

December 16, 1912

REV. J. H. MACDONALD, D. D.,  
Pastor of the Brunswick Street United Baptist  
Church.

There can be no possible doubt that the tobacco and cigarette problem is becoming a serious one in our country at the present time. From the latest reports to hand, it is evident that the manufacture and sale of tobacco in its various forms is on the increase and there are painful evidences to every man who goes through life with his eyes open that among boys the cigarette habit is a growing evil.

Whatever may be said in defence of the moderate use of tobacco on the part of mature men, the searchlight of modern science has caused a terrible arraignment to be brought against the weed, as it is generally made use of by men and boys. "A tobacco heart" is the frequent pronouncement of medical men as they examine a patient. Our surgeons account for the retarded and incomplete recovery of many of their patients on the ground that their constitutions have been undermined by tobacco; while on the other hand rapid and successful recovery of case after case is credited to the absence of narcotics from the system. The superintendents and teachers of our schools deplore the use of tobacco among the scholars. It is indeed the unanimous testimony of leading educationists that the cigarette stunts the intellectual growth and handicaps every boy who uses it alike in the race of scholarship and athletics; and worse than all that, it inevitably blunts his moral sensibilities. I have it on the authority of one of the leading educators of Eastern Canada that once a boy becomes addicted to the cigarette habit he invariably loses the keenness of his moral sense.

What can we do to stem the tide of this admitted evil, the demoralizing effects of which will be more apparent in the next generation? There are two or three things which seem to me imperative. (1) We must continue to carry on the campaign of enlightenment among the children and youth of our land. The habit is bred in the darkness and must be slain by the light. (2) There should be increased agitation upon the subject among people of maturer years, being assured that a healthy and growing sentiment must inevitably express itself in more advanced legislation. Our present laws are anomalous inasmuch as they carry with them no adequate provision for enforcement. (3) A moral campaign among Christian people should also be waged. I pronounce no judgment upon the Christian who smokes; but I unhesitatingly assert that the man who makes use of the pipe, however harmless it may be to him, can have no influence for good with the boy who is a victim of the baneful cigarette.

#### A HEART FULL OF LOVE.

His love hath saved me! Oh, for words to tell it!

My sin is gone—ye angels help me sing—  
To this, my theme, attune your harps and swell it,

Till through the heavens the anthem peal shall ring.

My heart overflows with love; each new emotion  
A richer note commingles with my song;  
This thrill of bliss, this rapture of devotion,  
Foreshadows what to endless life belong.

—Selected.

### THE KING'S HIGHWAY.

#### NEW LITTLE GIRL IN HEAVEN.

"Oh, what do you think the angels say?"

Said the children up in heaven;

"There's a dear little girl coming home to-day;  
She's almost ready to fly away

From the earth we used to live in:

Let's go open the gates of pearl,  
Open them wide for the new little girl,"

Said the children up in heaven.

"God wanted her here where His little ones meet,"

Said the children up in heaven,

"She will play with us in the golden street!

She has grown too fair, she has grown too sweet

For the earth we used to live in.

She needs the sunshine, this dear girl,

That gilds this side of the gates of pearl,"

Said the children up in heaven.

"Far down on the earth do you hear them weep?"

Said the children up in heaven,

"For the dear little one has gone to sleep;  
The shadows fall and the night clouds sweep

O'er earth we used to live in;

But we'll go and open the gates of pearl;

Oh! why do they weep for their dear little girl!"

Said the children up in heaven.

"Fly with her quick, O angels dear,"

Said the children up in heaven,

"See—she is coming! Look there! Look there!

At the jasper light on her sunny hair,

Where the veiling clouds are riven!

Ah-hush-hush-hush all the swift wings furl!

For the King Himself at the gates of pearl

Is taking her hand, dear, tired little girl,

And leading her into heaven."

—Selected.

#### THE MOTHERS IN ISRAEL.

T. L. CUYLER, D. D.

When the Hebrew matron called out to Joab from the walls of the beleaguered city of Abel and exhorted him to spare the town and "a mother in Israel," she did more than she bargained for.

She not only saved her own life, but she originated a fine proverbial expression which has constantly been applied to good women who have distinguished their maternity by a beautiful and godly influence. The holy-hearted Hannah heads the roll of these model mothers—the woman who dedicated her first-born son to God in these memorable words, "For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord." Samuel also heads the roll of eminent servants of God who owed an incalculable debt to wise maternal influence.

What was true in ancient times has been true ever since. At the starting point of a vast majority of the best Christian lives stands a Christian mother. When I was a student in Princeton Theological Seminary, the chairman of the examining board requested all of us who had praying mothers to rise up, and nearly the whole 150 leaped instantly to their feet. There we stood, living witnesses to the power of a mother's prayers and of her shaping influence and example. My own widowed mother was

one of the best that God ever gave to an only son. She was more to me than school, or college, or pastor, all combined. In our early rural home the first Sabbath School I ever attended had but one scholar and she was the superintendent; the only book studied was God's Book, and it was committed to memory. During my infancy she dedicated me to the Christian ministry and kept that steadily before her own eye and mine. I cannot now fix the date of my own conversion; it was her constant influence that led me gradually along and I grew into a religious life under her potent training, and by the power of the Holy Spirit working through her untiring agency. If all mothers were like her, the "church in the house" would be one of the best feeders of the church in the public sanctuary.

We ministers must not take on airs. There is a ministry that is older and deeper and more potent than ours; it is that ministry that presides over the crib and impresses the first Gospel influence upon the infant soul. Before the pulpit begins, or the Sabbath School begins, the mother has already begun, and has been molding the plastic wax of character for weal or woe, for heaven or hell. A prodigious power this: It is the same power which sent Samuel out of the godly home of Hannah, and wicked Ahaziah out of the home of godless Jezebel. Both of them "walked in the way of his mother." Far be it from me to under-rate the influence of fathers for good or evil. But still the fact remains that it is mainly the mother who shapes the home influence and imparts to it its prevailing atmosphere; for the most important part of moral education is atmospheric. The purity or impurity, the tonic or the demoralizing qualities of that atmosphere of the home, depend for the most part on the mother as the sovereign of the home.—Selected.

#### THE BIBLE.

The charter of all true liberty.

The forerunner of civilization.

The mold of institutions and governments.

The fashioner of law.

The secret of national progress.

The guide of history.

The ornament and mainspring of literature.

The friend of science.

The inspiration of philosophies.

The text book of ethics.

The light of the intellect.

The answer to the deepest human heart hungerings.

The soul of all strong heart life.

The illuminator of darkness.

The foe to superstition.

The enemy of oppression.

The uprooter of sin.

The regulator of all high and worthy standards.

The comfort in sorrow.

The strength in weakness.

The pathway in perplexity.

The escape from temptation.

The steadier in the day of power.

The embodiment of all lofty ideals.

The begetter of life.

The promise of the future.

The star of death's night.

The revealer of God.

The guide and hope and inspiration of man.—Bishop W. F. Anderson.