is the law of hereditary transmission or penalty. (Ecodus xx., 4, 5, 6.) "Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children,

to the third and fourth generations of them that hate Me." Thus innocent ones are often made life-long sufferers by their drinking, smoking or licentious parents. And it is coming now to be farther known (what is an answer to the apologies of those who indulge their grosser appetites, on the ground that such habits do not hurt themselves, that persons inheriting good constitutions, of laborious life in the open air, will manifest for years comparatively little conscious injury for their vices—while children born to them grow up from birth, weakly, nervous, with the hereditary taints, and sometimes epileptic or imbecile! And these known results might be inferred from the fact that tobacco chewed is quickly absorbed into the system from the mouth, deranges the action of the heart; is an energetic "depressant" of the nervous system; while habitual smoking carries the deadly nicotine through the lungs into the arterial blood, depraving the very springs of life. Were it not that mothers are generally of purer life and purer blood than fathers, these deplorable results to offspring would be far more widely manifest than now.

The subjoined resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Association at the recommendation of the Committee:

1. That the tobacco habit is an enormous evil; and that on account of its wastes of money, positive injuries to health, and pernicious example to the young, Christians ought to abandon the use, as a luxury, entirely.

2. That this Association earnestly recommend to all our churches immediate and thorough measures for instructing the people as to the manifold mischiefs flowing from the use of narcotic drugs as well as drinks; and that special efforts be made to guard children and youth from any and every use of tobacco.

3. That a copy of the preceding report be sent to the secretaries of the American Tract Society, with a request that they examine it, with a view to publishing its substance among their standard tracts.—Christian Union.

PASTOR, IS IT RIGHT?

BY MISS LIBBIE CILLEY.

Can you believe it right to use fermented wine at communion? This is a summary of what a F. Baptist pastor told me a few days ago. He said, "My grandfather was a drunkard, and all his love for drink, his overpowering appetite for rum, I have inherited. I have never indulged, it knowing that my only salvation was total abstinence. Before I was converted I kept away from temptation, never going, when possible to avoid it, where men drank. In the army my warfare was with the appetite, but God kept me. He called me to preach, and for years I have given all my time to his service. And I tell you truly, I have never anywhere been so strongly tempted to drink and so nearly lost, as in the pulpit, administering the communion. I have poured the wine, strong, sparkling wine, given it to the deacons, and tasted it when it set my blood on fire and made me nearly insane for more. And after my people had sung a hymn and gone out, I have rushed from the church not daring to stop lest that maddening thirst would conquer, and I should drain the winecups dry. Then would follow hours of agony, then came the victory till the next communion, when the battle must be fought again. I have seen deacons and church members who had been reclaimed from whiskey and converted to temperance, when converted to God, I have seen them gradually fall and, God forgive us! I believe the communion wine was the first downward step. God has kept me so far, but I tell you to-day, I believe it is wrong to so tempt others, to tempt myself, and in the future, I will not, I can not do it. I must refuse, utterly refuse, to administer fermented wine at communion."

Brother pastor, you may not know the temptations this man has felt. God crowns him hero of many a hard-fought battle. But your church may contain just such men. They may and they may not have given themselves this appetite for strong drink. We read, "for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me," etc. Jesus taught us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Again, pastors, can you believe it right to use fermented wine at communion?—Morning Star.

