

Temperance Column

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

A GHASTLY SLAUGHTER

In 1936 there were 35,695 men, women and children killed and 967,840 maimed or injured on the highways and streets of the United States—a total of 1,003,535 casualties in a single year. Think of it! That total is a greater number than the population of five cities in the United States in the 1930 census—Hartford, Connecticut; San Diego, California; Youngstown, Ohio; Omaha, Nebraska; Atlanta, Georgia.

For the first quarter of 1937, the National Safety Council reports 8,500 traffic deaths, an increase of 26 per cent over the same period last year, and the summer's traffic, congested highways, "snake" drivers and speeders who "press the accelerator to the floorboard" had not yet opened up. If this slaughter continues, "50,000 people may be doomed to be killed by automobiles this year." That does not take into account the hundreds of thousands who will be maimed and injured.

Who are responsible for this ghastly total? The Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph says editorially, "The killers behind the steering wheels are the drunks, the irresponsible idiots, the reckless, heedless drivers, and the conscious and conscienceless lawbreakers." There is little argument against the contention that the toll of casualties throughout the country is rising steadily as the result of mixing gasoline and alcohol. The chief menace on the highways is not so much the drunken drivers as the drinking drivers.

But who is helping to put the drinking and drunken drivers behind the steering wheels? Mr. David Lawrence, writer from Washington, D. C., on May 5, 1937, answers the question, and the answer makes us blush with shame. Under "Administration Makes Sales Appeal in United States to Aid Rum Industry of Virgin Islands" he writes, "The Roosevelt administration has gone into the business of selling rum. A separate Government corporation has been organized, in which a member of the President's cabinet is an officer, and approximately \$1,000,000 has been allocated out of public funds for the use of the corporation in question—The Administration appears before the boys and girls of the nation as sanctioning the use of rum.—The treasury department has never before gone to the point of urging the American people to drink liquor in order to help balance the budget." What, our government encouraging our citizens to use liquor, increasing the danger from the drinking and drunken drivers behind the steering wheel!

"50,000 people may be doomed to be killed by automobiles this year." When will this ghastly slaughter cease? When the public indignation is aroused because of speeders and drinking drivers who increase the number of mutilated bodies carried from public morgues and hospitals into the American homes.—W. H. McP., in Christian Union Herald.

I hear men praying everywhere for more faith, but when I listen to them carefully and get at the real heart of their prayers, very often it is not more faith at all they are wanting, but a change from faith to sight . . . Faith walking in the dark with God only prays Him to clasp its hand more closely.—Phillips Brooks.

"NONE OTHER NAME"

A remarkable fact concerning the power of Jesus Christ and the Christian religion is His mastery over sin. All other religions fail here, as it is expected they should fail, sin being what it is. Charles H. Spurgeon says "Sin in its own nature is incurable. Man cannot cure himself. He may reform, he may drive the disease inward, and prevent its coming out upon the skin. He may so model, and guide, and restrain himself that the coarser forms of sin which are condemned among men may not appear in him; but the virus, the essential poison of sin, no man can ever extract from his own heart, nor can another do it for him. Jehovah Rophi, 'the healing Lord' must manifest His omnipotent power."

What do the world religions have to say about sin? This is one of the most exacting tests that can be put upon the claims by which religion seeks to dominate the lives of the people. The Modernist would make of sin merely the remnants of a previous animal ancestry. He would make anger and all ungodly tempers merely the remnant of the passions of a brute, such as the bristling hair on a dog's back when angered or scared carried over into man's physical frame by the mere law of heredity. The Modernist therefore would sweep away all connection of sin with Satan, with man's moral responsibility to his Creator, and all necessity for the intervention of Christ in the atonement. Other religions have varying methods of disposing of sin, by a liberal definition of what sin is. The Hindu of India, for example, teaches that the killing of an animal, and especially a cow, is the greatest of sins. Others would make of sin an error of mortal mind, a mere compunction of a legally trained conscience, a stock in trade for the priest to use in preying upon the credulity of his parishioners, a short-coming on the part of erring humanity by an ever present force from which death alone will free him. These and other erroneous ideas concerning sin all leave the soul hopelessly in bondage.

Over against these definitions and devices of false religious ideas stands the power of Jesus Christ whose atoning blood "cleanses us from all sin." Nothing should rob us of this great victory. This is God's plan; it is His full measure of the divine benefit to be realized now and in this life. There have been watchwords that thrilled the hearts of patriots as they arose to the defense of their land and liberty; let this be ours: "The blood of Jesus Christ . . . cleanseth us from all sin."—Wesleyan Methodist.

DIED LIKE A DOG

A minister of the Gospel was preaching among some very ungodly and ignorant people. A man roughly said to the preacher, "When we die, we die like dogs and are buried, and there is an end of us. My old mother was always poring over the Bible, and crying because I would not believe it." The preacher asked him, "Is your mother alive?" "No," said the man, "she has been dead some time." "Oh," rejoined the preacher, imitating the man's tone and manner, "she died like a dog, and is buried and there is an end of her." "What!" said the man, livid with rage. You say my mother died like a dog?" "No," was the answer, "you say so. I say she died like a saint, and is with God in heaven. You see, you do not believe what you have been saying." The man was silenced and confounded.—The Vanguard.

"IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST"

By A. J. Gordon

I was in the Chicago World's Fair, and was attracted to a man dressed up in a very gaudy Oriental costume, who was turning with all his might a crank which was attached to a pump from which a great stream of water was pouring forth. I said, "That man is working hard and producing splendid results."

I came near, and, to my astonishment, found that the man, which was really only wooden, was not turning the crank, but the crank was turning him, and instead of his making that stream of water go, it was making him go.

Many people want the secret of power. They hear about Peter preaching that wonderful sermon at Pentecost, and of course they would give anything if they had the ability to preach one sermon and convert 3,000 people. They say to Peter, "How did you get hold of the power?" "I didn't get hold of the power at all," he would reply, "The power got hold of me." "We have preached the gospel unto you in the power of the Holy Ghost."

As the water wheel dips itself into the river and makes all the cotton factories whirl, so Peter dipped into the Spirit and was swept by the current.

CAN YOU PAY THE PRICE?

When church members are filled with the Spirit, they do not need to be scolded to a prayer meeting, or to be baited to church by some special attraction in the pulpit or the music gallery. Their purses open at the touch of charity, and their tongues are unloosed to speak for Christ. They are as anxious to win converts to Christ as the political workers are to win votes in a presidential election. In short, to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to have the only genuine revival. Do you thirst for the Holy Spirit? Are you ready to work with Him? Are you willing to pay the price of a genuine revival, whatever dead limbs it may cut off, or false hopes it may blow down? Then you may have it, with all the joys and immeasurable blessings that it will bring. "Behold, I will make all things new." When Christ's promised Spirit comes to you, that will be fulfilled.—The Interior (Presbyterian).

WHY DO YOU GO?

"Some go to church just for a walk,
Some go there to laugh and talk;
Some go there the time to spend,
Some go there to meet a friend;
Some go to learn the parson's name,
Some go there to wound his fame;
Some go there for speculation,
Some go there for observation,
Some go there to doze and nod.
Do you go there to worship God?"

—Selected.

WHOLESOME ADVICE

If God gives us success, then to the feet of Jesus let our sheaves be carried; if it be His will that we shall fail, to the same dear Lord let us flee who knows what it is to see His life fall into the ground and disappear. From His words let us preach; from His example let us learn to serve; in His communion let us find our strength, comfort, peace, whom having not seen we love, to whom we shall one day render our account.—"Cure of Souls", by John Watson.