

## Young People's Column

Hartland Missionary Station,  
Natal, South Africa,  
August 13th, 1927.

Dear Children: There was a native custom called "godukisa," meaning "cause to go home." So the Zulu women and men, when too old for further work, were killed outright or sent away to die of starvation. This custom is no longer practiced, because Christianity has come to this "Darkest Africa" as a great light.

It is wonderful what the true worship of God will do for a country. Even now these Zulus continue to believe in witchcraft, and think that a death is caused by some of their enemies practicing this art. But no longer do they "smell out" and kill the one supposed to be guilty.

Do you know that the government of Russia passed a vote to do away with faith in God? Then they made men of straw to represent the God of the Jews, the God of the Christians, etc., and paraded them through the streets to show all the people. Finally they burned all these gods in the city square of Moscow.

For a long time godly men and women have been wondering how Russia will get along,—for they even passed laws that no children under eighteen years of age may be taught religion, punishing with death any priest or minister who may dare to violate this law.

So we need not be surprised when we hear that in Russia the government has made a rule or law like the old Zulu custom "Godukisa." Let me quote from the *Empire Review*: "It is held by the Bolshevik government that it is uneconomic to care for the old and broken. The still physically vigorous may receive public relief, but the old and sick are left to crawl to their graves as they can. What this means in human suffering can be imagined."

We remember what happened to the Old World when Noah was separated from it and "God shut him in the Ark." Also, what happened to Sodom when Lot was led out by guarding angels. We notice, too, why Lot's wife was changed into a pillar of salt. For salt has preserving power. As God had promised Abraham, "if I find ten righteous people" in the city, I will save the whole place for their sakes. So true Christians are "the salt of the earth." And woe to Russia or any other country when all the true people of God are removed.

Then let us narrow it down to one person—with "no God, no home, no refuge—alone upon the deep." Notice what God says of Himself. He likens Himself to a mother, saying "They may forget, yet will not I forget thee." Also He likens Himself to a father: "When thy father and thy mother forsake thee, then the Lord will take care of thee." So any person unsaved is like a small child with no parental care. Notice further: "I am the good Shepherd," and "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." A lost sheep, wandering in the darkness, at the mercy of cruel wolves, is the picture God gives of a person unconverted, or backslidnen.

And so we might go on quoting what the good Book says to the man or child who has not yet been "born of God." It was the "wise man that built his house upon a rock," and the five wise virgins that were watchful and ready. So I pray that any reading these lines will make sure that they are in the Ark of Safety, and are doing their best to bring others in.

Ever your friend in Jesus,  
H. C. SANDERS.

## EFFECT OF ALCOHOL ON THE BRAIN AND NERVOUS SYSTEM

(From Official Records of the Board of Education of England, 1922)

Contrary to popular opinion, the effect of alcohol on the nervous system is to depress rather than to stimulate its functions. The apparently stimulating action, as shown by the stage of excitement through which the drinker may pass, is due to its depressing action upon the highest and latest developed part of the brain, namely, that which is associated with the exercise of the intellect and of the will. The emotions released from proper control are left free to play to respond to the immediate environment in which the drinker finds himself, and this as a rule is of a convivial character.

The emotional characteristics are the oldest established; they have their seat in certain lower parts of the brain which are developed early in the animal scale. Next in order of development come the nerve centres associated with the sensory and skilled motor functions, and latest of all is developed that part of the brain connected with the higher intellectual faculties.

Thus, the action of alcohol is to depress the function of the brain from above downwards in the reverse of their development in the individual and in the race.

Among these successive steps the following may be noted:

(1) Blunting of self-criticism. — Self-criticism represents the latest development of the intellectual functions. When it is blunted, actions are indulged in or remarks made which are not consistent with the usual character of the individual. The resulting effects of this blunting are various; but certain of them are particularly characteristic of the action of alcohol, and emerge with considerable regularity in carefully conducted tests and experiments. Among these may be cited:

(a) Uncritical self-satisfaction with one's work and actions; (b) disregard of occurrences and conditions normally requiring caution; (c) trespass of rules and conventions previously respected; (d) impaired appreciation of the passage of time; (e) talkativeness; (f) an argumentative frame of mind; quarrelsomeness.

(2) Interference with the performance of skilled movement; clumsiness of behaviour, slurring of words.

(3) The blunting of the senses—hearing, taste, touch and vision.

(4) The display of the primary emotions—Anger one moment, affection at another; boisterousness and depression; laughter and tears.

(5) The failure to respond to external stimulation and the eventual lapse into a heavy sleep.

At each successive stage in the process of "intoxication," it will thus be seen that the action of alcohol is chiefly narcotic.

## MEANS OF TRAINING

Many a loss and sorrow we would take out of our lives if the power were ours. We have endured them and gone on, but the ache and the scar remain. But few of us would consent to be just what we were before the stormy experience came to us. It is on such battlefields that faith is strengthened, character built and soul power gained. "The furnace is for gold"—Prov. 17:3.

## LET YOUTH SPEAK

More than to anyone else the legalized sale of liquor will be a burden upon the shoulders of the young men and women of New Brunswick, making it more difficult than heretofore to maintain resistance against the insidious temptations of the traffic.

Hitherto it was recognized as not only illegal but highly unrespectable to be found affected by drink. Of course there were those who gloried in openly and flagrantly violating civil regulations; but their number was small in proportion to the whole youth population. Many who would scorn to patronize the bootlegger and his fellow law-breakers will yield to the temptation to drink when liquor may be legally obtained. And if they are invited to participate in the carousals the urge will be strengthened by the legal purchase of the intoxicants.

In view of these facts, and in view of the blatant and false statements concerning the law-breaking proclivities of our youth during the last couple of years—when it was frequently said that they were the principal customers of the bootlegger, and that no party was considered worth attending unless liquor freely flowed, we would appeal to the young men and women and the older boys and girls to take a very positive attitude against the advances of the liquor business in this province.

In Ontario during the campaign for legal liquor the young men and women spoke out plainly and strongly, and thousands gathered to pack the largest auditoriums in protest against the sale of booze. Are our New Brunswick young people less sympathetic toward the common weal or less antagonistic to a common woe? We think not. We believe that such an emergency would bring forth as strong a protest; in fact we believe that it would be a stronger protest, in proportion as our population compares with that of Ontario.

In looking forward to the day when the citizens of New Brunswick will be asked their opinion of the liquor selling business in which they have been made partners without their consent, we solicit a close study of all phases of the traffic by the young men and young women of the Province. We also ask for a public and private repudiation of every temptation issuing from the business. Let no amount of persuasion cause those who are abstainers to be otherwise. Let beer and wine and harder liquors rest upon the shelves of the Government Stores—where it can do no harm. In short, let the voice of youth be heard in the land in a strong advocacy, by precept and example, of total abstinence.—Temperance Bulletin.

## TRIFLES

The massive gates of circumstance  
Are turned upon the smallest hinge,  
And thus some seeming pettiest chance  
Oft gives our life its after tinge.

The trifles of our daily lives,  
The common things scarce worth recall,  
Whereof no visible trace survives,  
These are the mainsprings, after all.

Any paper dated today is a back number concerning religious error compared to New Testament.