

**A WRECKED LIFE.**

A SAD STORY.

J. J. Talbot of Indianapolis died at South Bend, Ind., aged 69. In early life he studied for the ministry and became a Methodist clergyman. Subsequently, after his marriage at Louisville, he joined the Episcopal Church and had charge of a wealthy pastorate, and during the Rebellion acted as chaplain for a Kentucky regiment. He left the ministry and became a lawyer. He was at one time a member of Congress from Kentucky. He finally yielded to an inherited appetite for strong drink, and fell to a very low level, but was reclaimed, and became a very effective advocate of temperance. He was the head of the Order of Good Templars in Indiana.

Hon. Schuyler Colfax, in a recent letter referring to his death, says of Mr. Talbot: "He has made hundreds of eloquent and touching appeals for temperance all over our State within the past two years, but told me that the appetite would sometimes become so insatiate as to almost defy control, though he prayed on bended knee for strength to resist it. I remember the terrible picture of his own experience copied in the enclosed article. He delivered it here, to a crowded audience, hundreds of whom, like myself, were in tears, and he uttered it in desponding tones that seemed almost like the wail of the lost, and as if he felt his impending doom was inevitable."

We quote the following extract referred to by Mr. Colfax:

"But now that the struggle is over I can survey the field and measure the losses. I had position high and holy. This demon tore from around me the robes of my sacred office, and sent me forth churchless and godless, a very hissing and by-word among men; afterward I had business, large and lucrative, and my voice in all large courts was heard pleading for justice, mercy and the right. But the dust gathered on my unopened books, and no footfall crossed the threshold of the drunkard's office. I had moneys ample for all necessities, but they took wings and went to feed the coffers of the devils which possessed me. I had a home adorned with all that wealth and the most exquisite taste could suggest. This devil crossed this threshold and the light faded from its chambers; the fire went out on the holiest of altars, and, leading me through its portals, despair walked forth with her, and sorrow and anguish lingered within. I had children, beautiful to me, at least, as a dream of the morning, and they had so entwined themselves around their father's heart that, no matter where it might wander, ever it came back to them on the bright wings of a father's undying love. This destroyer took their hands in his and led them away. I had a wife whose charms of mind and person were such that to see her was to remember, and to know her was to love. . . . For thirteen years we walked the rugged path of life together, rejoicing in its sunshine and sorrowing in its shade. The infernal monster couldn't spare me even this. I had a mother who for long years had not left her chair, a victim of suffering and disease, and her choicest delight was in reflection that the lessons

she had taught at her knee had taken root in the heart of her youngest born, and that he was useful to his fellows and an honor to her who bore him. But the thunderbolt reached even there, and there it did its most cruel work. Ah! me; never a word of reproach from her lips—only a tender caress; only a shadow of a great and unspoken grief gathering over the dear old face; only a trembling hand laid more lovingly on my head, only a closer clinging to the cross; only a more piteous appeal to Heaven if her cup at last were not full. And while her boy raved in his wild delirium two thousand miles away, the pitying angels pressed the golden gates ajar, and the mother of the drunkard entered into rest.

"And thus I stand: a clergyman without a cure; a barrister without a brief or business; a father without a child; a husband without a wife; a son without a parent; a man with scarcely a friend; a soul without a hope—all swallowed up in the maelstrom of drink."

The immediate cause of the death of Mr. Talbot, who was suffering from a recent relapse into intemperance, was inflammation of the stomach and congestion of the brain. After a fierce struggle he died with a hope of divine favor.

ACADIA.—The Calendar of Acadia University recently issued, announces the inauguration of a new four years' course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science. This course, though differentiated from the B. A. course, is true to the purpose of furnishing a liberal education. Its special features are that it does not include Latin or Greek, but makes compulsory French and German; that it utilizes the existing excellent Manual Training Plant, which hitherto has been an adjunct simply of Horton Academy, and provides for shop-work in wood and iron, that it offers courses in free-hand and mechanical drawing, and descriptive geometry; and includes in addition to the mathematics and science subjects of the Arts Course, a number of new subjects in pure science. The student who has mastered this course, will have secured a broad, liberal culture, and will at the same time be admirably prepared to enter upon the third year of any of the courses of applied science in the best technical institution.

**GOOD CITIZENSHIP.**

An article in the *Canadian Churchman* discusses good citizenship forcibly and wisely. What it says about political duties and responsibilities is well worthy careful consideration. We reproduce part of the article:

"There are certain characteristics of a good citizen which may be emphasized. He will recognize authority and that the powers that be are ordained by God. Such a one will 'render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's,' and should see the immorality of resisting law, passively, or otherwise, or of evading it, though perfectly free to agitate for its change or abolition.

"Another duty of a good citizen is to always use the franchise, and to vote as his reason and conscience dictate for the men and measure submitted to his choice. There will always be partisans, but the safety and welfare of the State are in the hands of the great body of the electorate, who can when necessary

rise above mere party considerations, and in his public capacity do what is best for his country as a whole, unmoved by fear and uninfluenced by prejudice or self-seeking.

"Once more, a good citizen will be ready to serve the nation or the community at the sacrifice of ease or personal comfort. It is complained that men of high education are hard to find for legislative and municipal positions, and that as a consequence the standard of public life is lowered and corruption more or less prevails in political and public affairs. No doubt public positions and the conditions attaching to them are oftentimes irksome and unpleasant in the extreme, and call for great labors and sacrifices, yet nevertheless so great are the opportunities of doing good that our best citizens should be ready to serve, and should be supported by their citizens in so doing, and public labors and honors be not left to the incompetent, self-seeking, and not unfrequently unworthy members of society."

**"BLEACHED NEGROES."**

Bishop Turner, of the African Methodist Church, declares that "God made only black men." He says:

"The Jews originally were dark-skinned. Jesus was not a white man. God never made a white man. In the beginning all men were black, but in their wanderings on the earth many of them have become bleached. And in their unnatural pallor many of these bleached men, all of whom were made black at the beginning, now look with contempt and indifference—often with prejudice and hate—upon their brothers, the Negroes, who have retained the color that God gave them."

The bishop objects to his people learning such songs as "Wash me and I Shall be Whiter Than Snow."

THE JERUSALEM CONVENTION.—When all the delegates were enrolled at the beginning of the World's Sunday School Convention in Jerusalem, on April 11, they numbered 1,526, from 25 countries, distributed as follows: United States, 701; Jerusalem, 377; England, 206; Palestine, 72; Canada, 63; Scotland, 31; Turkey in Asia, 19; Ireland, 11; Japan, 6; Wales, 5; India, 5; Mexico, 5; Bulgaria, 3; Egypt, 3; Russia, 1; Switzerland, 3; Denmark, 2; West Indies, 2; Turkey in Europe, 3; Australia, 2; Austria, 1; Germany, 1; Maderia, 1; South Africa, 1; New Zealand, 1; Newfoundland, 1. By denominations, the enrollment was: Church of England, 231; Presbyterian, 199; other Presbyterian bodies, 22; Baptists, 188; Congregational, 177; Methodists, 230; Greek Orthodox, 43; Lutheran, 32; Friends, 28; thirty-four other bodies, 175; not mentioned, 197.

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