

## A Clarion Call to Service

**Epworth Leaguers! Heed these timely admonitions from Rev. Dr. Chown.**

**W**E covet your young and whole-souled consecration for the Christianizing of our country. We rejoice in your zeal for missions. Your praise is in all the churches. You have heard and heeded the command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," and we want you to put equal emphasis upon the Master's ultimatum, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you," and, "Beginning at Jerusalem." Be patriots first of all. Measure not your patriotism by the war spirit of the jingo, measure it not by adoration of the flag, nor by your readiness to die for your country, but by the moral upbuilding of the nation. Help us in every part of the Dominion and of Newfoundland to lay the foundations of empire in the cement of righteousness. Help us wipe the tears away from weeping eyes over the northern half of this immense continent. Help us untwine the Union Jack (from around the whistling kettle and throw its protecting folds about the shoulders of the Canadian boy and girl.

Be men and women of vision. Let old men dream dreams of the misty past if they will. Look you out into a future unclouded by sin, and bright with the beams of the Sun of Righteousness. This is a glorious land and it has a divine destiny as surely as Palestine ever had. The Hebrew prophet's destiny flamed up with divine enthusiasm as he thought of Israel as the servant of Jehovah. Our lands also must be His servants. The gaze of the prophets scanned from the mountain tops of Judea but a few acres of consecrated hill and valley. We look out over millions of square miles and we consecrate them all to the Kingdom of God. Let us do this with a thrill of gratitude that we have any part in the great endeavor to make this land (God-Almighty's last opportunity on this planet of building upon virgin soil a Christian nation) worthy of the Kingship of Jesus. The hope of the centuries to come is wrapped up in the activities of this generation.

This is why the General and Field Secretaries of the De-

partment of Temperance and Moral Reform go up and down this land from ocean to ocean and to every place where the Captain of our Salvation is leading out the hosts of Immanuel, to direct and cheer them in the mighty struggle to fulfill in every way the purpose of Him "Who was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil," happy always if in so doing they are enabling Jesus to "see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied."

**PRAY** for us that our faith fall not.

**STUDY** the problems that we study. Study with us how to abate intemperance, how to relieve poverty, to abolish the social evil, to care for the feeble-minded, to reform the criminal, to check the gambling mania, to secure respect for law, to purify the ballot box, to keep the moral blood of the country pure by select immigration. Study these problems and fifty more—for Christianity is ever raising problems and must be, for she is always seeking the ideal, and the climb is arduous,—study these and assist by giving us your best solutions and we shall thank you. If you want suggestions as to reading and study, ask us.

**AND GIVE.** To have the vision God has given us, to see plainly the steps needed to fulfill it, and for lack of money to stand with tied hands, is sometimes exquisite torture. Free us, for the sake of the land you love.

Epworth Leaguers and graduates of the Epworth League have greatly helped us in our temperance campaign. Throw yourselves heartily into them, and by that means climb to self-realization.

But remember in and through it all that Jesus chooses those who are born from above to enter in and build His Kingdom; and that the successful workers are those who love the common people gladly because they are common, and love the common people gladly because they are common, and they need help. We pray you often to remember us in your meetings and in your close, and "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

## Liquor Laws and Their Enforcement

**A Study to Assist Members in Preparing for the Temperance Meeting of March 14th.**

BY REV. S. F. DIXON.

### A FOREWORD.

Members should read Deut. 1: 6; 4: 43, which sets forth God's care of His people in the past as a motive for obedience to His laws. The "statutes and judgments" are ethically expounded rather than technically enumerated.

Deuteronomy tells in part the history and training of a people chosen for a great missionary work, that of blessing all nations.

### LEGISLATION.

There is a law that reaches back to the centuries before Moses, which is now being applied in our land. That law was defined and given its place in Roman Government before the beginning of the Christian Era, in the maxim, "Salus Populi Suprema Lex."—"The public welfare is the supreme law." This is a fundamental law; the application of it may mean permission, restriction or prohibition. If the welfare of the nation demands "permission," then our laws should give us a "free whiskey" policy; if public welfare demands only "restriction," then a "license" system should be ours; if the highest interests of the state demand "prohibition," then no question of "personal liberty" should prevent "total prohibition" of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and this prohibition would include the manufacture, importation and sale. For the law of public welfare is limited only by the welfare itself. Where there is a public necessity, there should be a law to meet it.

There is no such thing as an absolute individual right to do any particular thing, or to eat or drink any particular thing in conflict with the law of public welfare. Except where there is anarchy, personal liberty must be circumscribed for civil liberty.

### MAKING MEN MORAL BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

Some people dismiss the whole question by saying "You can't make men moral by Act of Parliament." That is the very thing our Government is doing every day. No law can compel a man to love his neighbor as himself. But law can, and does, require him to give sixteen ounces to the pound, thirty-six inches to the yard. Law cannot make a man honest in his heart, but it can, and does, make thousands deal fairly with their neighbors and customers, and punishes them if they do not, until many realize that "honesty is the best policy."

People confuse the issue when they speak of prohibitory laws interfering with a man's "personal liberty" or his "conscience." Conscience is a matter between the individual and God; but human law deals not with conscience, but with conduct.

Human legislation does not seek to compel a "conscience void of offence toward God," but it does compel us in our public dealings to conduct legally "void of offence toward men."

The state should protect all citizens in the exercise of their religion in so far as their religion does not undermine the principles of morality, which are essential to the welfare of the state. Polygamy is detrimental to public morals, hence the law of the land prohibits it, even though "religious liberty" be pleaded. The law should, and does, define what the state deems immoral acts, and these are forbidden because the state believes them to be against the public welfare. And if the people come to believe that the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors is a menace to the public, they have a right to demand "Total Prohibition."

### THE CHRISTIAN AND LEGISLATION.

Christ came to establish a kingdom wherein dwelleth righteousness, and we must give more attention to the sociological problems contained in His teaching.

In the Scripture lesson for this topic, the love of God for the nation, as distinguished from the individual, is an especial feature (Deut. 4: 37; 33: 3). And the basis of faithful service is the love of the nation toward God (Deut. 10: 12; 13: 3; 19: 9, 10; 30: 15-20). The relationship of the nation to Jehovah is the spiritual principle that must vitalize and vivify all relationships. The nation is to be "high above all nations, which he hath made, in praise, in name, and in honor." And the laws illustrate how this is to be expressed in national life.

With regard to the use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage, Christian liberty might say, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind," but Christian love would say, "If intoxicating liquor make my brother to offend, I will drink none as a beverage." The Christian citizen's duty is to seek the public welfare by laws that promote righteousness and suppress public evils.

### THE PRINCIPLES OF JESUS.

The three well-known social principles of Jesus will help us to express and enforce our Christian citizenship: