

YOUR TURN NEXT, TOBACCO!

The following is a part of an editorial which appeared in the "Pathfinder," a secular weekly published at Washington:

"We can almost speak of the liquor traffic now in the past tense. John Barleycorn is on the run; he may hesitate and linger, but his time with us is now limited and everybody knows it. But reform is not going to stop there. The possibilities for the improvement of the human race are infinite.

"Wars have always been great encouragers of the tobacco habit, for when boys go into the army and have to suffer hardships they feel that they are entitled to get what solace they can from the 'weed.' Governments encourage the use of tobacco in the military service in fact. Tobacco is supposed to quiet the nerves and keep men good-natured.

"But the fact remains that the world got along very well without tobacco before it was discovered. The white man got the tobacco habit from the Indian, and in exchange he introduced the Indian to fire-water. Neither side has anything to be proud of over the deal, however.

"People over the country are raising the tobacco issue now as it was never raised before. At least half the men don't use tobacco, and it is proper to ask whether it is right for the other half to use it. As a petition from the Grangers, submitted to congress, says it is an abuse of personal privilege for men to blow tobacco smoke into the faces of others. The women certainly have cause to complain at the stinking up of the home by the smokers.

"The grievance against tobacco just now is that thousands of acres of the richest land in the country is used for growing this plant, when this land and the work that is put on the crop is so badly needed for the production of foodstuffs. This is a true bill. It is time to ask whether it is legitimate to grow tobacco.

"We look down on the Chinese, call them a half-civilized heathen nation and brand them as too low to be admitted to our country—yet they have had the stamina to stop the growing of opium. They saw that the opium habit was undermining the vitality of the people and they adopted heroic measures to stamp it out. They may be heathen, but in some ways they show themselves better Christians than we are, with all our boasted superiority.

"Tobacco is not so injurious as opium or liquor but it belongs to the same class, and the arguments that apply to them also hold good as to it. There is no defense for it.

"There is no question that any man is a better man for denying himself any vice. . . . his subservience to any such habit is itself a reflection on his manhood and self-control. Instead of it being a manly thing to use tobacco, it is unmanly, for what genuine man would admit that he had to depend on smoking or chewing a narcotic weed in order to be at his best?

"The use of any narcotic gradually breaks down the nerves, paralyzes the will and benumbs the conscience; at best any such thing is selfish. What an outcry the men would raise if their wives, sisters, and

other female relatives adopted the tobacco habit?

"Already the women are using such a considerable amount of tobacco, in cigarette form, that the annual consumption is being visibly increased as a result. Our people smoked last year eight times as many cigarettes as were produced in the United States when McKinley was president, only twenty years ago. Scores of millions of dollars a year are wasted on merely advertising cigarettes—money which should be put to useful purposes.

"Our tobacco bill is the biggest non-essential bill this country has to pay. Tobacco collects more from us than all the churches and schools combined. Think of it; our men honor the goddess Nicotine more than religion and education put together.

"The insurance experts have never been able to figure the full bill of fire losses that are chargeable to the smoking habit. Not a day passes that big fires, often involving loss of human life, are not caused by cigars, pipes and cigarettes. It is said that a number of huge explosions on warships, in munition plants, etc., during this war have been due to men who insisted on having their smoke no matter if all the world perished.

"We see that this tobacco question, like the drink question, is not one that is safe to leave to the individual; the law must take it into control. That will be the next thing. Congress is being besieged with demands for antitobacco legislation. Kansas has already started the ball rolling. As soon as the states get the liquor evil stopped they will proceed to wipe out the tobacco vice.

"The time is coming, and not very long hence, when tobacco will be again exhibited as a curiosity, just as it was when Raleigh first took it to England. And people will wonder how on earth their fathers and grandfathers could have been so silly as to waste hundreds of millions of dollars a year on such a selfish, filthy habit."—Selected.

"JUST AS GOOD."

The correspondent of an American paper who has for the past two and a half years been writing censor-proof, rose-colored letters from Berlin, got out of Germany with Ambassador Gerard and now tells us that "Every afternoon the German upper classes gather in the cafes and pay unique homage to German science.

They drink coffee containing virtually no coffee, sweeten it with something that contains no sugar, and eat cakes made with virtually no wheat flour, eggs or butter. It is a triumph of synthetic chemistry—and tastes like it."

All of which reminds the writer that he had recently attended a so-called "Christian service, in which there was no gospel, no prayer, and only such fragments of Watts' hymns as had escaped the blue pencil. It was a triumph of Christian Science—and tasted like it.—The Philadelphia Presbyterian.

He that saveth his time from prayer shall lose it. But he that loseth his time for communion with God shall find it in a life of multiplied blessings.—Wilder.

GREAT MEN ON THE BIBLE.

England has two books. She has Shakespeare and the Bible. England made Shakespeare, but the Bible made England.—Victor Hugo.

If I am asked to name the one comfort in sorrow, the safe rule of conduct, the true guide of life, I must point to what in the words of a popular hymn is called "the old, old story," told in an old, old Book, which is God's best and richest gift to mankind.—William E. Gladstone.

If there is aught of eloquence in me, it is because I learned the Scriptures at my mother's knee.—Daniel Webster.

The Bible is a book in comparison with which all others, in my eyes, are of minor importance, and which in all my perplexities and distresses has never failed to give me light and strength.—Robert E. Lee.

I know the Bible is inspired because it inspires me.—Dwight L. Moody.

The opinion of the Bible bred in me, not only by the teaching of my home when I was a boy, but also by every turn and experience of my life and every step of study, is that it is the one supreme source of revelation, the revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God, and the spiritual nature of God, and the spiritual nature and needs of men. It is the only guide of life which really leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation.—Woodrow Wilson.

We search the world for truth; we cull
The good, the pure, the beautiful.
From graven stone and written scroll,
From all old flower fields of the soul;
And, weary seekers of the best,
We come back laden from our quest,
To find that all the sages said
Is in the Book our mothers read.

—John G. Whittier.

OVER-HONED.

In the days before we had learned to use safety razors, the man who wished to bring his steel down to a fine edge found it was easy to over-hone the blade. Too much stropping was as bad as none, for the man who kept up the motion too long found that he had "turned the edge."

The writer received the other day a letter from a critical hearer in a big city church. And his correspondent said:

"Our minister studied four years in one university and three years in the seminary, and then had two years of study in Germany. And now no one can discover from his sermons what he believes—if indeed he believes anything."

One such over-honed minister preached six or eight years in a church well known to the writer—and when he left, the church, in a good neighborhood and of historic importance, was dead past resurrection.

He could not have more effectually destroyed the church had he been educated only in a little red school house and taken a post-graduate course in a saw-mill.—The Philadelphia Presbyterian.

"He who rejects Christ here will be rejected of Him hereafter."