

COLUMN.

by the I. O. G. T.

I have the notice that I have made satisfactory arrangements with the Editor of the QUEENS COUNTY GAZETTE by which this column will be devoted to the interests of the I. O. G. T. I make an appeal to all lodges throughout the county, and all persons interested in Temperance work, to do their part, so that the work may be a success from the beginning.

Address all communications to, ERNEST M. STRAIGHT, Lower Cambridge, N. B.

WHAT TO SEEK AFTER. By George R. Scott.

In the Book of Amos the following verse can be found: Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

Seeking for that which is good is a very pleasant occupation and ascending to the passage quoted it is also profitable.

Seeking after that which is bad is a mean occupation, and seldom is a great daily newspaper issued that does not contain an account of some incident showing that seeking after that which is bad is very apt to bring present punishment.

If I should attempt to give, even in brief the scores of incidents that have come to my knowledge concerning the curses that have come upon those who sought evil, and the good things that befell those who sought good, it would take nearly all the pages of this journal to relate them.

Seek that which is good early in the morning, at noon, and in the evening. It will pay you in more ways than one so to do.

The most wretched, ruined, worst punished man I ever knew told me with his own lips, just before death ended his earthly sufferings, that he had more than reaped the harvest of what he had sown while seeking evil.

It is now over forty years since I saw that man die. It was the first death-bed scene of a wicked man I had ever beheld, and I hoped to be spared the anguish of seeing another.

All his life he had reversed the good advice found in Amos. He had practically rendered it: Seek evil, and not good.

The result was that he took a look inside the gates of Hell while in this world, and when death claimed him he stood shuddering on the brink of the Dark River, afraid to venture into the Unknown World beyond.

He felt, at that time, what an awful thing it was for a man to spend his life seeking that which was evil.

The verse that follows the one I have quoted contains these words: "Hate the evil and love the good."

About the only way to properly make use of the quality of hate, is to hate evil, and we cannot love the good sufficiently.

What a blessing it is that there is so much in this world to love. It can be found every day and every hour.

The last baby in a household, be it ever so small, is big enough to have concentrated on it all the love that the family can spare.

What contains more innocence, goodness and sweetness than a child just old enough to make believe it can talk?

I have one at home sometimes that belongs to one of my daughters. It is so cunning that I cannot help but squeeze it. I seek for it because it is a bundle of fat goodness and I enjoy its presence.

Hunting for badness generally results in the hunter soon being made acquainted with the fact that he is the game that will be brought low, the target that will be hit at every turn.

And he will have to admit that it would have been a good day for him if he had never gone hunting in that fashion.

The good people ought to live longer than bad people, providing that they are good all through.

I was acquainted with a good man, except in one thing—he would eat that which he ought not to have eaten. And the result was that that seeker after good in many things died before he was thirty years of age.

If he had only sought after good food instead of bad food he would have lived to accomplish more than he did.

Seek after a good home—in this life as well as the life to come.

We were long ago admonished to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, after which all that is necessary to existence will be added.

His Preference Explained.

"Kunnel," said a colored veteran, "in case we has war, kin I go 'long wid your comp'ny?"

"Why, certainly. You'd have a preference for mine, would you?"

"Oh, yes, suh! You see, I wuz wid you in de late war, an' seein' ez you didn't git inter no fightin' endurin' dat time, I 'low dat you'll be des ez wise in another war!"

A little girl out on Euclid avenue, in closing her prayer the other night, said, "Amen and a-women."

Her mother said, "My child, why do you say 'a-women'?"

"Oh," said she, "I don't want the men to have it all."

Scriptural Reading.

From whence come wars and fightings among you. James 4-part of 1st verse.

The apostle James has written but a few words compared with some of the other apostles, but full of inspiration.

He has fully set forth God's sovereignty and pre-eminence over all his subjects and creatures. Has all control of the devil, does not allow him to tempt us above that we are able to bear, which makes as accountable for all the gifts and knowledge he has given us, therefore from whence come wars and fightings among you. We are told we lust and have not simply because there is no God in that lust, but gratification of self.

emptings of the Holy Spirit yet to have fellowship with God, I am deceived. We fight and war with the enemy in our own strength and do not call upon the strong for help. Then if we ask we receive not. Why? Because we ask amiss, are not willing to be led or governed by Him who was and is always victorious over the enemy. The greatest battle or record was fought by Jesus of Nazareth and the devil, and when all his ammunition was exhausted and when he found whatever fighting implements he used were of no avail he tried to hire Him to surrender or buy him off to become his servant and worshipper by offering Him all the Kingdoms of this world and all the glories of them, when he had nothing to give, for he knew the world, the fullness thereof, and the cattle upon a thousand hills were His, who created them. Our Lord did not shoot him down as He used no kind of fire arms, neither did he smite him beneath His presence for his inclination but bombarded him with scripture "get thee behind Me Satan, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve," thus maintaining the victory over the devil for evermore. So we come off victorious over the enemy of our souls through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. So the devil was so shamefully beaten he left him and we are not told he ever attacked him again, but started out like a roaring lion seeking whom among the weaker of God's children he might devour, and has we fear got the advantage of many that should or might have conquered if they had been true to their allegiance to the Great Commander, but they often leave for the captain of their salvation to do for them what He has designed they should do for themselves in the strength and ability given. Therefore we are commanded to be strong in the Lord lest satan should overcome us, for we are not ignorant of his devices we must remember, the apostle here is speaking to Christians, or those who have enlisted under the banner of King Jesus, who are liable through their own weakness to be overcome by the enemy of all good; therefore the command is put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against all the wiles of the devil. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

We hope the present war or hostilities may be speedily settled to the glory of God, but there always has been and is now and ever will be a spiritual war going on between the Holy Spirit of God and the devil in behalf of all those whom He has bought with the price of His own blood. We need no cannons or even small guns in this battle with the devil. God's holy word is all the gun we require.

We need no sword in the engagement, the Holy Spirit which is quick and powerful is all the sword we need in this struggle for life or death. Then let us fight the good fight of faith in Christ which will remove mountains of sin and enable us to lay hold on eternal life though we may expect discouragements and to endure hardness as good soldiers of Christ, the great ruler over all nations.

Paul makes his boast of fighting the enemy, not with sword or spear but by the grace of God, the help of the spirit and the love of the master, he always came off victorious and is well assured of a great reward, a bounty which is a crown of life, and ever be with Him who shall have put all enemies under His feet.

Some will ask how it is that the enemy of our souls get the advantage of us. Well it is only when we have plunged deeply into our course and have met with all manner of discouragements that we begin to question whether we have adopted God's plan concerning us, or to satisfy our own lust, and when we find we are overcome by the enemy, we call upon God to extricate us from him and help us out of trouble, and to forgive us for having built and launched our ships without consulting him, whether we are acting in accordance. We often start an enterprise then later ask Him to help us instead of first asking for guidance, his approval and help. Well says the natural man of sin, I find no trouble with the devil, have never seen him, do not know that there it a devil. Well if you ever see and know yourself you will soon learn to know of the doctrine. Well if I am not much good in the world, I do nothing to harm any. Well it is said the angel was commanded to curse Meroz and to curse him, not for what they did do so much, but for what they did not do. But because they came not to the help of the against the Almighty.

T. E. BAERIT. Gibson, N. B., May 15.

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T. H. GILBERT, Collecting J. P.

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