

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MORAL AND SOCIAL REFORM.

As we take a careful review of the moral and social conditions in our towns and cities today, we find that the general trend of circumstances is truly appalling. The young people from the ages of ten years and upwards to young manhood and womanhood are allowed to race the streets, being their own guardians and advisors. The inevitable result follows: Satan has an abundant opportunity to sow the seeds of sin along many lines and he is not slow to avail himself of the same. Consequently there is a complete undermining of virtue and character in those who thus put themselves in the way of temptation, and instead of a generation of home lovers with modest manners and holy Christian ideals, we are developing a generation of light, frivolous, pleasure-loving, uncontrolled young people wholly unfit both morally and spiritually to become the fathers and mothers of the next generation, and unless we can have a good percentage of clean, upright, honest, holy parents what can be expected from the coming generations?

Even our public schools are becoming a training place for the theatre and the dance. We feel that the parents of today should rise up and protest against these evils which tend to undermine the morals of the young.

In these awful troublesome times we are sorry to note that the masses are still pleasure mad so that the moving picture houses are as well patronized as ever, even while our own are dying at the front for us, when out of respect for their sacrifice and suffering, time and money should be spent in better ways.

While this awful war may have diverted the minds of the fairer sex from Dame Fashion to a certain extent, yet we find them still worshipping at her shrine. With our nation making repeated calls for economy we would think it only right that we should do our part individually although many are still so extravagant. For instance, notwithstanding the fact that leather was never more expensive than at the present time, yet more leather is used in the ladies' shoes than ever before, simply because Fashion demands it; also the great variety in colors tends to extravagance.

We notice the short skirt still prevails. We cannot but think that if our modest mothers had been compelled to wear their dress so low in the neck and so short in the skirt (which we believe is well pleasing to the enemy of all righteousness), they would have blushed with shame. While we do not plead for the extremely long skirt, we do contend for moderation in all things.

We think the men (some of our most loyal subjects) are getting a little careless in their mode of dress. We have noted that some are wearing their skirts even shorter than the ladies, and their caps with feathers and unnecessary adornments.

If we allow ourselves to be governed in the selection of our dress by the fashion prescribed by ungodly individuals whose motives are "the lust of the flesh, the lust

of the eye, and the pride of life," we shall find ourselves far from the ideal which God has placed in His Word for our guidance and must surely grieve our Heavenly Father that we would prefer to follow the fashions of the world rather than be guided by Him, who has carefully made it plain in His Word that He would have His people adorn themselves in modest apparel, while the true beauty is to be within, hidden from every eye but His, and upon which He loves to look—a holy heart, washed in Jesus' blood, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

As we study the existing conditions of the world today, both socially, politically and religiously in the light of the sacred Word we are solemnly convinced that the return of our Lord is very near. Shall we not as His children be so adorned within by His righteousness and robed outwardly in modest apparel that we shall be ready at any moment to welcome Him, and looking up to say, "Here is my Lord; I have waited for Him."

SOME CONTRASTS.

At the beginning of the 19th century the British East India Company said: "The sending of missionaries into our Eastern possessions is the maddest, most expensive most unwarranted project that was ever proposed by a lunatic enthusiast."

At the close of the 19th century the English Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal said: "In my judgment Christian missionaries have done more lasting good to the people of India than all other agencies combined."

WHEN YOU MAKE A MISTAKE.

When you make a mistake in judgment or in word, or in both, own up. Don't try to explain how you came to do it, nor seek to sustain an untenable position by argument; that merely wastes time and brings you into dispute as a contentious quibbler.

There is only one way to rectify a mistake if rectification be needed, and that is frankly to admit the error and make whatever amends may be required. A straightforward confession is good for the soul. It is the tribute which conscience demands of intelligence. The man who will not admit his blunders has neither a conscience to set him straight, nor any intelligence to keep him so.—Selected.

John Bunyan utters this beautiful truth: "The Father loves, the Son must die, and the Spirit must sanctify, or no soul must be saved. The Father designs us for heaven, the Son redeems from sin and death, and the Spirit makes us meet for heaven; not by electing, that is the work of the Father; not by dying, that is the work of the Son; but by His revealing Christ, and applying Christ to our souls, by shedding the love of God abroad in our hearts, by sanctifying our souls, and taking possession of us as an earnest of our possession in heaven."

"That man cannot be upright before God who is unjust and unfair in his dealings with men."

EXPECTANCY IN PRAYER.

The absence of expectancy in our public petitions is to me one of the saddest features in the Christian life of this day. If you expect little, you will get little; and we do expect far less than we ought. We cannot raise our confident expectations too high; for "He is able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask" as well as "think." The apostle has set the limit of our expectations, and here it is, in the same context, "That we may be filled with the fulness of God." There are two limits; one is the boundless illimitableness of God's perfection; the possibilities of our possession of Him are not exhausted until we have reached that infinite completeness. But then there is a practical, working limit for each of us; and that is—what do you desire? and what do you expect? God can give more than we can ask or think, but He cannot at the moment give more than we expect or desire.—Rev. Dr. Alexander Maclaren.

BILLY SUNDAY AND LOCAL OPTION.

In the closing days of the campaign which was being conducted by the Anti-Saloon League in New Jersey for local option, a telegram was sent to the famous evangelist from Paterson inquiring his attitude concerning the question. He replied, "Local option is better than nothing. My position on the liquor question is that the national government should forbid its manufacture and sale. If we cannot have that, then state-wide prohibition; if we cannot have that, then local option, but local option last. Local option does not operate against the liquor traffic. It only restricts the territory in which it may be conducted. Local option puts a club in the hands of the liquor traffic to ward off prohibition."

"A single black cloud may develop into a hurricane; a single black spot on the flesh may be the forerunner of fatal gangrene. A single evil thought, harbored in the heart, may overwhelm the life in ruins, and a single evil wish corrupt and kill the soul. "Sin—though at first a seeming trifle, when it is finished bringeth forth death."

"Vice stings us, even in our pleasures; but virtue consoles us, even in our pains."

"Some rules of health:—Drink less—breathe more. Eat less—chew more. Clothe less—bathe more. Ride less—walk more. Sit less—dig more. Worry less—work more. Waste less—give more. Write less—read more. Preach less—practice more."

"The heart of the message of Christianity is the atonement of Christ. Dr. Denney is right in urging that though we may begin as wisely as possible when we approach men with the Christian message, yet if we do not come by some path or other to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world, "we have not begun to preach the gospel at all." The whole message is very rich and wide, but this lies at the heart of it."