

GULF STREAMS AND SHARKS.

(By Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts, Ph. D.)

Whether or no the perilous swarming of sharks at our bathing beaches is due, as surmised, to some great deflection of the Gulf Stream, there are some recent changes in life currents that are bringing new perils to body and soul, to the individual and the nation.

The very Gulf Stream among these dangerous life currents is the nation-wide amusement madness that is sweeping through the land with ever-increasing force, drawing almost everything and almost everybody toward, if not into its almost irresistible swirl. Archbishop Farley declared, a few years since, that the theatres, then exhibiting "living pictures," were "never so vile since the fall of Rome." Protestant leaders also put out red lights of warning, but the mad current swept on unheeding. Fifty great theatres were added that same season, and the "shows"—for real dramas are now counted too slow—have grown steadily worse, with the "fallen woman" as the usual center of attraction, or vaudeville calculated to add to the number of the "fallen" of both sexes. The motion pictures, now competing as to which can present the most seductive "vampire woman," have gone far beyond anything the police would tolerate if "the woman in the case" were actually on the stage, rather than her picture. The amusement craze is so strong and family government and civil government both so weak that neither parent nor police interpose between thoughtless youth and the human sharks that are willing to destroy our youth wholesale, body and soul, to increase their muddy and bloody gold. The peril of corrupt shows is a thousandfold greater at the seaside resorts than the peril of sharks, and a thousandfold greater in the cities than the peril of "infantile paralysis," but neither parents nor the President, neither Congress nor state nor city governments have provided adequate censorship to prevent the "paralysis" of conscience which the "show" madness has brought to millions of our people, young and old. Even the birth of a child is not sacred to our showmen. "Twilight sleep" has been exhibited, not alone to physicians and nurses, but to audiences of curious women and girls, and of gaping boys and men, and sometimes to mixed audiences. Even when shows are not promotive of crime and vice, thousands of people, even Christians, spend more time and money on them than is wholesome for either mind or soul, or justifiable under the duty that lies upon us all to take sufficient, but no more than sufficient recreation. The work of public schools is hindered seriously by the intrusion of "movies" into the sleeping hours, and by their mighty grip on childish minds that extends into their sleepy school hours.

The dance madness now at its worst in alliance with drink in the high-toned cabaret, is an even stronger and more destructive part of this shark-filled gulf stream of amusement madness, which history warns us has been the chief destroyer of the great nations of the past, whose dying cry was "bread and games." Nations have not died of free trade or free silver, but of free love; not of currency, and seldom of conquest save as they had first been weakened by moral cancer.

In the face of the fact that the dance was shown to be the chief cause of moral lapses when a nationwide investigation was made a few years ago, by the International Sunday School Association through a "Commission on Safeguarding Adolescent Youth Against

Moral Perils of the Community," our very school houses are used for dances—first, school dances, despite the fact that many of the parents who pay the taxes belong to churches that forbid dancing, so that announcing a school dance is a case of State against Church as much as if the teacher attacked the Catholic mass; second, public dances, which prevent the otherwise wholesome use of school buildings in evenings for "social centers." Surely there is no dearth of dancing, that the State should provide it and manifestly whatever amusements are provided in school buildings, erected by enforced taxation, should be both recreational and educational, in harmony with Shakespeare's lines:

"Tis well to be amused;
But when amusement doth instruction bring
'Tis better."

The amusement craze, with its strong "yellow streak," has invaded even our publishing houses, libraries and reading rooms. Magazines, having crowded out about all reading save daily papers when they were mighty howitzers of civic reform, have yielded to the public tendency to give all of life outside of business house to amusement and have become—most of them—mere squirts of sex stories, with which the land is being flooded to the serious injury of mind and body. The injury comes not only from the carrion with which their readers are fed, but also by the displacement of the great books which are "necessities of life" to the soul of man and the spirit of the nation.

What is your duty, reader, in the presence of this nationwide peril? Let no one say, I can not do anything to change this mighty current. You can at least shoot the shark that ventures in range of your gun. No mother sits idle in the presence of the paralysis plague. She uses daily the preventive antiseptics prescribed by the health boards. She becomes a vigilant watcher of her child's movements, and safeguards its general health. The news room nearest your home, you, with a neighbor or two, can purge of its worst matter. The writer, even as a passing traveler, has purged hundreds of news rooms of their worst periodicals without strife or force, by a quiet word to the proprietor and a copy of the law.

As for shows, the supreme remedy, a federal censorship of motion pictures, twice reported favorably in Congress, is not yet a law because not one father in ten thousand has asked his own Congressman and Senator to support it. Animals are more brave and faithful in defense of their young.

School boards, too, have promoted dancing only because parents opposed to it have not protested. And periodicals, ever sensitive to any criticism made by even a dozen subscribers, have filled their pages with endless variations on the tangled triangle of "the husband, the wife and the lover," only because thousands of Christian subscribers have not protested and warned them that continuance of these attacks on pure manhood and true womanhood will compel a casting out of the periodical from homes and reading rooms.

The churches, with forty millions of members enrolled on their books, have the ability, and so the responsibility to change the very currents of national thought and action. Even one million can do it. Will you count one? Here is a good motto:

"I AM BUT ONE, BUT I AM ONE. I CAN NOT DO EVERYTHING, BUT I CAN DO SOMETHING. AND WHAT I CAN DO I OUGHT TO DO AND BY THE GRACE OF GOD I WILL DO."

EVERGREEN BIBLE CLASS.

The Evergreen (Adult) Bible Class of Fredericton paid a farewell visit to their teacher, Rev. S. A. Baker, and Mrs. Baker, on Monday evening, the 11th inst. About 50 were present and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed. After prayer by the pastor, readings were given by Mrs. L. A. Morrell and Mrs. Robert Barr; duet by Mrs. S. McFarlane and Mrs. J. Beardsley, and "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" was sung by the company. Brother J. C. Howard presided. Addresses were given by Deacons D. F. Knight and Robert Barr, the latter, on behalf of the Evergreen Bible Class, presented Pastor Baker with \$50. There were many expressions of the pleasant relations which have existed between the retiring pastor and his wife and the church and Sunday school.

Brother and Sister Baker responded to the kind words spoken, expressing their appreciation of the kind words and deeds of a happy pastorate of over six years, and their gratitude for the gift of this evening. The sisters supplied an abundance of ice cream and cake, after partaking of which the class left for their homes speaking of the many happy class meetings they had enjoyed at the parsonage, the last one being fully up to any of the past.

NATIVE WORKERS.

(By I. M. Keirstead.)

We are very glad that Brother Leslie Plummer of Fort Fairfield has undertaken to support Samuel as his evangelist.

Samuel has been a faithful worker for years; for a long time he only received \$30.00 per year for his services, and one can readily see how many sacrifices he made in order to live on that small amount. Then he received double that salary for a time, as he wanted to buy himself a wife. Now as the famine is severe he will get \$7.50 per month, which will gladden his heart.

Samuel is not a handsome native nor a fine singer but the natives think him a big man and a great preacher and he has had grand success in his work for Jesus.

MAKING A MAN.

Take a Boy first out of country or city
(It makes little difference which place it may be),
Add to him Training in soul, mind and body—
Be sure that in each 'tis the finest degree!
Stir well with Ambition (the grade that's marked "Manly"),
Set Ideals before him—the highest you know;
Graft Honesty, Purity, Integrity on him,
And don't let his Thinking be vulgar or low.
Fill his whole soul with a Longing for Service,
Let his heart beat to Humanity's need,
Wring from his character (if not gone already)
Selfishness, Passion, Intemperance, Greed.
Pour in Love of Country, of God, in abundance,
Seeds of Fault Finding from out of him fan—
Lo! and the product you've seen in the making
Stands forth before you ('tis worth trying)
—a Man!
—Adelbert F. Caldwell in Advocate.

"Success grows out of struggles to overcome difficulties. If there were no difficulties there would be no success."