

THE HOME MISSION JOURNAL

VOLUME V, No. 1

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 8, 1903.

WHOLE No. 103

Notice.

To the friends of "THE HOME MISSION JOURNAL," who have helped us during the past year we wish to express our hearty thanks. We begin the new year with a balance in favor of the paper, and if those who are subscribers will send in their renewal with payments during the first quarter of the year, we shall be able to run the paper successfully through 1903. We regard all subscriptions as permanent until ordered to stop. No religious denominational paper can be kept up in any other way. Secular papers, or non-denominational religious papers may afford to stop sending to subscribers when their pay is run out, for they have the whole country to circulate in; and therefore things can be multiplied to a very wide extent. But not so with a denominational paper; it can only look to its own people for support, and patronage, and if the names of subscribers are dropped off the lists when ever the pay ends, there soon will be so few left that the paper will be minus a support.

There are some who are behind with payments for two, three and four years, from whom we should like to hear, and then there are some that let the paper run on for several months after their payments expire and then refuse to take from the post-office, and we get a card from the postmaster saying such a paper, "Refused." Now we have to say again that this is a very unfair way to stop their paper, and it is unlawful too. No paper can be stopped until all arrearages are paid up, and the paper ordered stopped. If after that the publisher still continues to send it, no one is responsible for payment for it. We hope to keep the paper up to its former interest, and value to our readers, and more so if possible. Thanking you all again for your help, and the many kind words that have come to us during the past year, we say cordially, yours,

THE MANAGER.

The Book Universal.

THE strongest proof of the Bible's inspiration that this word of God meets human needs in a way as perfect as it is universal. Some years ago, as a prelude to one of his notable lectures, Mr. Joseph Cook read several letters from men conspicuous and honored in the world of learning and thought, giving, in response to a request, in brief form, reasons for their belief in the Bible inspiration and Christianity's divinity. Reading over the letters one is struck with the fact that no one of these distinguished scholars omits the argument from consciousness, and nearly everyone of them emphasizes that argument as fundamental and convincing. Hear Ex-President Hill, of Harvard saying, "A personal experience of fifty years gives me an absolute knowledge of the saving power of Jesus. His word has a power to rebuke, to cleanse, to comfort incomparably greater than that of any other book." The testimony of this learned man is that of Hallam, that the Bible fits into every corner and crevice of our great humanity. Not so philosophy, education, science. Astronomy points to Uranus and Jupiter, but not to Bethlehem's Star. Geology knows of the earth's strata, but not of the Rock of Ages. Charles Reade, the literature, writes the first line of his own epitaph, "Reade, dramatist, novelist," journalist," but Charles Reade, the Christian, pens the other lines, "I hope for a resurrection,

not from any power in nature, but from the will of the Lord God Almighty."

The Bible alone answers our deepest questions, solves our most intricate problems, illumines our darkest hours. It meets and answers such fundamental, eternity-piercing, ever-recurring queries as these: Is man immortal? Is life a probation? Does probation end at death? Is there hope for the hopeless, purity for the fallen, salvation for the sinner? All these inquiries of soul, and vastly more, are answered both clearly and authoritatively by the infallible word of the Eternal God, which delights to tell of "the better country," the City with foundation," "the inheritance incorruptible," "the prohibition for the sins of the whole world." These sacred oracles are full to overflowing with comforting revelations, that relieve men's consciences, illumine men's intellects, redeem men's spirits, transform men's lives, making them in indeed new creations. They satisfy all and at all times. There can be no night in which they give not a song, no desert in which they furnish no fountain. They impart support in life, peace in death, and a song of sweetest joy in a glad eternity. Sir Isaac Newton places the Bible, and not "Principia" under his dying pillow, and Sir David Brewster, in his last earthly hour, says to his daughter, "Let the Word be near me, for it is sweeter than all else." It was this word that enabled Luther to stand before a Papal Diet, John Knox before an enraged queen, John and Peter before a Jewish Sanhedrin. No heart is too hard for the Bible to melt, no sin too great for the Bible to banish, no life too degraded for the Bible to uplift.

Apart from all other arguments in favor of the Bible truths—arguments external and internal—adduced in support of its authenticity, canonicity, inspiration, we may rest on this, the power of the Word to meet and satisfy all human conditions. Men may attack it as unscientific and behind this age of enlightenment, culture and reform; but so long as it bears along with it everywhere joy in sorrow, peace in perplexity solace in suffering, salvation in sinfulness, so long does it bear with it an argument which neither philosophy can disturb nor scepticism destroy. It has withstood thus far the sophistry of Hume, the transcendental philosophy of Germany, the bold pretensions of Positivism and all kindred attacks made during the last century against its mighty citadel, and remains today as fresh and bright and beautiful as ever, confident that, like its Divine Author, it will remain the same yesterday, today and forever—

Unhurt amid the war of elements.

Wreck of matter and the crash of worlds.

The Cigarette and Business.

BY CHAS. H. STOWELL, M. D.

General Manager of the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

I would give the following reasons for opposing the smoking of cigarettes by boys under twenty-one years of age:

1. It Lessens the Natural Appetite for Food and Injures Digestion.—The boy who smokes has a bad digestion and a poor appetite. Because of this interference with appetite and digestion, the food is not properly digested and assimilated, cellular activity is checked, and the growth and development of the body seriously

interfered with by this early poisoning.

2. It Seriously Affects the Nervous System.—We often hear about the "tobacco heart" of the adult. If tobacco is strong enough to affect the beating of the adult heart, how much stronger must be its effect on the heart of a young person, long before tissues have become fixed. The rush of blood to the head, the dizziness, the unsteady beating of the heart, the distressing dreams—all show how seriously is the nervous system affected.

But a more serious charge can be brought against it under this heading. This effect on the nervous system is sufficient to produce the most marked changes in the mental activity. Recent statements from the University of Michigan, Northwestern University, Yale College, Union College, together with scores of other institutions and hundreds of the most eminent teachers of the country, all testify to the fact that cigarette smoking interferes with scholarship.

3. It Lowers the Moral Tone.—Boys who would not tell a lie on any other matter, not for a fortune, our best and noblest boys, do not seem to hesitate a moment to tell any kind of a falsehood in order to keep from their parents the fact that they are smoking cigarettes. They hide the cigarettes. They smoke them away from home. They try in every way to conceal the truth. Indeed, they will do all manner of things in order to deceive those who are nearest and dearest to them.

4. It Creates a Craving for Strong Drink.—There has been a great deal of discussion on this point, but I am convinced that the statement is logically true. The hot smoke from the cigarette tends to make the mouth and throat dry and creates a peculiar sinking sensation in the stomach. Water may temporarily relieve this dryness and may temporarily check the sinking sensation. But with the moral tone lowered and the mental power weakened, the desire to yield to the first temptation is strengthened, because of the slimy excuse that the boy must have something to wet his throat. In other words, the boy who smokes more easily accepts an invitation to a treat than one who does not smoke.

5. It Is a Filthy and Offensive Habit.—No matter how stealthily the boy may do his work, sooner or later his clothing becomes saturated with the odor of tobacco.

6. It Is Expensive.—Boys should not be taught how to uselessly expend money. Parents, friends and teachers should give the directly opposite advice.

7. It Is Unlawful.—In nearly every State in the Union there are most stringent laws forbidding the furnishing of cigarettes or tobacco to minors under a certain age. In most of these States there are laws against selling to such minors. Take the District of Columbia, the home of our nation, and we find that 257 physicians, 524 officers and teachers of the public schools, and the trustees of the public schools, and 86 pastors of churches petitioned Congress for the passage of a bill prohibiting the selling, giving, or furnishing tobacco to any person under sixteen years of age.

8. Why Cigarette Smoking Is Not Allowed Among the Boys in Our Employ.—The above reasons are a sufficient answer. But a close observation for many years among the boys employed by this company has shown that those who are most energetic, active, alert, quick, sly, do not smoke; while the listless, lazy, dull, sleepy, uninteresting and uninterested boys are, we find upon investigation, those who smoke cigarettes.—The Business World.