

W. C. T. U. Column.

PERILS OF THE STREETS.

Paper read by Mrs. H. P. Baird before the
Fredericton W. C. T. U.

The perils or dangers of the streets are many and varied. The city is a great crucible into which young people from all localities and nationalities are thrown to be melted up and then thrown into one of the types which represent the city. The sad part of it all is the fact that so many rush headlong into the wrong melting pot and are hardened in the mould which leaves deceased bodies and remorseful souls. On the streets an infinite number of interests and passions concentrate themselves. The rich and the poor meet and pass, the tragedies and comedies of life jostle each other unsuspectingly. There purity and innocence walk by the side of corruption and guilt. The foulest and deadliest sins masquerade before our faces, sometimes with stealthy tread and sometimes brazen and unashamed. The street is the playground for the average child of the city. He knows nothing of green fields, meadows, brooks and wild flowers. Everything he touches is artificial and the street becomes to him a school with characteristics all its own. Highly colored pictures and posters feed his imagination, corrupt and corrupting publications feed his mind. This vile stuff circulates so secretly that very few have the least conception of the extent of the festering corruption which it works. The young girls who of necessity have to earn their own living in a city, whether in a factory, department store, office or in many other ways, are exposed to danger from the young men who walk the streets, or stand around the street corners. He will pick out the attractive girl, scrape up acquaintance with her and if he finds that she is without protection, so much the easier for him. He offers opportunities for social enjoyment, he takes her to the theatre or picture show, etc. Many of these girls are compelled to live in a cheap boarding or rooming house, and these who have no home life are particularly exposed to peril. They come home tired and lonely. The only place where they can entertain is their own rooms. If such a girl makes the acquaintance of a young man and permits him to spend an evening in her room, it is plain to be seen that she exposes herself to moral ruin. It is under just such circumstances that many a girl has fallen. Much might be done if owners of boarding houses were compelled to provide a reception room where such persons could entertain their friends.

The children in our schools are not free from the perils of the streets. Men and half-grown boys not infrequently loaf in the vicinity of the schools and throughout tenement districts of the large cities. Their business is the debauching of little girls and boys often too young to realize the nature of the degradation offered them. In some cities these men and half-grown boys hang around the night schools. Recreation centres, playgrounds and parks furnish fertile fields for their activities. The moving picture show should not be a peril, yet in most instances it is. One of the most subtle evils in connection with the moving picture show is its power of suggestion. Constant emphasis being placed upon sensations, as may be readily seen by the advertising put out on their boards. The majority of them deal with crimes such as safe-blowing and horse thieving, etc., which leaves in the minds of young people suggestions which can be said to be anything but moral. Where shall we go to find a peril more

disastrous than the hundreds of saloons and cafes in any city. They are traps for the young, they are hand-in-glove with houses of ill-fame and gambling dens. Just a word as to the solving of this great problem. I think public opinion upon this subject should be moulded by an educational campaign setting forth from time to time such facts as become known through papers and pamphlets, and I strongly advocate education in the home. Parents should give their children the best possible instruction in relation to their life. They should know everything knowable pertaining to their own bodies. When ignorance and prudery on these things have entirely disappeared, when as high a standard for manhood is demanded as that which is now required for womanhood, when this whole subject is thought of in its beauty, purity and sacredness, rather than from its darker side, much of the unhappiness and misery which now crushes human hearts will have been banished.

God give us grace to do thy will,
And wisdom, too, we pray;
That we may lift the erring ones
Into the blood-washed way.
To Christ, the Truth, the Way.

AN UNHAPPY MISSIONARY BOX.

Forgotten and forlorn I live
Upon a dusty shelf,
And feel so downcast and so sad
I hardly know myself;
A missionary box am I,
And better days have seen,
For copper, silver—yes, and gold—
Within my walls have been.

Now I'm empty—no, not quite,
For something you may hear—
A mournful jingle from my depths
By pennies made, I fear;
I scorn not pennies—no, indeed,
Their worth too well I know;
But twopence only in a box
Does make one's spirits low.

The missionaries say, indeed,
That pence to pounds soon grow;
But older people ought to give,
We want our money so.
And thus in emptiness I wait
And dustier grow each day,
While, heedless of my silent plea,
You round me work and play.

My words are weak and poor at best,
I know not how to plead.
But look upon the distant fields
"To harvest white," indeed;
The heathen be in thickest gloom,
Do you need a stronger plea?
Then listen to His voice who said,
"Ye did it unto me."

—Messenger.

IS IT SELF-SACRIFICE?

London, April 7, 8.10 p. m.—"In view of all that is now happening and following the unprecedented lead of His Majesty the King," writes the Archbishop of Canterbury in an appeal just published, "we desire to press seriously upon the minds of those whom we can influence the duty and privilege of bearing a voluntary part in the nations self-discipline and self-sacrifice by abstaining from all alcoholic drinks during the war. Some definite act on the part of all is due our brave men, the nation at large and to God."

my hands in water, but now water never hurts them any, and I want to give God the glory, for he has said my glory I give not to another. He has been helping me spiritually as well as bodily, and I thank him that he is a God that answers prayer and that salvation is free to all. I want to live and work for him and be always faithful to him, that I may receive a crown of life, for he that is faithful unto death shall receive a crown of life. It is the desire of my heart to see many saved unto life eternal. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Yours in Christ, Bertie M. Graham,
Ashland, N. B.

P. S.—This is a true testimony and is given by a girl 16 years of age. She had not been able to read for a number of years, and that, as well as other things, is all right now; her eyes do not trouble her at all.

Mrs. Henry J. Seeley.
St. John, N. B.,
April 9th, 1915.

IF I WERE YOU.

If I were you
I'd think about as you think,
I expect.

If I were you
I'd talk about as you do,
I expect.

If I were you
I'd do about as you do,
I expect.

And so, if I were you
I'd think and talk and do,
Just about as you do,
I expect.

And that is why I am glad
I am not you,
And do as you do,
But am myself,
And do as I do.

For, if I were some of you,
I'd think the Sunday School
Could get along without me.
I'd say, "Tis not for me,
But others all about me."
I'd do some things, I fear,
To make some people doubt me.

Now, don't you see how bad 'twould be
If I were you instead of me?
And don't you see how nice 'twould be
If you were me

Because—if you were me
Then you would think about as I think,
I expect.

And talk about as I talk,
I expect.

And do about as I do,
I expect.

And then, of course,
The Sunday School you'd not neglect
As you do.

But you'd come every Sunday,
I expect,
As I do.

—Selected.

David Lloyd George, British Chancellor of the Exchequer, after denouncing the drink traffic as doing "more damage to the country than all the German submarines put together," says Government has power to deal with liquor question, and that this power would be used to protect the interests of the nation. This seems to forecast that Great Britain would join Russia and France in declaring war against the worst foe to any and all peoples and nations.