

## Temperance Column

*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.* Prov. 20:1.

Solomon never said a truer thing than the above statement where he calls wine and strong drink a mocker and deceiver. They promise much happiness pleasure but always leave a curse and blight behind them. Men have tried to control and utilize the liquor traffic from time to time and make it a means of prosperity and blessing to mankind, but the result has always been the downfall and wreck of nations as well as of individuals who continue to drink strong drink. It is an incorrigible evil, cannot be corrected, any easier than the devil can be converted. The most ancient reports that we have of liquor drinking were attended with evils. After the flood from which God had saved Noah and his family in the ark, he fell a victim of wine drinking for he planted a vineyard, made wine and drank it and was drunken, and his youngest son, Canaan, looked upon his father's nakedness while he was in a drunken sleep and Noah awoke cursed his son when he knew what he had done. Thus drinking brought a curse to the first family after the flood, and it has done the same to millions of homes and young men since. Also Lot after the destruction of Sodom from which he and his two daughters were miraculously saved by the mercy of God who sent His angels to take them by the hand and lead them out of the doomed city, became a victim of drunkenness and committed a horrible crime of incest, and became the father of two sons by his own daughters. And thousands of young women have been ruined by drunken men since the day of Lot, immorality has always been closely connected with liquor drinking as well as many other kinds of crime. The following taken from the Boston Post, will give us an idea of how crime is on the increase in Boston, since the repeal of the prohibition law.

H. S. DOW.

### REPEAL AND DRINKING

To the Editor of the Post:

Sir: Some of the articles in the Post distress me, giving the idea that Boston and drink are getting on quietly. True is the statement of John Bantry that we are growing in the entire State a great crop of drunkards; note the following increases taken from District Court records: Dorchester, 62 per cent; Waltham, 66 per cent; Springfield, 50 per cent; Worcester, 69 per cent; Taunton, 141 per cent; Gardner, 110 per cent; Pittsfield, 140 per cent.

If the Post wants to steer its country away from gangsterism, let it preach abstinence and no license. The preaching in the post-war period of drink and the wide-open door, followed by the repeal vote, has probably done more to give us a criminal uprising than any other one thing.

M. GROVES.

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### "BE STILL AND GROW"

The Psalmist sang, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Some fail to rely on God's divine help, however, because they do not obey him. He says, "Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." It is easier to bustle, to fret, to worry, to weep, to lament, to run up and down, back and forth than to "Be still and know."—Selected.

## Question Box

Q.—Where would you place a professed Christian even a professor of holiness who earns more or less money all the time, and yet never gives a cent to the church to which he belongs?

A.—I would place him in one of two classes of professors. First if he is really a Christian there is much wrong with his intellect and he is not a responsible person, which is unlikely if he is able to earn money. Second he may belong to a class of people who are greatly mistaken about their heart experience and are professing to have something which they have not. "Whoso hath this world's goods and seeth his brother have need and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" 1 John 3:17.

Q.—Is any person all clear in his Christian experience before he has the money question settled?

A.—No. The money question is a very important question in the Christian life seeing that it is fraught with such dangers to him that if he allows the love of money to hold sway in his heart it will mean back-sliding to him and perhaps the loss of his soul. See what the apostle writes about the love of money. 1 Tim. 6:9-10.

Q.—Should people wait till all their debts are paid before they give to the Lord?

A.—If you mean to include in "their debts" the debt that they owe to the Lord. I would say yes. Pay your debts first including what you owe the Lord and after that give to Him as you are able. But if one takes the attitude that he should pay all of his own debts before he pays the Lord or gives Him anything, then I can see how he can have a very good excuse for not giving anything to the Lord's cause, viz. Just keep on running into debt so he will always have his own debts to pay first. "Will a man rob God." Mal. 3:8.

Q.—When does the Spirit of God come into men's hearts to stay?

A.—When men love God and keep His Commandments. See John 14:15-16. He comes in when we are born again and love God, and remains as long as we obey Him or keep His commandments.

H. S. DOW.

### "WHAT I GAVE, I HAVE"

Some one tells of a wealthy man somewhere in the East who several years ago gave \$20,000 to a church project. Then the financial storm came. In 1929 and the years since he lost all his material resources. A friend remarked, "Now if you only had back the money which you gave to the church you would not be so bad off and you could begin again." But he replied, "If I had not given that money I would have lost it with the rest. What I gave is all I have."

How good it would be if we could all realize this. Either in the depression, or by some swindler, or by death we are going to lose hold on "all we have," eventually. We can not shrewdly avoid the disaster by willing the property to the children. This is counted with God the same as an attempt to keep it for ourselves. In such action nature, not grace, is in the ascendancy.

But what is given in the will to missions, and Christian education, and evangelism, and benevolence, and benevolence, and to pay the debt of the local church, is saved—that is, unless the will is broken or the lawyers get a big slice for defending it, as they too frequently do. Which last remark reminds us that we should give through annuities, if we can not give outright, thus saving to ourselves the income from

our property so long as we live, and avoiding the will contest and expense and possible loss after we are gone.

Also, there is the possibility of paying to God's cause and giving liberally rather than stingily while we live.

"What I gave, I have."

### THAT GREAT QUESTION

There was a shipwreck on our coast some time ago. A ship struck upon a sunken rock, and the lifeboat put out to rescue the crew. The lifeboat drew near the sinking ship, and all got in safely except the captain and the first mate. "Get aboard," said the captain to the mate. "Wait a minute, Captain," and he dived down the companion ladder to fetch something from the cabin. The captain saw the folly of the act, and jumped into the lifeboat hoping that the mate would soon follow. To stay beside the sinking ship was dangerous, and the coxswain drew off to wait for the mate to appear. Alas; before he could do so a great wave struck the vessel; she rolled over and sank, and the unfortunate man cooped up in the cabin was drowned. A few days after, divers went out to see what could be done with the vessel, and they found the corpse of the mate in the cabin. In his right hand was something tightly grasped. They brought him on deck and unclasped his clenched fist. His purse fell out. They opened it. It contained—thirty-six cents! Had that man lost his life for thirty-six cents? "Ah!" you say. "What a fool!" But what are you risking your soul for? It may be either money or pleasure, but mark you, your soul is at stake.—From the King's Business.

Text:—"For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36, 37.

### THE MAGIC OF A SMILE

Freda worked in a small baker's shop, where besides helping with the baking, she waited on the customers. One day she felt tired and very depressed. Everything had seemed to go wrong. She had a bad cold, the last batch of rolls had got burnt, and she had cut her thumb.

"Nothing goes right," she thought, brushing away a tear, and wishing she could go home and lay her aching head on the pillow. Waiting on customers, who cared nothing for her, was hard work.

The door opened suddenly, and a slender little lady came in.

"Good afternoon!" she said, smiling at Freda in the most friendly way. "I've brought a little present for you. A friend of mine sent me a box of handkerchiefs, and I chose the prettiest for you."

Freda forgot her aching head and her sore thumb.

"For me?" she cried.

The little lady nodded.

"Yes, for you. You give such willing service, it is always a pleasure to come into this little shop. Many a time I have gone away from here cheered because of your smile. The gift isn't much; it is just a little something to show my appreciation."

"Thank you! Thank you!" Freda cried. "I shall keep it always, and when things go wrong I shall look at it and remember that you said I had helped you."

Such help as we can give each other in this world is a debt we owe to each other. Don't be content with thinking good of people. Tell them what you think. A little appreciation is often just the encouragement your friend may need.—Selected.