

Sept 15 '25
Nov 3 1925
24
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FOREIGN MISSIONS.

A friend in Havelock, N. S.	\$7.50
Easton S. School	3.00
Miss Frances Holts	2.00
Mrs. Wm. Wheeler (for Geo. Sanders)	15.00
Mrs. S. J. Brown	20.00
Children's meeting (Riverside).....	1.78
Mrs. Allen57

THE HEART SOBS OF PARENTS

By Prof. A. S. London

The greatest battles of this world are not fought on Flanders field or along the Rhine; they are fought in the hearts of parents.

We are living in a lawless age. It is a common saying among all of us that we have never seen it as bad as it is today. Whether this is true or not, suffice to say that thousands of young people are breaking the hearts of their parents and sending them to premature graves.

The disobedience and lawlessness is not confined just to those outside of our movement. It is among our own young people and quite often found among those who are members of our church.

The spirit of the age is against authority. Everyone seems to want to be a law unto himself. The young desire to run their own canoe and anything that crosses their path seems to rub the fur the wrong way and rebellion is on hand. I think much of this is caused by the way parents have governed their children. But allowing plenty of room for the mistakes of the adults, we are still confronted with the rebelliousness, stubbornness and wilful disobedience of a great crowd of our young people.

Parents find it in the home; pastors find it in the churches and teachers find it in the school room. Every where one goes there can be found those who desire to take the reins in their own hands and take the path of least resistance, whatever the results may be. No one is better prepared to see this condition than the teacher in the school room. He comes in contact with all classes of young people and learns many lessons that otherwise he would never know.

I receive many letters from parents who want to know what to do and how to manage their lost children. The stories are pitiful and quite often we have experiences right in our own work that would break the heart of stone.

A mother wrote me a few days ago and asked me to advise her what to do with her boy who is killing himself smoking cigarettes. She is the wife of a preacher and has had the burden of rearing the children. She is a precious mother and not only is she dying of a broken heart over her boy, but her life is slowly ebbing away. He comes in late at night and finds the mother alone. She loves him, but it seems that all she says and does amounts to but little. The letter was stained with her tears and over and over again she begged me to write her precious boy and help her pray for him.

Another letter came just last week. It was from a widowed mother with six children. Her oldest daughter had fallen in love with a reckless young man and married him about a year ago. The moth-

er treated the son-in-law as one of her own. All went well for a while, but just recently it came out that the young man had a living wife before he married the widowed mother's daughter. The mother wrote for advice. The daughter is now the mother of a new babe and not yet able to be told of the awful fact that is before her. The mother said, "What will I do and how can I stand it!" She went on to state that she had been in the experience of holiness for sixteen years and had fought her way through many battles, but this seemed to be the hardest struggle she had ever had to meet.

Poor Mother! Certainly God will bring men to account for their wickedness soon and give a reward to the faithful ones who have stood the test and have been loyal to Jesus Christ. Many of our parents are suffering death, while their children break the laws of the home, the school, the state.

There will be an end to this condition. God will not always suffer it to be so. The youth of this land are headed toward the breakers and soon the crash must come. It cannot be otherwise. Disobedience has a penalty. A special promise is given those who obey their parents and calamity will come to those who go rough shod over the prayers, cries and wishes of godly parents.

Just recently a preacher knocked at my door and asked to register his daughter for school. We took her in and for a while she did well. She took a notion to quit school and go to work. Her father pleaded with her to go on to school or go home. Her mind was made up to not return home. The old father sat and wept as he told how he had borrowed money to give her an education. He had given the best years of his life for others and now his own would not listen to his pleadings. Tears and a broken heart had meant nothing to this young girl of eighteen summers. The girl is now doing as she pleases and having what she terms a good time. The father went away a broken hearted parent. His own offspring treated him as if he had been a stranger to her.

This probably is an exceptional case, but all through our movement are young people who have broken hearted parents, and it seems there is no end to this sad state of affairs. There are no doubt causes that have brought on conditions such as I have related, but just the same the condition exists. Good parents are toiling day and night to give the best possible advantages to their children. Many are suffering from years of reckless living in the past. Rev. George Stuart, the great Methodist Evangelist, says that every wrecked character can be traced back to a defect in the home. It is pitiful to reap the harvest in our children from the sowing of earlier years.

The home is the first and greatest factor in determining the career of a young life. The school is the next important factor in the life and the teacher is the hub of the school. "As the teacher is, so is the school."

But whatever has brought on conditions as they exist among our young people, the truth remains the same, 'children are breaking the hearts of the parents.'

I sat yesterday and heard an old mother

and father talk to their boy. He has been unruly and caused them much trouble. They have prayed much for him and given heartily of their means to support the church. He is not a Christian and has little interest in Christianity. The old mother sat and talked to her boy as only a mother can talk. Her heart was broken. The tears streamed down her cheeks and between her sobs, she entreated her child to give his life to Christ and make good in school. The scene was more than I could bear. I excused myself from the room. The boy has blundered and is in trouble. He is suffering, but not half as much as the parents.

There is no end to my story. The heart sobs of parents is beyond the power of expression. I have heard the cries until my heart is broken.

Hutchinson, Kans.

ARE YOU A SILENT LETTER?

A writer in the Christian Advocate has the following concerning the unproductive church member which is worth repeating:

"A glittering ornament to this age of statistics has been figuring out the cost of the silent letters in the language. An unsuspected field for economy is pointed out in the fact that silent letters cost as much to print as those that are heard. This statistician tells us that if we strike out these idle letters the cost of the yearly printing bills of both France and England would be reduced by \$40,000,000. Statisticians not very busy on other jobs have computed that in France alone 108,000,000 letters are used, 13 per cent. of which are useless. If a further radical step might be taken and superfluous words as well as superfluous letters eliminated, doubtless enough saving would be effected to pay the French debt to America!

"The elimination of mutes is not only a printer's problem. A good field for investigation by statisticians would be the cost of the silent church members who play the part of an unsounded letter on the printed page. There are probably not 108,000,000,000 of them, but there are enough to make them a major problem in the spread of the Kingdom of God. There are, unfortunately, a great many members of the Church who contribute just about as much as a final unsounded e or a merely decorative h. God's word to the world cannot be sounded with silent letters. The life of every disciple must be made vocal if the divine message is to be made clear."

"At the hour of prayer they all with one consent began to make excuses. The first said I have so many cows and I must needs go and milk them; I pray thee have me excused. Another said, I have joined a lodge and must needs attend that; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have promised to attend a party, and must needs go; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I am very tired, and must needs go to bed; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, we have a baby, and therefore cannot come. And when the preacher heard all these things he wept between the porch and the altar."--Northwest Evangelist.