

TEMPERANCE

Why Should A Church Member Belong To The W C T U?

By Mrs. Sarah D. La Fetra.

Do not the regular lines of church work sufficiently include work for temperance? Why should a busy church member be long to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union? We answer, we belong:

(1). Because we believe that the saloon and its allies are the greatest obstacles which lie in the way of the triumph of Christ and His church in the world. The open saloons is blocking the highways along which must come the King in His beauty, and His triumphal reign cannot be ushered in until the dramshop is cleared and institutions for man's elevation are substituted. The altars of our church are pitifully devoid of young men, and the pitfalls of vice in our large cities are crowded with them. Thus they are drawn farther and farther away from purity, the influence of mother's prayers, and the restraining and helpful ordinances of the church.

(2). We belong because there is a stultifying lethargy on the part of the average church member regarding the evils of the saloon and a disposition to evade responsibility. Consequently, the aroused and consecrated worker for souls must organize, agitate, and cry aloud in behalf of "the slain of the daughters of my people." It is not enough that we offer a prayer occasionally for the downfall of the drink traffic; not enough that we have quarterly temperance Sunday school lessons, and once or twice a year a good temperance sermon; not enough that the church periodically pass strong resolutions against the sale of intoxicating liquors. All these are good but radical evils must have radical remedies, and the rank and file of our churches are conservative and slow to adopt any such measure.

(3) We belong because, while the evils of the saloons is almost universally acknowledged by the churches, and yet there are weapons which must be wielded against the saloon before it is abolished which now cannot be freely advocated under the auspices of the church without dissension, which would be deplorable to many, even of our own white ribbons. The church has not washed its hands from complicity with the saloon, and while declaring "that the liquor traffic cannot be legalized without sin," a majority of the voting membership sanctions its perpetuation by their ballots, thereby insuring to the traffic the protection of government. In John's second epistle we read: "He that biddeth him godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds." Does not government licence bid godspeed to the saloon? It is clear to us that the liquor traffic must be outlawed by the vote of the church, but these subjects cannot be freely discussed under her auspices without a pitiful outcry of "political preaching," restriction of man's personal liberty," etc.

(4) We belong because the W C T U wipes out denominational lines in Christian work against this common foe to all and realizes the Saviour's prayer that "they all may be one." This blending of women at the mercy seal has brought to them such a revelation of the Holy Spirit's power, such depths of love and peace and joy, that they are conscious that His favour crowns their work and that "He will finally subdue all enemies under His feet."

(5) We belong because the missionary work of all our churches is handicapped in foreign countries by the rum sent out from this and other so called Christian lands, to the native whom our missionaries are making every sacrifice to reach and save. Contracts are made with citizens of this country to send thousands of gallons of rum per day to the Free State of the Congo, that gain may come into the unsanctified coffers of the rum trade. Mrs Mary Clement Leavitt, our first round-the-world missionary, found whole villages drunk with rum sent from the United States and Christian England, when she arrived with her message of gospel purity and love. God have pity, for the blood of these natives is yet upon our garments.

(6) We belong because the Woman's Christian Temperance Union stands for the ecclesiastical emancipation of women.

"Go quickly and tell His disciples that he is risen from the dead," said the angel to the women. They are preaching the risen Christ as acceptably and as effectively as any on whom holy hands have been laid in ordination by the church. Who that ever heard the sainted Mary T Lathrop, can doubt that she was called of God to preach the Gospel? And yet the church that she loved and honored refused to recognize officially that call because she was a woman. I fully believe that thousands of souls who are now untouched, would be reached and saved annually if our churches would but acknowledge and officially recognize God's call to women to preach the Gospel. Such convictions of duty have never come to me personally, so I may speak more freely in behalf of others. Our women, by their loyalty and devotion to the church (and women form two-thirds of its membership), their faithfulness under this system of injustice, are surely bringing nearer the glad day when there shall be no sex distinction in service for the King of Kings.

In the limited space at my command I have only been able to hint at a few of the good reasons why Christian women should belong to the W C T U. Oh, woman, heed God's call to you! Join our ranks, and in addition to your church work, work for Him along the lines of prohibition and woman's emancipation. "This ought ye to do, and not to leave the other undone."

BIG INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CIGARETTES SMOKED IN CANADA.

Ottawa, Sept 16—The customs and excise returns for the last fiscal year show one indication of an inflowing tide of prosperity which will not be greeted with general enthusiasm.

The production of cigarette consumption in Canada for the fiscal year ended March last totalled no less than 469,711,091, an increase of a little over 100,000,000 cigarettes, as compared with the preceding year and representing an outlay of probably over \$4,000,000 for "coffin nails" principally by boys and young men of Canada during the twelve months.

Are pool-rooms bad for boys? Police Magistrate Jay of Victoria, B. C., had before him recently a number of boys who were charged with theft. It was shown that these boys had been frequenting the pool rooms, and one young fellow had lost as much as \$7 in one week. The city solicitor is now preparing a by law to regulate the pool rooms, so as to prevent a recurrence of such happenings. Perhaps this is sufficient answer to the question, whether pool rooms are or not bad for boys.

Brief Mention

The License department of the Ontario government is investigating the sales of certain patent medicines, which it is charged, are nullifying the liquor laws of the Province in some places. The specific case upon which the department is engaged mentions the much advertised Peruna as a favorite substitute for straight whiskey.

It Was Always Thus

A lot of people would like a church home (if some one else would build it for them). Others like to have camp meetings and tent meetings [if some one else drives the stakes and does the work]. Others like large conventions with great evangelists and singers [if some one else pays the bills]. Others would like to have a large flourishing Sunday school (if some one else will teach the classes and carry the burdens). Others would like to have a steady interest maintained in all the church services [while they are interested in about everything else under the sun]. Others would like to have all of the finances run smoothly [while they use all their money on their stomachs, or backs]. A few others are left who will drive stakes pay evangelists, bear burdens, attend all services and just pour their money out for God. The Lord bless them! Amen! He does. Are you one of them? —Selected.

MISSIONARY

Testimony of a Veteran Missionary

Robert Moffat, pioneer missionary to South Africa, wrote: "It is fifty-eight years since I laid myself on the missionary altar, and during all that period my mind has been undivided in its devotion to the work. I have had many opportunities of witnessing what the Gospel can do—that it is indeed the power of God to the salvation of man, no matter how ignorant, or degraded, or brutal they are. The claims upon us are very great. We know the Bible is the Book of God; we believe that the publication of the Gospel is the only remedy for this sin-stricken world; and we have innumerable testimonies to prove to us that the work of missions is the work of God.

It is a solemn thought that God in His great mercy has provided a salvation for a sinful, rebel world; and that the eternal Jehovah, who holds the reins of universal empire, looks down on all of us who bear the Christian name, and desires that we should carry the news of that salvation through the world. What are all the sacrifices we can make? I have had something to do with sacrifices and hardships; I have been exposed to savage men and beasts of prey; but what are all these trifles compared with the great object of saving souls? I am ashamed to use the word sacrifice, for what are all the sacrifices we can make when we think of the great sacrifice made for the sin of the world? But be it remembered that whatever we do, be it much or little in this great work, our self-denial, our prayers, our subscriptions, they are all chronicled in Heaven, never to be forgotten. There is a day coming when the great Judge of the earth shall say before an assembled world to each one who has labored for Him, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto these, ye did it unto Me." —Sel.

VOLUNTEER MISSIONARIES

In Korea the Christians often devote whole days to going about speaking to people about Jesus. In one church, when the pastor asked for volunteers, a boat man said he would give sixty days to the Lord during the three months. A second declared he would give every day, save Sunday, when he wanted to attend church himself. Another said he could only give three full days, but he was going to preach every day, no matter where he was. A travelling merchant said he was going to preach all along the road, but he would give six entire days to telling the gospel story. Who knows what sales he may have sacrificed!

One man aroused enthusiasm by stating that he would devote sixty of the ninety days to the Lord, and would keep on his way until the million souls were won. At length the blind man arose—the one who had walked twenty miles to be present—and said he would give the entire ninety days to the work.

One of the women delegates said she could only promise six days, but she was going to preach to every one she met. The total number of days promised was two thousand seven hundred and twenty one; or the equivalent of one man preaching Christ constantly for seven years, seven months, and five days.

MISSIONARY CHRISTIANS AND CHURCHES

There is no question as to whether the Church shall be a missionary Church. If it is not a missionary Church, it is not the Church of Jesus Christ. There is never a question as to whether a christian is in favor of missions, or not. If he is not in favor of missions either he does not know enough to be a christian, or else he is not willing to be one. A man that opposes missions sets himself against Jesus, and he cannot be for Jesus and against him. If he sets up what Jones or Thompson believes against what Christ commands, he is a Jonesian, or

a Thomsian, but he not a christian. He has resigned his royal commission. There can be no two opinions about that. When a warship is put out of commission, she is either sent to the dock for repairs or to the junk pile. Churches that are doing nothing for the missions need to be docked and have the barnacles scraped off. Missionary zeal is their only salvation from the junk pile.—J. F. Cowan, D. D.

"Let Him Try."

Some years ago an insane man, in a New England town, rose from his seat in the midst of a large assembly, and seizing with a great deal of energy one of the pillars that sustained the gallery of the church, declared that he was going to pull it down. Had another "Samson Agonistes" suddenly appeared, and declared himself ready to bow between the pillars of another of Dagon's temples, there could hardly have been a greater consternation. The people, amid the outcries, and faintings, and general confusion, yielded to the most foolish fears. Nor did they recover their self-possession, and quietly resume their seats, until another man significantly pointing to the large and strong pillar which had been threatened, calmly said, "Let him try—let him try."

This proposition restored order and confidence at once, the house did not fall, and the services went on. And so, when men insanely threaten to pull down the pillars that the skill of the Divine Architect has reared and holds up, we are too easily moved with alarm, and too slow to consider the strength of the structure.

The skeptic, the scoffer, the blasphemer, the persecutor, boast of their power, and threaten to overturn Christianity, explode religion, confute the Bible, and introduce a new order of things. We have heard of such threats before. Let him Try. Something has hitherto survived such assaults, and there may be some of Gods work left after the devil has done his worst. If a man thinks to bombard Gibraltar with boiled potatoes, let him try! One who knew man in his weakness and his strength, has said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away.—The Armory."

HOW TO FILL A CHURCH.

Let every church member conscientiously attend every service. Then let every member bring as many people as possible with him. There is a great deal of nonsensical talk nowadays about getting ministers who will 'draw.' A man came up to my study the other day from one of the churches near Murray Hill which is vacant, and he said, "I wish you could recommend us a minister for our church."

I said: "I can recommend a dozen." He seemed rather bluffed at that; thought that was a large number, and said, "Won't you suggest a name?" And I went on suggesting one after another. I suggested one man and he said, "I understand that man has not a very strong voice."

I suggested another. "Well, I understand that man wears a black cravat in the pulpit."

Another man. "Well, I understand that man has a very stiff and formal delivery."

Finally he said: "Well, what we want in our church is a minister that will draw."

"Oh, no, my Christian friend, what you want is a church which will hold. You haven't got it. Twenty congregations have passed through your church because you have not had a church which will hold. You want a church which will hold the people when they get into it. The minister cannot hold them. Success depends not half so much upon the minister as upon you, the Church.—London Sunday School Times.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shalt the flame kindle upon thee."—Isiah 43:2.

Through the waters of affliction,
We are sometimes forced to go;
While the billows dash about us,
And the sun has lost its glow;
When the shadows seen to deepen
All around our lonely way,
Then the Master's precious promise
Is our only cheering ray.
"When thou passest through the waters,
Fear not, I will be with thee;
And when sorrows dark surround thee,
Then, my child, lean hard on Me!"

Sometimes, only are the waters
Gathered round about our feet;
And we press with courage through them,
For we must not meet defeat.
Hope is pointing in the distance,
To a scene of brighter days;
And the clouds burst a while we hasten,
Giving gleams of silvery rays.
"When thou passest through the waters,
Fear not, I will be with thee;
And when sorrows dark surround thee,
Then, my child, lean hard on Me."

But sometimes the waves of trouble
Come in floods to overflow;
And we shrink beneath their pressure,
Hardly knowing where to go.
When our earthly hopes are shattered,
And our hearts are torn with grief,
Then the still sweet voice of Jesus,
This alone, can bring relief.
"When thou passest through the rivers,
They shall not thee overflow;
Fear thou not the deep, dark waters,
I will bear thee safely through."

Often, through some fiery trial,
We are called to wend our way;
But the flame cannot consume us,
For we hear the Master say:
That as gold tried in the fire,
We shall from the trial come forth;
Purified, to shine the brighter
From the test that proves our worth.
"When thou walkest through the fire,
Flames shall kindle not on thee;
Through the furnace of affliction,
I, thy God, thy strength shall be."

—LALIA WETMORE.

Elijah's God Is Our God

God fed Elijah by ravens. St. James tells us that Elijah was a man of like passions as we are." God has ways as strange to feed his children and take care of them in these days as then. Krummacher, the great German commentator, in his life of Elijah, illustrates this by the following incident: "Who else was it but the God of Elijah who delivered a poor man from distress, not indeed by a raven, but by a singing bird? The man was sitting early in the morning at his own house-door, his heart heavy and his eyes filled with tears, for he was expecting that day an officer to come and distract him for a small debt. While sitting there a little bird flew through the street, fluttering up and down as if in distress; then suddenly it flew in at the good man's door and perched itself on an empty cupboard. The good man closed the door, caught the bird and put it in a cage. Presently some one came and knocked at the door. 'It is the officer,' thought the man, in great fear. Timidly he opened the door; there stood the servant of a lady who lived near by, asking if he had seen a bird fly into his house. At once the man gave up the bird and it was carried away. A few minutes afterward the servant returned bringing the message, 'My mistress sets a great value upon this and is much obliged to you, and she requests you to accept this with thanks.' There was put into his hands the very same amount that he owed; and the good man sang to the God of Elijah a sweeter note than that of the bird."

Some try to excuse themselves from becoming followers of Christ, because among the disciples there was one whose name was Judas Iscariot.