

Temperance Column

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

"LEST WE FORGET"

A Parable on the Liquor Traffic
By Oral Green

(Continued from Issue of Jan. 31st)

The room was nearly filled with those being who had come in obedience to the command of their fearful master. As before, the different reports were brought in and read with evident satisfaction, but listen, the master is speaking. "You will now hear the report our faithful fiend alcohol has to bring." A tall figure rose from his seat, his hideous face beaming with satisfaction, and thus addressed his superior, "It is with great pleasure I bring a report of our work. Our work as outlined five years ago has been a great success, even greater than we could hope for at the time, for we have completely deluded those mortals until they are following us and doing just as we desire and yet think they are free and doing just what is best for them. They can't seem to see they are bound with so many chains they can never free themselves. Men have fallen for our plan in vast numbers, indeed, we cannot as yet tell what the outcome will be for the final result will only be known in that day when time shall blend with eternity.

We first visited the officials, leaders of nations and kingdoms, leaders of provinces and cities, leaders who were elected by the people and who were considered capable of doing the very best for humanity. We told them it would be a great benefit to their people if they would take charge of alcoholic drinks and sell them to the public. Also, they would gather large sums of money from the revenue, money enough to clear the country of debt and help it well on the way to prosperity. As for public opinion, that would not amount to much for who would dare speak evil of their leaders? We did not tell them about the extra police forces they would have to pay to help keep order, for people sometimes get unruly. We did not tell them about cost of courts, increased prison fares, or relief funds to help those dependent women and children whose husbands and fathers used the money that should go to buy food and clothing, to satisfy that insistent craving for strong drink. We did not remind them that the curse of God rests on the whole business, from start to finish whether controlled by governments or sold by the outlawed bootlegger. Those officials were completely deceived and went about congratulating themselves on their farsightedness and ability to finance their country even in times of depression not knowing they had been deluded by the great enemy of all good.

We next called on those people of wealth, people who were high in society. They were not so hard to convince as might be thought. They like a little alcohol themselves and were glad to have a chance to obtain it legally. We told them they had enough will-power and self-control so they could take it or leave it as they saw fit, and why bother about the other fellow. We also told them it was a beverage of high quality and was far superior to drink they could obtain elsewhere. We did not tell them that when alcohol gets into a life it is soon master and they must be the servant. We did not tell them alcohol obtained at a "Control Store" would intoxicate them, steal their brains and reason and make beasts of them just as any other drink would do. We did not tell them that their children, because of their influence, would very likely also seek out the

places where alcoholic drinks were sold and while under its power commit crimes and do things that would ruin their lives in the world and then damn their souls eternally.

Next we went to the great masses of people, the common herd. They were very easy to manage. If it was alright for the leaders to deal in and if the wealthy and socially prominent people drank, why should they make a fuss, is their plea. So they follow on like sheep, paying no attention to biblical standards, laws of nature or good common reason, never stopping to learn where they are headed or what their destination will be.

The church people were hardest to convince, and even now there are some who are fighting this work but their numbers are comparatively small. We had to use much time and effort with these people, especially the preachers. We told them they must not be too narrow minded for things had changed and their generation was broad minded so they must accept new views in order to be up with the times. We told them they would lose their congregation if they were so strict and narrow in their thinking, and they must cater to these young people in order to keep them in the church. We also told them it would greatly affect their own pocket books if they continued to stand against this question. This latter seemed to be a forceful argument, and after a little time they too fell for us and of course their people followed in their footsteps, and took the same stand and attitude they did.

And here is another line in which we have had great success. We have broken down social barriers until today women drink as well as men.

Time was not so long ago when a woman who drank was shunned by respectable people and cast out from society. Today the order is reversed for in order to be popular with the crowd a woman must drink with the men. Some women are proud of this achievement, and feel they are indeed coming into their rightful place on earth and are on equal standing with men. This is one of our greatest victories, for women have such a great influence. The social standards of a community are set and maintained by the women of that place as a rule, and we find that when the women lowers her moral standards, man usually follows suit, sooner or later.

Then what chance has a child born of drinking parents? When the father alone drinks, the evil effects of heredity are partially overcome by the strength and pureness of the mother, but when she too drinks and loses this influence for good, well, the next generation is ours!

During the past five years we have travelled far and wide over land and sea and everywhere we have left the work of our hands. No country has escaped. Sorrow, sin and suffering follow in our train. We visit the rich, the poor, famous people and the unknown man. Old, young, we are after all. We have blighted and ruined the young and pure, we have cursed and damned the older ones. We have done our work well. Indeed "Hell hath enlarged itself" to receive our produce. We are going out in the coming year to continue our deadly work. Respectfully submitted: Chairman of the committee on alcohol.

Friends, should we not "put on the whole armour of God" and go forth to fight this great evil? Should we not look into the situation and find out what we can do as individuals? Lest we forget the devil is back of the whole business, lest we forget our own young people are in danger, lest we forget, ourselves, and are caught in the tide modern trend of thinking. Lest we forget.

"WE CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT IT"

It is said that when some one came running and saying, "Oh, Mr. Emerson, they tell me that the world is coming to an end," he replied, "Well, never mind, we can get along very well without it." The truth is that we shall have to get along pretty soon without the present order of things. The Lord is soon coming, we believe. And if we do not live to see that day, then it will be death that will convey us from the present activities, burdens and pleasures.

The disciples, hoping that the Lord would soon assert Himself and make Rome subject to Jerusalem as Jerusalem had been subject to Rome and eager for that blessed reversal, asked, "Wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered, "The kingdom is within you." Oh, what a shock, perhaps what a disappointment! They hoped that He was preparing an outside political good. He points to the heart as the source from which the greatest good is to come.

Some day we shall be stripped of all political and social advantages, all property, all friends, all church offices, all standing among men and rest only in the work accomplished by the blood of Christ and the grace of God in our own hearts.

It is good to be concerned about the Lord's return, to speak of it and to preach about it. But remember "The kingdom is within you." You should concern yourself above all things that it is well established there. If we will see to it that we have this perfect inner adjustment with Him, He, out of His wisdom and infinite resources, will take care for us of Rome, Jerusalem and heaven. We must do our best, then rest in His infinite resources.—Free Methodist.

THE FILMING OF "IN HIS STEPS"

Dr. Charles M. Sheldon has just issued a statement to the effect that he is greatly disappointed in the filming of his famous book, "In His Steps". He says, "I have seen the preview of the picture * * * and can not find any resemblance between this picture and the story that I wrote. The picture as made does not convey the ideals that I intended to portray in my book nor carry the object lessons that I had in mind in writing it."

Mr. Sheldon intended something good in his writing. You may be sure that the movie industry has nothing good in mind but only the making of money at any cost. Religious subjects are used so that religious people can by these salve their consciences in the attendance at movies. Such people going to see such pictures pass on to see the worst the industry produces. The theory that the good ones should be supported and attended and the rest rejected by good people sounds well, but it is the five per cent who do so (and they give their influence to the institution); the ninety-five per cent do little discriminating.

The movies are sold to the devil. Christian people have no business patronizing the money-wasting, morals-destroying, crime-promoting, soul-damning institution.—Free Methodist.

True friends visit us in prosperity only when invited, but in adversity they come without invitation.—Theophrastus.

The only successful way of doing what we like lies in cultivating a taste for what we have to do. Duties are often unalterable, but our attitude toward them is adaptable.