

A STARTLING SITUATION.

R. A. Long, the millionaire lumber merchant of Kansas City, recently visited a daughter at Washington, D. C., and says that one day when his granddaughter of fourteen years of age returned from a children's party she said: "Mother, I and another little girl were the only ones at the party who did not smoke." This incident reveals a startling situation, viz.: That the smoking habit has gone beyond the ranks of men, women and boys and has reached the ranks of the girls, mere children, in the supposedly better homes of many of our citizens. If this does not arouse the conscience of America against the tobacco evil, nothing will. But what can be expected when women will walk the streets of our cities smoking cigarettes in company with men, as has been observed here in Syracuse from the Publishing House windows?

But there are encouraging indications that the public is becoming aroused over the increase of smoking among women and girls, and it is to be hoped that the sentiment against the practice will be so pronounced as to hinder its spread. It is reported that many of the women of the country are joining in a movement to stop smoking by either men or women in their homes. The Sunday World, Toronto, discussing the subject of smoking among women, says: "Stern opposition to the practice is found among all classes of men. A general canvass revealed the fact that man dislikes to see a woman smoke. It is pointed out that girls are spoiling their matrimonial chances by the use of tobacco. When a chap wants a companion for the dance hall or the cabaret, he is contented with the brand that smokes, but he never brings this type to his home to be received into the family circle."

In looking over the popular magazines on the news stand which go into many thousands of American homes, one sees leading articles illustrated, in which women are depicted either with cigarettes in their mouths or fingers. Christian people show their disapproval by refusing such papers and magazines a place in their homes.—Wesleyan Methodist.

WE SAY AMEN.

The pastor of a church in an American city writes thus to a friend in the Maritime Provinces: "Though new in the city, Dr. M., pastor C. Church, leads the fight against dances in the school buildings under school patronage.

One morning at preacher's meeting some of the leading preachers were pussy-footing on the question and advising "caution" and "mum" as our attitude, least we offend some fine folk, when Dr. M. shot up straight as a ramrod and exclaimed: "By the living God I'll fight!" It sounded like Luther's challenge: "Here stand I, I cannot otherwise, so help me God." I am with him tongue and pen and prayer. Join with us in our fight against the lust-provoking propaganda in our common schools.

B. T. G.

"It is not necessary to be clever, but it is necessary to be clean."

DIVINE HEALING.

Rev. H. C. Morrison, D.D.

We receive through the mails many requests for prayer for the sick. We think it is perfectly proper to pray for the healing of the sick. The Lord Jesus healed the sick, and his disciples healed the sick by the power of his name, through faith in him.

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Throughout the history of the Church the Lord's people have believed in and prayed much for the healing of the sick. It has been customary when men of prominence were sick for the public press to suggest prayer for their recovery. When bishops and church leaders are sick the Church press calls for prayer for their restoration. I remember to have heard Bishop Haygood on one occasion, while presiding over the Kentucky Conference, say, "I am in this chair in answers to the prayers of God's people for my healing." I have no doubt he spoke the truth.

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In our travels and touch with Christian people we have the testimony of large numbers of perfectly reliable persons to direct answer to prayer in the healing of their bodies. It is the habit of people who love God and trust in him to hasten to him in times of distress. God invites as much. He says, "Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will answer thee, and thou shalt glorify me." The fact that some people may become extreme or fanatical on this subject is no reason why the Lord's people should cease to pray and trust for the healing of their bodies. We cannot afford to give up any Bible doctrine or grace of God because of extravagance or fanaticism. If we should, directly we would have nothing left.

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What I wish to say is this! Those who are sick and desire divine healing should not commit the matter of prayer and faith simply to their friends. It will not do to send out a call for prayer and meanwhile neglect to pray for one's self. We think many people would like a blessing in answer to the prayers of their friends without taking the burden and travail of prayer upon their own souls. Such persons need not expect an answer, either for soul or body. It was our Lord who said, "According to your faith, so be it unto you." He did not say, according to the faith of thy friends. It means much for one to give him or herself up to prayer; not merely saying prayers, but to lay hold of God, Jacob-like, to get an answer.

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The travail of prayer for any blessing of the Lord is always a great means of grace. It brings a very deep consciousness of our dependence and the mightiness of our Lord, and it brings an answer. Sometimes the answer is not just what we had desired, but it is what we needed. It is in times when the soul is led out in a holy agony of prayer that it is in tune, good condition, to hear and appreciate, to receive and submit to the voice and will of God. Those who would be blessed, soul or body, must not trust the matter of prayer and faith simply to their friends, but they must wait patiently upon the

Lord in earnest prayer and believing expectation.

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In praying for divine healing one should be willing and careful to remove any cause producing the malady from which they seek to be delivered. For instance, if the drinking of strong coffee keeps you awake at night do not drink coffee and then pray God to give you quiet and restful sleep. Cut out the nightly cup, pray and compose yourself to slumber. If you have ruined your digestion by over heating, do not pray the Lord to heal your indigestion meantime, continue to gormandize. It is not worth while to enlarge on suggestions of this kind. We all understand that in prayer we must co-operate with God if we expect an answer. It certainly would not be proper if one stuck a splinter under not be proper if one stuck a splinter under the fingernail to leave it there and ask God to relieve the pain and take away the inflammation. We must always do our part, humbly pray and faithfully trust the Lord to do for us what we cannot do for our ourselves.

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There is no question or doubt but what God is answering the prayers of many of his suffering children who are seeking healing at his hands. Let us all be submissive to his will, whatever comes. Let no one yield to the temptation to cast away their faith for the salvation of their souls because of the affliction of their body. I judge that most of us are mere children in the realm of faith and prayer, the glorious possibilities in the provision of the atonement, the love of God and the power of Christ, and the presence, purging, witness, and joy in the Holy Ghost.—Pentecostal Herald.

AN EXTRACT FROM A GOOD LETTER.

A letter from our young sister, Miss Claire Wilcox, of Calgary, Alta., is so good that we share it with our readers. She says:

There is no S. S. in my district and I don't feel equal to establishing one under present circumstances, so I've adopted this plan. Every morning I write a text of Scripture on the board and have them memorize it. I take a few minutes off and on, through the day and after school to hear them repeat it. Then on Friday afternoon I teach them the lesson we had the previous Sunday at S. S. and give them little cards with Bible verses written on them. We then review the text we've already learned and I ask questions such as this: Who shall be saved? Or what must we do to be saved? And it does me good to see their hands go up, and they'll quote a number of texts answering that question. I keep on asking different questions which will bring to mind all the texts they've learned. We've just finished learning the Shepherd's Psalm and the Beautitudes. The children enjoy it very much and I get more out of it than one would think.

Note—Surely this is suggestive to young people and is highly commendable.—Editor.

"Behaviour in a crowd of strangers reveals character."