

Messenger and Visitor

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Editor

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THE CIGARETTE PERIL.

If there are persons who think that the danger cry which has been raised against the use of cigarettes by the boys of this country is needless and senseless, they might perhaps be led to change their opinion by a careful consideration of the evils which this vice has wrought and is still working in other countries, and especially in the United States. In England public opinion appears to be awakening to the grave danger consequent upon this pernicious habit. In a recent issue of the *London Times* a manifesto was published demanding legislation by Parliament for the prevention of juvenile cigarette smoking, and the list of appended names, which included those of Peers, Bishops, Judges, leading headmasters of colleges and medical officers, was long enough it is said, to fill an entire column of the paper.

In a recent number of the *New York Independent*, we find an article on this subject by Mr. Charles Bulkley Hubbell, President of the Board of Education of Greater New York, and one of the most distinguished educators of the city. Mr. Hubbell shows how rapidly and with what evil results the cigarette habit has spread in that country in recent years. Twenty-five years ago the sale of cigarettes was comparatively small. Their use was first observed among the students of a school in New York patronized largely by Cubans and South Americans. At the present time, in Mr. Hubbell's opinion, the cigarette and inhaling habit is more devastating to the health and morals of the boys and young men of the country than any habit or vice that can be named. This is a most serious indictment of the cigarette, and the eminent and competent source whence it comes entitles it to great weight. This vice has not yet assumed corresponding proportions in Canada, although it is rapidly growing, and the people of this country will be greatly to blame if they do not heed and profit by the warnings of the writer quoted and others whose ability and disinterestedness must command the highest respect.

An astonishing feature of the situation even in the United States, Mr. Hubbell finds, is that so comparatively few of the people realize the inroads that the cigarette habit has made on the health, morals and possibilities of usefulness of American youth. This, he thinks, is explained in part by the fact that a very large number of physicians in every community are addicted to the cigarette and the inhaling habit, and naturally are handicapped in the influence they should exert in advising and suppressing this alarming evil. Mr. Hubbell is not influenced in his opposition to the cigarette by any fanatical antipathy to smoking. While he does not commend the use of tobacco, he thinks that smoking moderately and under normal conditions by persons who have reached the age of full development is comparatively harmless. The great danger in connection with the cigarette is not in its composition or in the paper in which it is wrapped but in the habit which it almost certainly induces of inhaling the smoke into the lungs. "The juvenile cigarette smoker almost immediately learns to inhale the smoke," Not one cigarette smoker in twenty, I venture to assert, uses them in any other way, and when once the victim has acquired the inhaling habit in connection with cigarettes he can seldom secure any satisfaction with paper cigars without indulging his inhaling propensities. The normal smoker draws the smoke into his mouth and expels it, with the result that the minimum of the products of combustion—namely nicotine, the volatile oils and the deadly carbon monoxide—gets into his circulation. The cigarette smoker, however, takes a deep inhalation of the smoke, which at once reaches the upper air passages of the lungs, where almost immediately are released into his circulation the products I have referred to, usually causing the slight dizziness and the mild intoxication that is so fascinating and so devastating."

The effects of the cigarette habit show themselves not only in the impairment of physical and mental health but also in the moral character. The vice tends to enslave its victim and he is driven to dishonesty to find the means of satisfying his cravings. Boys, otherwise honest, will steal

from their parents or employers in order to indulge the resistless craving for cigarettes. A Justice of the New York Supreme Court, now deceased, told Mr. Hubbell that in the last year he was practising at the bar he had nine official boys in his employ who had been discharged for stealing postage stamps, it having been proved in every case that the boys stole in order to purchase cigarettes. There is abundant evidence in addition to that which Mr. Hubbell presents to indicate the wide-spread and pernicious effects of this vice upon the youth of American cities. While in Canada the cigarette habit and its consequent evils are much less prevalent than in the United States, they are sufficiently in evidence to indicate a rapidly growing evil and one against which the moral and philanthropic forces of the country should be earnestly engaged. What the remedy to be applied should be we may consider in another article.

NO PLACE FOR FEAR.

The story of Jesus calming the storm and the fears of his disciples is graphically told by Mark in the passage which constitutes our Bible lesson for the current week. It is a wonderful series of pictures which the evangelist here draws with a few rapid strokes. First we see Jesus and his disciples getting into the boat and setting sail for the other side of the lake. Then we see the Master asleep on the cushion in the stern of the boat, where, exhausted by the work of a long busy day, he had flung himself down to rest, while his disciples are managing the craft. Then there is the sudden storm sweeping down from the defiles of the surrounding hills upon the lake and, as it grows more violent, filling the hearts of the sturdy fishermen with fear that their frail vessel is about to be swamped in the angry seas, but in the midst of the tempest the tired Jesus still calmly sleeps. Then we see the panic-stricken disciples waking their Master to tell him in half reproachful words that while he sleeps they are all likely to perish. Then the Master is seen shaking off the lethargy of sleep and rising to rebuke the winds and command the waves into silence, chiding the disciples for their terror and their lack of faith. And finally the disciples, amazed and awe-stricken at the sudden calm that has fallen on the lake, questioning with themselves—Who, then, is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Who then is this?—What manner of man? The awed disciples might well ask such questions in view of what they had just seen and experienced. This man who at one moment lies in a deep sleep—gratefully receiving the ministry which the restorer of tired nature brings to weary brain and nerve—and the next moment rises in God-like power to command the winds and the waves into submission—who indeed is this? But the picture of Jesus which this passage presents is quite in harmony with the general portraiture of him which the Gospels give. He is subject to the common passions and limitations of humanity. He hungers, he thirsts, he grows weary, he longs for a id values human sympathy; and yet withal there is the consciousness and the frequent exercise of power that indicates a personality more than human. And still this wonderful personality of Jesus, which so far transcends all human standards and defies all human analysis, involves nothing monstrous or grotesque. It is entirely sane and consistent with itself. Son of man and Son of God are united in one harmonious and transcendent personality.

The grand lesson of the passage is one of trust. "Why are ye fearful? Have ye not yet faith?" the Master asked of the panic-stricken disciples. If they believed in God and in their Master, how could they cower in terror before the winds and waves? Very likely if, before the disciples set out on their trip across the lake, someone had pointed out the signs of a coming storm and advised them not to start, they would have declared that they were quite assured of their safety so long as their Master was with them. But when their vessel seemed to have become the plaything of the tempest their confidence forsook them and they succumbed to fear. We are too apt to be like that. When the sky is clear and the sea is calm we sing our song of trust and declare our confidence in Him who rules the seas and the winds, but when the skies darken and waves of trouble come rolling in upon us, we do not always remember that the Master is in the boat with us. If the disciple perishes, so also must the Master. Is He in whom we have believed the Son of God, the Lord of life, the conqueror of death, the heir of all things? Then indeed it must be true that those who are united to Him by a living faith shall never perish and there is no power that can take them out of His hand. The words of Jesus to his fearful disciples imply that they should have had a faith strong enough to banish all fear. And can there be an excuse for us if with nineteen centuries of Christian history behind us we have not yet found deliverance from the fear which brings panic and the doubt which brings paralysis to lives that should be full of courage and strength?

It is well to remember that there is no promise that storms shall not arise, that faith shall not be tried and courage proved. The storms which trouble Christian experience and try Christian faith have been encountered in the past and this generation is not exempt. There are rough places, and floods and flames to pass through, but the assurance of divine

grace "I will be with thee," still holds good. The great fact to be grasped and held is that Jesus, the Son of God, is with us with the church of God and with every individual believer in the great voyage. Can anyone who has experienced the vitalizing touch of faith believe that the Christ has lived and died in vain, or that He will fail or be discouraged until He shall see the fulfillment of His utmost desire? And if Christ ever lives and through the centuries marches to victory there is no place for fear in the souls of those who have made Him the foundation of their hope.

Editorial Notes.

—A bill is now before the United States Congress the aim of which is to give to each State control over the importation of liquor. It is believed that this bill if passed will enable the States which have enacted prohibitory laws to deal with the liquor traffic much more effectively than is possible under present circumstances when they have no control of liquor coming from other States until after its delivery.

—The Maritime Provinces—especially Nova Scotia—Acadia College are as usual well represented at Newton this year. Of 65 students at Newton ten come from Acadia, the largest number from any Institution except Brown University which furnishes fifteen. The number of students reported from Nova Scotia is eight which is a larger number than from any State of the Union except Massachusetts which sends eleven.

—Elsewhere in this issue will be found communications from Dr. H. C. Creed, Editor of the Year-Book, and from Mr. Claude McL. Black on behalf of the Black Printing Company Ltd., of Amherst. We much regret that there should be any difference of opinion between editor and printer in this case; but now that there has been a statement of the facts from point of view of each, we presume that the matter may be allowed to rest so far as the MESSENGER AND VISITOR is concerned.

—Next Sunday, March 6th, is the day which has been named as the occasion for holding special services throughout the world in connection with the centenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society. In view of the immense influence for good which has been and is still being exerted by the Society in the circulation of the Sacred Scriptures in all lands, it seems in the highest degree desirable that our churches, in common with those of other evangelical denominations, should mark the day by sermons or other services appropriate to the occasion.

—The *Baptist Communicator* of Philadelphia says: "Both Rear Admiral Uriah who sank the Russian ship *Variag* at Chemulpo and Rear Admiral Serrata who is with the Japanese fleet at Port Arthur are said to be members of the Presbyterian Church." Rev. Dr. Gibbons, of this city, who was their pastor while they were residents of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, says that both men were very sincere in their religious obligations, and entered with enthusiasm into the study of the Bible. They are both said to be fine types of Christian manhood."

—Hall Caine, the distinguished writer, has borne emphatic and enthusiastic testimony to the literary as well as the religious value of the Bible. "I have found it an unfailing source of inspiration to me as an imaginative writer, and if there is anything worthy in the argument or motive of my own books I know quite well the source from which it has come. Next, I recognize in the Bible the origin of the noblest part of our common speech. Whenever we meet with exaltation and dignity, with strength and tenderness in the language of life we find its fountain head in the Bible. And perhaps nowhere is this more noticeable than in the prayer meetings, where simple, unlettered men, being steeped in Bible language and having no other education, will express themselves with a distinction, a quality, a style and a power which the pulpits themselves can rarely equal.

—By reference to Chancellor Wallace's letter which appears in another column it will be seen that Dr. Welton's illness had last week assumed so serious a character as to leave no hope for his recovery. A Toronto despatch informs us that on Sunday he passed away. His illness has been of a somewhat lingering character, but until within a comparatively short time he had bravely battled with disease and had hoped that he would be permitted to resume the work he loved so well. It had been otherwise ordered. Dr. Welton was born at Kingston, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia, about 72 or 73 years ago. It is now twenty years since he accepted the call to McMaster, and during those years his work in the department of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis has been highly valued. Before his removal to Toronto Dr. Welton had been for many years recognized as one of the leaders of the denomination in these Provinces. His work in connection with his long pastorate of the Windsor church and as a professor in Acadia College is remembered with high appreciation. Dr. Welton was a man of superior intellectual endowments and of kindly Christian spirit. He was a most devout and earnest student of the sacred Word, and though his work is done its results will remain. To Mrs. Welton and other members of the family in their sad bereavement we tender sincere Christian sympathy. Some suitable appreciation of Dr. Welton's life and work will appear in another issue.