

Said to be a local Toronto



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Wine and the Bible

A MONOGRAPH Wine and the Bible--Alcohol and Ourselves,

BY
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EXPLANATION

In introducing an article of unfermented wine for sacramental purposes last fall, I had occasion to call on a large number of the Ministers of the different denominations that are so well represented in Toronto. And, notwithstanding all that has been written on the subject, I was surprised to find that there was no unanimity of opinion; while nearly all were strongly in favor of its introduction for sacramental purposes, a very large number were in favor of the Alcoholic Wines for medicinal and stimulating purposes when the vital forces were depressed, in cases of slight indisposition as well as those of more pronounced illness. I have also become cognizant of the fact that notwithstanding the very pronounced position that has been assumed by the brightest lights in the Medical profession in Great Britain as to its baneful effects, a very large proportion of our representative Temperance men and physicians entertain the views that obtained in the earlier years of the present temperance agitation when alcohol was supposed to afford, in some indescribable way, a positive and much needed strength.

That this view is erroneous, under the light of more recent scientific investigation, and especially of recently discovered physiological truths, is most apparent, and, as my mind has been specially directed towards an investigation of this most interesting problem, I deem it a sufficient apology for offering the public a compilation of these views.

There is also, apparently, a necessity for something of this kind, which can be offered by the various churches and temperance organizations, that have already accomplished so much, as a "campaign document" at a merely nominal price--and a most liberal discount will be made to temperance and church organizations for free distribution.

Public Sentiment

While most ministers, a limited number of lay-members, and a few medical men have investigated the biblical aspect of the wine question, the majority of persons have not given the subject that consideration which its importance demands. If Christ in performing his first miracle at Cana of Galilee made intoxicating wine, and if Paul recommended Timothy to take a little alcohol for his stomach's sake, then we would unquestionably be justified in using alcoholic wine for sacramental purposes, resorting to it as a stomachic when slightly indisposed, and depending upon it as the safest and best of remedies in cases of great prostration. Until within the last few years these views were the universally accepted ones, and they have undoubtedly been the greatest hindrance to the success of the temperance cause with which we have had to contend. It has been the "stumbling block" of temperance workers, and the breastwork behind which the promoters of intemperance have found their strongest position. These deplorable misapprehensions originated in a mistranslation of a few words in the original manuscript of the Bible, and like rank weeds in a fertile soil have been propagated by custom and the teachings of the medical profession, till they have almost wholly pervaded society.

We purpose entering into a discussion on this subject, and by bringing to the surface golden treasures of truth that were buried during the middle ages, conclusively demonstrate that the Bible does not in any way, or to any extent whatever command or sanction the use of this noxious substance; and that the medical profession are in error in prescribing it as they have done in the past, and are to a very great extent doing at present.