



**Alcohol Catechism.**

(Dr. R. H. Macdonald, of San Francisco.)

**CHAPTER 1.—THE WINES OF THE BIBLE.**

1. Q.—What is wine?  
 A.—The juice of the grape, fermented or unfermented, is called wine.
2. Q.—Why do we have wine spoken of in the Bible, as good to drink, when we know that wine will make a man drunk?  
 A.—There are two kinds of wine spoken of in the Bible, the fermented wine, or that which contains alcohol, and the unfermented, which contains no alcohol.
3. Q.—Where is wine first mentioned in the Bible?  
 A.—Gen. ix., 21, 'And he (Noah) drank of the wine and was drunken.'
4. Q.—If Noah was such a good man why did he get drunk?  
 A.—It is possible that this was the first time he drank fermented wine, and did not know that it would make him drunk.
5. Q.—How is wine spoken of in the Bible?  
 A.—In three ways. First, where there is nothing to tell whether the fermented or unfermented is meant.
- Second, where it is spoken of as the cause of misery, and as the emblem of punishment and of eternal wrath.
- Third, where it is mentioned as a blessing.
6. Q.—As our English Bible uses the word wine in many cases as meaning any one of these three, how do we know that intoxicating wine is not always meant?  
 A.—Because the Bible was first written in Hebrew, Chaldee and Greek; different words were used, which have all been translated wine in our English Bible, without always saying what kind of wine it was.
7. Q.—Can you give us two of the Hebrew words meaning wine?  
 A.—Yes, Tirosh and Shekar.
8. Q.—What is the meaning of Tirosh?  
 A.—Tirosh means 'must,' new wine, 'unfermented wine.' Gen. xxvii., 28, 37; Micah vi., 15; Isa. lxx., 8.
9. Q.—How is it spoken of?  
 A.—It is spoken of as a blessing.
10. Q.—How did the Jews use the best of this wine?  
 A.—'All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine (tirosh) . . . they shall offer unto the Lord.' Num. xviii., 12.
11. Q.—How is Shekar spoken of?  
 A.—As an evil or curse, as strong drink; it means the fermented wine. Lev. x., 9.
12. Q.—What is fermented wine?  
 A.—Wine that contains alcohol.
13. Q.—How many texts in the Old Testament, which was written in Hebrew and Chaldee, warn us against wine?  
 A.—The Rev. Dr. Ritchie, of Scotland, tells us there are seventy-one texts in the Hebrew Scriptures or Old Testament containing warnings and reproof against wine.
14. Q.—What does another greater writer, Dr. F. R. Lees, tell us?  
 A.—That there are twelve texts which denounce wine as poisonous and venomous.
15. Q.—How do those texts describe it?  
 A.—As destroying and deceiving; the 'poison of dragons and the venom of asps.'
16. Q.—Do any texts prohibit it?  
 A.—Nine prohibit it in certain cases, and five totally prohibit it.
17. Q.—What is then clear to us about the wine of the Bible?  
 A.—That there was good wine, fit to drink, with no alcohol in it, and evil wine containing alcohol which we are not to drink.
18. Q.—What learned men positively state that unfermented wines existed and were used in Bible lands and times?  
 A.—Moses Stuart, Eliphlet Nott, Alonzo Potter, George Bush, Albert Barnes, William M. Jacobus, Taylor Lewis, George W. Samson, F. R. Lees, Norman Kerr and Canon Farrar.
- 'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.'—Hosea, 4th chapter, 5th verse.

**Isn't It Strange.**

Into a home came a poor, wretched working woman, who sighed as she worked until those about her listened and queried. The

answer came: 'A drunken husband, ma'am.'

'And are your little children afraid when he comes home?'

'More afraid than they would be of a bear or a lion.'

Then, breaking down utterly, she continued, between sobs:—'I'm but a poor, ignorant woman, I don't know much; but sometimes I wonder why good people don't spend as much time, money and strength in shutting up the saloon at my corner once for all, as they spend in shutting up my Pat on the Island time and time again.'

Shall we not make reply to this question by becoming God's executives, in seeking to answer the prayers of breaking hearts?—Mrs. F. J. Barnes, Supt. 'Y.' Branch, World's W. C. T. U., in 'C. E. World.'

**Refreshing Water.**

Nature droops and flags without water. How soon a plant begins to fade and wither unless it gets its water supply. How soon it recovers when water is given to it. So the body is refreshed and nourished by water. We may learn this important lesson, that if any one is refreshed by alcoholic liquors, it is the water alone that can do that work, and therefore, it is better for us to use it pure and simple than when mixed with so dangerous a substance as alcohol.

**True to Principle.**

Louis Albert Banks tells, in the 'Union Signal,' of a Poughkeepsie business man, a widow's son, who started as a confectioner. He prospered in business, and became also a sincere Christian. By and by his principles were tested:

'One of his friends, who was one of the richest young men in the community and the best customer he had, came to his shop one day and ordered ten pounds of brandy drops. The young confectioner did not make these, but he ordered them from New York by express. Before they came, however, his conscience began to trouble him. Was he doing right in having a hand in selling these brandy candies? He knew that the young man who had ordered them would give them out among the young men and the young women of his acquaintance, and the result might be that more than one would get their first taste of intoxicating drink in that way, and no one could tell what sad result would come of it. On the other hand, if he refused to accommodate his customer, he would no doubt lose his friendship and his trade, and only drive him to someone else who would procure them for him. He could not sleep that night, and the more he thought about it, the more thoroughly convinced he became that it was not a Christian thing to have part in any way in putting temptation in the way of another. Having come to this conclusion, he acted with promptness and firmness. When the brandy drops came he immediately expressed them back to the wholesale firm in New York, and when the young man came around after them he frankly told him what he had done, and why. As he expected, the young man was very angry, and was full of contempt for him on account of what he called his "fanatical notions."

'That was the parting of the ways for these two young men. The poor young confectioner, that stood by his principles has grown to be a wealthy and honored citizen, while the rich young tippler has long since gone to a dishonored grave, eaten up by his sinful lusts and appetites as Herod was eaten by worms.

'Our young hero maintained the same attitude as his business enlarged and broadened. He became after a while a caterer, and on his business cards through all the years, he has kept the plain and simple statement that not only would "no wines and liquors be furnished by him," but he will not permit his servants to serve at a feast or dinner where they are used. He has many times lost hundreds and thousands of dollars by this fidelity to principle, but it has never tempted him to swerve for a moment; and, perhaps, in the long run, he has gained by it, even financially. His splendid fidelity to principle has been a great object lesson for good to all who have known him, and has helped by example and influence to banish the punch-bowl and the wine-glass from many a wedding feast and public dinner in that part of the country.

'When the great Poughkeepsie railway bridge was nearing completion, a big dinner was given to the railway men of the coun-

try at that place. Our friend, as the leading caterer of the region, was secured for the occasion. But as the time drew near, and he found they intended to use wines, he refused absolutely to have anything to do with it, and so steadfastly did he abide by his purpose, that the wines were banished.

'Who can tell how wide the influence for good such a business man spreads through the community? Like Peter's healing shadow, on whomsoever the influence of such a man falls, its effect is to strengthen him in purity and righteousness of life.'—'Safe-guard.'

**Correspondence**

Humboldt, Kans.

Dear Editor,—There is a large river running through this town. The name of it is the Neosho river. There are lots of fish in it of several different kinds. This town has about 1,000 inhabitants, and it has natural gas and petroleum oil wells. They bore 1,000 feet for it. We burn gas, and mother likes it better than any other fuel. I go to the Presbyterian Sunday-school. I have ridden on the train lots of times. I think when I get to be a man I shall be baggage-master on the passenger train. We have a good garden. The corn prospects are good for a big crop. My birthday is on Jan. 15.

ERWIN H. (Age 10.)

Canard, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I live in the country three miles from the nearest town. I go to school every day when there is school. I have one brother but no sister. My father is a farmer. We have four horses and two colts, eleven cows and two calves, two hundred and thirty chickens and a great many hens, sixty young ducks and six old ones, and over thirty turkeys. We have a cat and a dog; the dog's name is 'Max.' He churns the butter, and he is twelve years old. My brother has taken the 'Northern Messenger' for a long time. I like it very much; papa says it is the best paper that comes to the house. I am a member of the White Ribbon Army. I go to Sunday-school every Sunday.

MARION E. (Age 10.)

Boyle School District, Man.

Dear Editor,—We get the 'Northern Messenger' at Sunday-school. We like it very much. We are farming. Our grain is not fenced so the cattle get on it; then I have to go after them on my pony. His name is 'Ned.' I have read about twenty-five books; I will name a few of them: 'Bessie in the City,' 'Bessie at the Seaside,' 'Elsie Dinsmore,' 'Three People,' 'Ester Reid,' 'Black Beauty,' 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' and 'Alice in Wonderland.' We have several house plants. This is a good farming district. I go to school with Sadie McK., and I am acquainted with Agnes S. who wrote some time ago. My sister Myrtle is writing too. Wishing you all a pleasant vacation, I remain, your friend,

MAGGIE IRENA H. (Age 14.)

Greeley, Col., U.S.

Dear Editor,—I wrote a letter to the 'Messenger' a year ago and will write one more this year. I go to school in winter, but not in summer. We have lots of flowers and a fine garden. We subscribed for the 'Northern Messenger' again this year and I think it is a very fine paper for children to read. I don't care much for reading, but I always like to read the 'Messenger.' I have one sister but no brothers. We have some chickens and a dog for pets. The dog's name is 'Babe.' My birthday is on December 18, just one week before Christmas. I like to ride on horses and bicycles. I am 13 years old. I live in Greeley, Colorado. I like to live in Denver the best.

CLARA R.

Brantford, Ont.

Dear Editor,—My dear brother and I get the 'Northern Messenger' every Sunday. We like it very much. We live next door to the school. I pass into the senior third and my little brother into the part second. We have a cat and it is a pet. Walter loves it very much; and we have a birdie nine years old.

NELLIE AND WALTER H. (Age 10 and 7.)