

riage, if I have to conclude that he says what he feels, I may not think him a fool, but I strongly suspect that he is a blackguard. Keep marriage before you as a sacred goal, and as an incentive to put out the best there is in you in order to reach it. Do more than this, resolve that when you enter this covenant you will carry into it as clean a conscience about the past as you expect her to have who gives her happiness into your keeping."

"Another way in which you may defile this temple of the body is by the habit of betting. We usually speak of 'betting and gambling,' but the latter term includes and covers transactions so wide in extent and complex in their nature as to make it impossible for me in this address to do more than refer to them. I shall not affirm that betting is necessarily a sin, but I do state it as my conviction that its tendency and results are practically always in that direction. William Cobbett—than whom no man has ever written more sensibly to young men—says that betting is always criminal in itself, or in what it leads to. The root of it is covetousness, a desire to take from others something for which you have given and intend to give, no equivalent."

It is to insult our intelligence to deny that, comprehensively speaking, the basis of betting is cupiditv, and cupiditv of a particularly dangerous kind. There may be exceptions, but they are scarcely worth mentioning; whatever may be the inception of the habit of betting, it almost inevitably roots itself in greed; and it is greed that consumes character like a furnace. Almost any kind of amusement, not accompanied with betting, is, to an increasing number of people, as insipid as water is to the palate of a brandy drinker. In the case of young men the habit does two things: It gives rise to false and ruinous impressions, and it murders the soul.

"And once more we may defile the temple of the body by drunkenness. My appeal is to young men, and I say to you without qualification, without a suspicion of mental reservation, you do not need strong drink. Settle it with yourselves, that there are no conditions in your life which can be called normal, and few that are abnormal, where you need the drink, and that to trifle with a thing so unnecessary, and yet so dangerous, is moral idiocy.

I plead with you to take high ground in your conceptions of the duty you owe to yourselves and to your day and opportunities. As a nation we have to conquer drunkenness, or it will go far to conquer the nation. We have the right to ask you to quit yourselves like men in mighty attack upon this devil's trinity of impurity, gambling and drunkenness. Face this work of conquest first by self-conquest, and you will find the need of a help not yourselves and greater than yourselves. And the help will come: "I can do all things, said the Apostle, through Christ which strengtheneth me."

We would like to see a copy of this book in every Sunday School and public library in the land. It should be widely read.

It is said that a number of Jewish financiers and philanthropists have decided to raise a fund of \$100,000,000 to found a great Jewish colony in Mesopotamia. Mr. Jacob B. Schiff is aiding the scheme, and has laid his proposals before the Jewish territorial organization.

Only satire would call Central America Christian to-day. Its people are lapsing into paganism, even as the Haitian negroes have lapsed into African voodooism. By people one means the native Indian, who, with those of half Indian blood, make up nearer four-fifths than three-fourths of the 3,000,000 who live between Mexico and Costa Rica.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

The fight over the budget still goes merrily on in the British parliament. No one seems to know what the House of Lords is going to do with it—pass the bill in its entirety or reject it, and force an appeal to the people, the only two courses open to them, for they have no power to amend. Lord Lansdowne says the Lords will fight, because they do not believe the people generally favor the taxes proposed by Mr. Lloyd-George, but the London Daily Mail, which represents the democratic wing of the Tory party, admits that the country generally approves of the proposal to tax the lands of the wealthy and relieve the middle and poorer classes of taxation which would otherwise fall upon them. The Mail has an enormous circulation, and what it says goes with a large class which politically might be supposed to be opposed to the Government. Several recent by-elections seem to indicate that popular opinion is with the Government.

A unique system of campaigning is being inaugurated. Several members of the Cabinet have spoken into the gramophone, and their speeches will be reproduced at meetings at which they cannot be present. Their arguments in favor of the Budget, which is the question on which the next elections will turn, will thus reach a large number who have votes, but never read the newspapers. The gramophone as a campaigner may thus serve a very useful purpose. It might well be employed to reproduce sermons as well as political speeches.

The female suffragettes in England have adopted a peculiar method of trying to secure votes. When sent to jail for disorderly conduct, as a large number have been, they refuse to eat. How that will help them to secure the franchise it is difficult to see. If disposed to starve themselves, let them starve.

The prisons of Canada are, notwithstanding the prosperous times, fuller than ever. But it is not that Canadians are becoming less law-abiding. Foreign immigration is largely the cause of this congestion. Notwithstanding that many undesirables are deported an element is finding its way in that is not desirable. The various churches must do all they can to reach this class.

The Church of England in Canada has been in the habit of holding its meetings of Synod invariably at the headquarters of the diocese where the bishop has his residence. The diocese of Huron is, however, about to adopt the Presbyterian plan of meeting at different points, thus awakening a greater interest in the work of the church. It appears that under the canon the Bishop can summon the Synod to meet at any time and in any place, but Bishop Williams asked for an expression of opinion, and the Synod voted in favor of the peripatetic system.

The late Miss Alice Mary Swift, of Earlsfort Mansions, Dublin, left about £4,500, or more than one-half of her entire estate, to various homes for forsaken and starving cats.

HINDUISM WAS MASKED.

It is good to have the mask lifted and to see things as they are. If Hinduism or any other heathen religion is good enough we should know it. It would save much labour and expense. If, however, millions of souls are enslaved by a system of lewdness and moral insanity, such as Dr. Nugent describes Hinduism to be, and as he himself saw it and describes it, then our duty is plain. No sacrifice is too great in order to break these terrible chains and set the captives free.

"The great Hindoo Mela, or conference, which is held at Ujjain every twelfth year, has just come to a close. Between forty and fifty thousand of India's holy men (or clergy), known as Sadhus, were here for a month. During the last few days of the festival it was estimated that about six hundred thousand Hindus were in attendance.

This being a Native State, the rules and regulations which are in force in all other places in India where this Mela is held were to a large extent unobserved. This gave us an opportunity which even the oldest members of our staff have never had, of seeing what Hinduism is when external restraints of morality and decency are removed. What we saw was not the Hinduism Hindoo delegates to the Congress of Religions told us about. Neither is it the Hinduism we read about in books on comparative religions. Some of our broad-minded theologians who have visited India during the last decade should have visited this Mela before painting imaginary Hinduism in false colors. Thousands of these Sadhus were clothed only in Nature's garb. Were I even to hint at some of the abominations openly and daily practiced in the name of religion, friends in the home land would be horrified.

I am enclosing the least objectionable photo I could secure, which is, I think, scarcely within the limits of the law. It was difficult to get a number together even scantily clad. A study of the faces of those Sadhus, who are supposed to have given up the world and worldly things, does not impress the conviction that they have travelled very far into the heavenlies.

Wicked men in Western lands secretly commit abominations. At this Mela professedly the most religious and influential men of India in the name of Hinduism openly practised a degree of filthiness unknown in the West.

Hinduism seen thus is not a tree into which Christianity can be grafted. The only hope in India is the complete rejection of this monstrous impurity and the acceptance of Christ as her wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. We pray that this may be the last appearance of this vile festival in Ujjain."

This was a great Hindu religious congress attended by from forty to fifty thousand holy men—Hindu saints—for a whole month. Surely if there is anything good in Hinduism it will be in evidence here? Dr. Nugent lives in Ujjain, has lived there for years, and does his work there. He was under favourable conditions for seeing and interpreting, and he is not an unsympathetic man. He would not willingly misinterpret or put wrong construction on what he saw. Yet what he did see instead of saintliness looks like a glimpse of Hell. Satanic inspiration itself could hardly produce worse. But his letter, necessarily veiled, speaks for itself.

Dr. Nugent's prayer will receive a hearty response from every lover of his fellowmen.

R. P. MACKAY.

Toronto, Aug., 1909.

China and Japan were a short time ago considered to be on the verge of war. They have, however, settled their differences without an appeal to arms, and have thus set an example to Christian nations, which, it is to be hoped, they will not be slow to follow.