

the conviction that if believing parents exercised that faith in God for each child given them that is practicable to them, there would be no more peradventure about their children's being one in spirit and in destiny with them than there is of to-morrow's sunrise. God would make such disclosures to them as to awaken in their hearts King David's prescience of the Divine mercy, when he exclaimed: "O Lord God, Thou hast spoken also of Thy servant's house for a great while to come."

The application of this subject to the present uprising of the Lord's people in missionary enterprise is apparent.

What is now most needed? Is it that God should open the gates of entrance into pagan lands? Where is there a people on earth where Christianity is not welcome? Is it that treasures should accumulate in the vaults of God's people? The very wealth of the Church is its peril. What, then, is the present crying necessity? There is no question here; the demand is for young men and women consecrated by parental faith to Divine uses, and especially to the missionary service. The want of this faith, consecrating children to this sublime work, is the most sorry aspect of the Christian world to-day.

EDITORIAL SECTION.

LIVING ISSUES FOR PULPIT TREATMENT.

The Liquor Traffic and Law.

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THE evils of the liquor traffic, the place and importance of moral suasion, and the propriety of some law in the matter are not in question in this paper. These are admitted on all hands. The point now to be noticed is, What law? or, How much law may be applied to the liquor business?

Two methods are before the public mind—license and prohibition—only these two; for all forms of license, whether more or less restrictive, are in principle and tendency the same. And the same is true of prohibition, whether as local option or on a larger scale. At the principles and facts involved in these, without regard to political organizations or party bearings, we propose now to look.

License has been long in operation, and can, therefore, be fairly judged by its nature and its results. As to its nature, it grants to certain parties the privilege, not otherwise possessed, of dealing in intoxicating drinks as common beverages. We say *not otherwise*

possessed with emphasis, for the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that "there is no inherent right in a citizen to sell intoxicating liquors by retail." This decision has been sanctioned also by the highest courts in several States. It underlies, too, the very idea of license; for why license if a man may follow the business of his own mere choice?

It follows, then, inevitably that license is responsible for the existence of the business. It can neither begin nor last without license. License is both father and mother to the traffic. It gives it being. With the people, then, who grant the license rests the responsibility of creating and continuing the business. There is no getting away from this conclusion. The whole system is built on the phrase, "Necessary for the public good." The people wish and make it for themselves. Even the South Carolina law, recently adopted, in which the State becomes the rum-seller, and which, perhaps, is the least harmful form of license ever devised, implies this. The State—*i.e.*, the people, take the thing into their own hands. It is sheer folly and shirking of responsi-