

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Who-soever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Proverbs 1-20.

In a daily paper recently I saw a picture of several young ladies placing an old man into a coffin, and underneath it was written: "Unwept, unhonoured and unsung." It was a description of a mock funeral which was held lately on New York's Gay White Way, by the Art Students' League, celebrating the death of the prohibition law.

My heart was greatly grieved as I read that precious bright young people would thus welcome the return of their greatest enemy, viz., the legalized sale of intoxicating liquors. I thought also, this mock funeral may not be in vain, for it no doubt will serve as a forerunner of many funeral services that will be held, because of the increase in the sale and drinking of intoxicating liquors, both in Canada and in the United States since our prohibitory laws are repealed. They may not have wept over the death of old "Man Prohibition" as they called it, but God only knows how many tears will be shed in the days to come by these same folk and many others who will suffer and die because of it. H. S. DOW

NO SALOONS!

Postmaster-General Farley is still announcing to the people that there are to be no saloons. It is too bad for a man of such prominence to be in such ignorance of what is going on in the world. Would not some good friend inform him that saloons have been running wide open in Chicago and New York and other cities for months, and that Washington, D. C., is enjoying an orgy of drunkenness and debauchery at this date, 1933? The account of the District of Columbia's condition, which is credited to the Washington Times (which is classified as "wet") reads:

"Station houses and the Police Court of the District of Columbia were jammed today when a new all-time record for arrests was rolled up over the week-end.

"More than 500 Washington citizens—525, to be exact—found themselves in custody. Of this number, 211 were charged with drunkenness. The records show that for the twenty-four hours ending at 8 o'clock this morning, 84 persons were locked up for imbibing too much, while for the previous period 127 who had drunk not wisely but too well landed in 'durance vile.'

"When police court opened today 257 persons were arraigned on various charges, the majority being intoxication.

"This sets an all-time record for the number of arraignments. * * *"—The Free Methodist.

Gypsy Rodney Smith, the original Gypsy Smith, was born in 1860, of gypsy parents who became Methodists and in whose honor a Methodist Memorial Hall is being erected. He was converted under the labors of a Primitive Methodist preacher and was for some years associated with General William Booth.—Christian Advocate.

The election of Rabbi James G. Heller to the board of directors of the Young Men's Christian Association of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio, is an unprecedented event. Nothing like this has happened before during the eighty-five years of the "Y's" history.—Christian Advocate.

THE FIRST QUESTION FOR THE QUESTION BOX

Could anyone change his or her mind about a promise made to the Lord and still be a Christian? X. Y. Z.

Answer—This question is rather ambiguous. It would depend much on the nature of the promise and also on the nature of the change in his mind. For instance: A person might promise to give one hundred dollars to some good work, and change his mind and give two hundred. He could make that change and still be a Christian, if he was one before. Or he might change his mind like Ananias and Sapphira and keep back part of what he had promised, and not tell the truth about it. That certainly would affect his standing with God. Making promises or vows to the Lord seems to have been a very common custom under the old dispensation, and has been in practice some in later years, even down to the present day. Promises or vows made to the Lord have always been regarded by both God, and men, as very sacred, so much so that the one who promised was held guilty of a great offence if he failed to pay his vows, according to the Scriptures. There may be, however, promises made to God which would be better broken than kept. Rash or fanatical vows, where the welfare of some other person or persons is involved like Jephthah's vow where the life of his daughter was sacrificed. Such promises or vows as this are not inspired, nor endorsed by God. The vows that seem to be pleasing to God were such as a man made when he became a Nazirite and separated himself from worldly things and pleasures that he might devote himself wholly to the service of God. Sometimes children became Nazirites by virtue of the vows of their parents. Such as Samuel, Sampson and John the Baptist, and these vows, God set His seal to by greatly blessing these men. They seemed to be voluntary promises made to God out of gratitude to him for His great goodness or because of a desire for some future blessing. A Nazirite vow was typical of the vow or promise a soul makes in his consecration to God when seeking the blessing of a clean heart. Thus if his vow or consecration is scriptural according to Rom. 12-1-2. God will respect it and give him the blessing, but if at any time that soul changes his mind and retracts his consecration he will certainly forfeit the favour of God and become a backslider until he again restores the pledge or that which he took away. It is possible for men to make promises to God which God does not respect, because they are unscriptural, and also God sees their motive and knows that they are prompted by selfishness. Cain brought an offering to God and God did not respect it, because he did not meet the divine requirement. Men must come to God's terms and not think that they can bring Him to their terms. He has told us in his word what those terms are: Confess, forsake, put away the evil, cleanse yourself from all filthiness, etc. And we must do these things because God has demanded it, which constitutes repentance.

Some times men who are in trouble try to drive a sharp bargain with the Lord and say: I will do thus and so, if the Lord will do something for me. They want to make the terms. When the southern armies were beaten in the U. S. civil war General Grant called to General Lee to surrender, and Lee sent

back word: "On what conditions, Sir?" Whereupon Grant replied, "No conditions at all!" So Lee passed his sword to Grant.

If men will stop their dictating to God, and meet his conditions, they will get something from Him that will give them deliverance and victory over all their sins, foes and evil habits. Then they must walk in the light as He further reveals his will to them, for if they change their mind or course of life they will walk in darkness, which is sin, and the end will be "outer darkness." I have given much space to the answer of this question, because it touches the lives of so many who make promises to God, and later seem to change their minds, and fail to keep them, and lose God's smile. H. S. D.

THE GLOOM OF ATHEISM

"Any one who doubts that church going and the ministrations of religion help to make a people cheerful and happy have only to contrast the merry voices and laughing faces of those who congregate outside the church doors after the Sunday service, with the bitterly curled lips and cynically half-closed eyes of a crowd attending a meeting of atheists. It is said that on the streets of Moscow no Russian smiles any more except with the kind of smile ascribed by Caesar to Cassius."—The Los Angeles Times.

LET DOUBTFUL THINGS ALONE

If Scripture plainly teaches anything, it teaches that Christians are to let things of doubtful propriety alone. He who doubted the propriety of eating meat offered in sacrifice to idols was condemned if he ate. For young people especially, there are many things which they are inclined to enjoy of a very doubtful propriety, even in their own minds—dancing, theater going, etc. In every such case it is Conscience versus Desire. To indulge in the thing before the case is decided is to put an injunction on the action of Conscience and leave Desire unrestrained; or, worse, to let Desire go free while keeping Conscience in prison. Whoever does this is not only condemned, but self-condemned; for he is proceeding as if the case were decided, when he knows it has not been decided. It is most dangerous trifling.—Christian Standard. Christian Witness, year 1892.

A MOTHER'S CONSECRATION

A lady contributes to the Watchman and Reflector a significant reminiscence of the late Rev. Dr. Stevens, the veteran missionary in Burma:

"During his last visit to this country we had the honor of a visit from him at my mother's home in Auburndale, when he gave a most touching account of his recent return for the first time to his birthplace in Georgia. He had met there an aged lady, who told him how in his infancy his mother had sent for her pastor, and, holding the infant in her arms, requested him to dedicate the child in solemn prayer to the work of Foreign Missions. Of this act of his mother Dr. Stevens learned for the first time after nearly forty years of missionary labor. 'I now see,' said he, 'why I was drawn so irresistibly to the missionary work. It was the answer to my mother's prayers.'—Religion Intelligences, 1888.

The League of Nations received a protest from 70 German cities, associations, and individuals against recent flight of planes which dropped propaganda handbills over Berlin. They demanded Germany be given protection from foreign airplanes.—selected.