

SOCIAL REFORM REPORT 1924

In making our report on the moral and social condition we cannot say there is very much improvement. The enemy of all righteousness has blinded the eyes and clouded the minds of many professed followers of Christ who are crying "Peace, Peace," when we are fearing that a sudden destruction will befall us. Card-playing is one of the prevailing sins of the day. Social card-playing usually is to educate the souls of the players into habitual dishonesty.

No one can for any considerable length of time indulge in social card playing without helping to educate some one to become ruined as a gambler.

One of the greatest demoralizing influences on the lives of the young people of today are the moving pictures.

Many of the crimes among juveniles can be traced directly to the movies.

We feel the parents in a great many cases are to blame, there seems to be no home life, so many clubs, lodges and societies that parents have no time to give to the proper training of their children.

The dance would long ago have been banished from decent society had its awful results been fully uncovered.

Dancing on account of its forms of intoxication becomes a craze with most young people, as attractive as the inebriation of the wine-cup or opium pipe. It destroys the soul's desire for the intellectual and uplifting, developing the sensual and demoralizing. We warn our people against dances which are revolting to every feeling of delicacy and propriety and are fraught with great dangers to morals.

The prevailing fashion of the women of this day have become so marked and extreme that we look with concern not only to the effect that will surely follow but also to the influence on the morals of the race. We fear we shall soon see an overwhelming torrent of moral laxity engulf our youth. Indeed it is here already.

We are glad to note that in a Bible College in Pasadena, Cal., the students are informed upon entering the school that theatres and movies must not be attended. The use of tobacco in any form is absolutely forbidden, as well as any obscene action or language. Low necks and short sleeves are not tolerated. Bobbed hair is not allowed.

As holiness people we must keep to the Bible standard. The Book of God tells us that Sodom and Gomorrah gave themselves over to gross sin, that their sin was very grievous and that because of their wickedness, their cities were overthrown by fire and brimstone from heaven.

In view of the present outbreaking immoral conditions of the world we solemnly ask, What may we now expect from the hands of a righteous God?

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. P. J. TRAFTON,
MRS. ROBERT BARR,
MRS. G. B. TRAFTON.

Men became lost souls, not so much because of what they do, as because of what they had failed to do. The man without a wedding garment is representative of a multitude.

THE CHURCH MOVIE.

A Brother Murrill in the *Pilgrim Holiness Advocate* has a lengthy article on this subject full of good truth. We should be glad to give the whole to our readers not so much that we need admonition along this line, but we are all living more or less close to the same thing in some one else's church, which may entice our young folks; or there are conclusions that refer to other things than movies, and show their ill effect. You will read and ponder the article with profit.

He insisted on the church taking the moving picture business out of the hands of the devil, and using it in God's work.

He claimed that the printing press is used for both good and bad purposes, and that, because it is used for bad purposes is no reason why the cause of Christ should not use the press. For that reason he claimed that good pictures could be used in churches to good effect. That sounds like good reasoning; but there is no parallel between good literature and the soul destroying picture show.

No good book ever awakens in the minds of young or old, the desire to investigate bad books; but you put a picture show in the church, and no matter how good it may seem, it does awaken in the minds of the people who love the spectacular, the desire to go to the regular movies to see what they have to exhibit.

That is exactly what the devil is after. That is the trick he has played on the other churches and is one reason why they dare not preach against worldly amusements.

The minister referred to, spoke of pictures in our homes, and claimed that there is no more harm in the movie picture show than in the home pictures. There is no parallel between the home pictures and the vile advertising done for the movies by this plea for the movies. Pictures in the home never suggest a more exciting entertainment at the picture shows. Nobody was ever entrapped into going to the picture shows by looking at the home pictures; but you introduce the movie into the church and you draw a crowd, and out of that crowd will be recruits for the vicious soul-destroying movies that go there under the sanction of the church.

In that same line of reasoning, people claim that the parlor dance is a means of keeping the young people away from the public ball room; but it whets the appetite for the very thing it is supposed to prevent. Many a girl has gone down to her ruin, who got her first lessons in dancing in the parlor of supposed refinement.

The same argument is used to justify card playing in the home. "Oh! it will keep the boys from the gambling table." Such is not true. It has started many a boy, and many a girl to ruin, who would never have been exposed to the evil of gambling if the home had been kept free from the pernicious evil.

Some old-time anti-prohibitionists argued that if you give the boys the privilege of drinking at home, it would keep them from the saloon; but the facts are, such teaching led direct to the drinking in the saloons.

Once we let the advocates of the so-

called good picture show introduce such into our churches, and then you will find all arguments against all worldly amusements powerless to convince anybody that such things are wrong, or if they have sense enough to know that such is wrong, they will have no confidence in our profession of holiness.

Please address our correspondence to
394 Lutz street, Moncton, N. B.
S. A. AND MRS. BAKER.

OBITUARY

William Brown, Sr.

Died at Seal Cove, June 20th, 1924. The deceased was one of the oldest and most respected citizens of the community. He was a member of the Reformed Baptist Church. He leaves to mourn their loss one daughter in South Bristol, Maine, and five sons, Louis and George at Seal Cove; Adrain, of Saco, Maine; Williard, of Lewiston, Maine; Clarence, of Grand Harbor, also one brother, of Grand Harbor, N. B.

The funeral service was held on Friday afternoon conducted by the writer, assisted by Rev. Mr. Crowell, United Baptist.

HARTLEY E. MULLEN.

Mrs. Henry Somers.

The death of Mrs. Henry Somers occurred on Saturday, July 12th, at the residence of her nephew, Mr. O. H. Trites, 178 High street, after being in failing health for some time. The deceased lady had reached the advanced age of 83 years. She was formerly a resident of Lutz Mountain, where she had lived the greater part of her life and where she was well known.

The funeral was held Sunday afternoon, the services at the house and graveside being conducted by Rev. S. A. Baker, pastor of the Reformed Baptist Church, of which deceased had been a devoted member for many years. Interment was made in Elmwood cemetery.

Harry Baker.

Harry Baker, son of Nelson Baker, of Argyle, B. C., formerly of Woodstock, N. B., met with an accident last week which produced hemorrhage of the brain with fatal results.

Many friends will be glad to learn that Mrs. S. A. Baker is gradually regaining her health after three months illness.

THE DANCE AND MORALITY.

In a recent conference lasting till 1.30 in the morning, concerning the immoral conditions which had developed in a certain High School, the Principal of the school wept like a child as he considered himself under a burden of guilt because he had introduced "supervised and correct" dancing in the school. Well might he weep! And many others might do the same. But how much more bitter must be the tears of those girls and their parents! But weeping will not restore the lost characters. Prevention is always better than cure, but it is infinitely more valuable when no cure is possible! How much better to have opposed the dance than to have encouraged and approved it! Oh! that parents and teachers could see the harm in the dance before it is too late!—Sel.