

Conserving the Boys and Girls

(NOTE: At the Bowmanville District Epworth League Convention, in a discussion on the work of the Junior League, Mrs. Lee, of Enniskillen, gave the following address. We believe it contains an important message, and ask for its careful perusal by all who have the highest interests of our children at heart.—Ed.)

Mrs. Lee said: "I would like to start off this discussion along the line of conserving our boys and girls. One of the *Gleaner* notes says: 'The Juniors of to-day will be the Seniors of to-morrow.'"

Every year on this earth of ours 32,000,000 people die and 39,000,000 are born, and so it is only too true that the future men and women of the world, and, coming nearer home, of our Canada, will be just exactly what our present generation is making of our boys and girls. For they are so truly the creatures of their environment. Very few of us realize to what extent we are influenced thereby.

We are hearing a great deal about Canada to-day. She is rapidly making history, but let me tell you that it is neither her railways nor her wheat fields that constitute her chief asset, but her boys and girls; and it lies with us largely to determine whether they shall be saved for the Kingdom of Christ or stolen from us to swell Satan's host. Christian boys and girls are a nation's noblest heritage.

Speaking of environment, let us start in the home and at the beginning, and let me say that every child's birthright should be a healthy physical body, for that is the foundation of character, and no parents have a right, because of ignorance, indiscretion, selfish gratification or dissipation, to bring a child into the world physically handicapped. I wish every young person in this audience could have heard Dr. Slemmon's address the other evening in our League, on "Alcoholism and Heredity." It would at least have set you thinking, and made you realize that the physical conditions of the next generation will depend to a very large extent on the manner of living now.

Take it for granted that our boys and girls are physically sound, and that young children belong to Christ, we must devote our best talent to keeping them in the fold.

If we are to hold them,—and let us cling to good old England's motto, "What we have we hold,"—then it is necessary to have strong, morally clean and spiritually pure men and women as their leaders, for children need less of criticism and more of example.

Boys and girls are hero-worshippers. Let us strive to have in their leaders something to imitate and pattern after—an ideal for them.

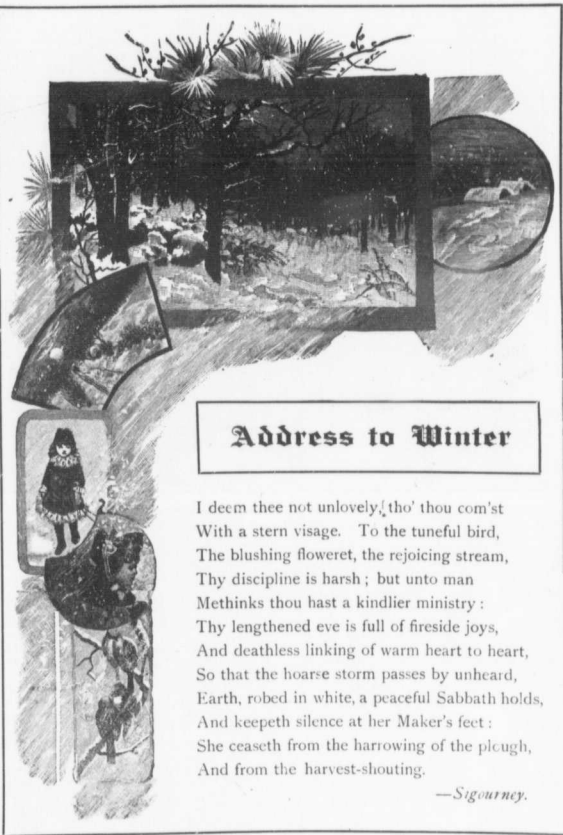
Do not appoint as a leader of boys a tobacco user, a user of profane language, a professing Christian at home but a hail-fellow when he is with "the boys" in some back room of a hotel a few miles away from home, a man who holds woman's honor lightly, nor a man who, though his name may figure prominently on the church roll, will in his political life vote for a party because it had always been his party, even though it upheld measures which were the greatest hindrance to God's cause in our country. But, oh, if it be possible, let us set before our boys men whose lives are guided by sound principle, not insane prejudice, and who will support the right cause irrespective of party.

Let us select leaders for our girls with the strongly maternal instinct, who feel a motherly love for all young girls, and who realize that there is greater reward even in this world in helping

some girl's life to shine out brightly for Christ than to have a fine cabinet of cut glass and silver, or a more up-to-date afternoon tea or "At Home" than their neighbors. If the women of this world who spend their lives in frivolous manner would be at home to their own families, instructing their sons and daughters in true ideas and standards of life, we would have fewer divorce cases, and a more ideal and God-like state of society. Don't put gilded butterflies in as leaders of your girls

pect in return beautiful flowers or glossy foliage; we cultivate with much labor our trees and bushes and expect fruit in return. And we take the child life and feed, clothe, nurture, train and educate it, and in the end we expect fruit, not selfishness, but service for others. And with all three we get out of each just exactly what we have put into them.

Put responsibility on the boys and girls. They'll measure up to it. Give them work. Keep them busy. Let them realize that their Leaguiship is not to be on a passenger ship, but that every one is part of the working crew. Let



Address to Winter

I deem thee not unlovely, tho' thou com'st
With a stern visage. To the tuneful bird,
The blushing floweret, the rejoicing stream,
Thy discipline is harsh; but unto man
Methinks thou hast a kindlier ministry:
Thy lengthened eve is full of fireside joys,
And deathless linking of warm heart to heart,
So that the hoarse storm passes by unheard,
Earth, robed in white, a peaceful Sabbath holds,
And keepeth silence at her Maker's feet:
She ceaseth from the harrowing of the plough,
And from the harvest-shouting.

—*Sigourney.*

if you wish them to develop Christian womanhood.

Have leaders for both who will not let mock modesty deter them, but who will follow the dictates of conscience, and who will have purity talks with our young; for fathers and mothers in the great majority of cases have sadly neglected this most important side of child education. I am convinced that more than three-quarters of the sins are committed through ignorance rather than wilfulness.

We carefully nurture a plant and ex-

us put forth every endeavor to hold our young in Sunday School and Junior League, and not have to try to save them after they have fallen, for "Prevention is better than cure."

"Heaven is not reached at a single bound;
But we build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit round by round.