

Temperance Column

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

THE DEACON AND THE DRUNKARD

Reading by Florence May Watt

"And it came to pass" as the Chronicles say
Two men woke up on election day;
One had slept on a downy bed,—
The other had wallowed in straw instead.
Both said, "Thank God for another day,"
And both looked upward and tried to pray,
And, strangely enough, the answer came
To Deacon and Drunkard about the same:
"Rum is a curse where woes begin,—
To license its sale is a dreadful sin!"
Each heard these words as he tried to pray:
"Go into My vineyard, and work today."

Now both these men were prepared to vote,
One was a deacon,—the other a bloater;
The one had houses, and money in bags,—
The other was homeless and clothed in rags.
Together they came, as citizens may,
To cast their vote on election day.

The deacon acknowledged (as church people should)

The grace which had made him so happy and good,—

So free from pollution, from folly and sin,
From weakness without, and from badness within.

He saw the poor drunkard some distance away;
Confused at his presence, just what should he say

But, "Thankful I am that I'm not like him,
So sadly corrupted in body and limb.
I do not like liquor,—it won't affect me,—
Either buying or drinking, whichever it be."
So he put in a vote for the parties who say,
"We must license the traffic, and thus make it pay."

When the poor drunkard trembled to offer his vote,

There was guilt on his soul,—there was dirt on his coat,

There was craving for rum which he could not control,

But, in duty to others, he strengthened his soul
To put in a ballot for conscience and right,
To keep this temptation from presence and sight,

Now, which was accepted, in leaving his vote,
The rum-voting deacon or the right-voting bloater?
You say that this picture is far-fetched and strong?

No! For the dollar has tempted thousands to wrong,

And only the judgment will finally reveal
How many church members

Voted REPEAL!

ALCOHOL ACCIDENTS

The Chicago Daily News, quoting a report of the "American Business Men's Research Foundation," says:

"Liquor is a factor in at least twenty-five per cent. of the automobile accidents which are today killing 740 and maiming in excess of 25,000 persons each week. Alcohol beverages last year caused 9,000 traffic deaths and were a factor in more than 300,000 automobile accidents."

Also there is included in the News the following statement:

"Dr. Kenneth G. Koelstadt, assistant superintendent of the Indianapolis State Hospital,

mentioned in the report, said that 'approximately one-third of all persons involved in traffic accidents and taken to the Indianapolis City Hospital are definitely drunk, and another third have been drinking.'"

With wrong national leadership in moral questions, the American people seem to have lost interest in the moral phase of the liquor problem. But the awful toll taken by the traffic in property and life will arouse the country unless the news of the facts is effectually suppressed. Liquor organizations are doing what they can to keep the truth from the public.—Free Methodist.

THE PREACHER GOVERNING HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD

Rev. R. W. McCrory

"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach. Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity. (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Church of God?)"—1 Tim. 3:1-5.

The minister ought not only rule his house, but he should rule his house well and keep his family in good order. The minister out to rule his house so as to promote salvation and virtue in all its members; rule it calmly, but firmly, never using harshness where gentleness and love will produce the desired effect.

If he be a father he ought to keep his children in subjection with all gravity or seriousness, for lightness of disposition or conduct undermines all domestic authority. And he must thus rule his house both that he may set a good example to other masters of families, and that he may thereby give proof of his ability to preside over the church.

The ministers' children should be instructed diligently, earnestly, frequently, and discretely. If we love the Lord ourselves we will do what we can to engage the affections of our children to Him. That good thing which is committed to us we must carefully transmit to those that come after us. We should do this with reverence and seriousness, not only for the benefit of our own children, but for the church.

The sons of Eli were very wicked, being ungodly, profane, covetous; guilty of violence and filthy lust, they knew not the Lord. They had no experimental and practical knowledge of His justice or mercy; of His holiness or grace; of His power, or love, or faithfulness; no saving acquaintance with His divine perfections. They neither honored, loved, nor served Him. Eli knew the wickedness of his sons. The man of God told him of it, and he heard it from all the people. He knew he ought to punish them for the iniquity of which he was aware; but his sons made themselves accursed and he frowned not upon them. The Scripture does not signify that Eli showed no sign of displeasure against their wickedness; he did scold them, though too gently for he did not severely reprove them.

What shall we say of the ministry of the Gospel, who know they ought to rule their own house and fail to do so? We read in Proverbs 13:24, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Surely they who can and do not restrain their children make themselves like Eli, partakers of their guilt. If the preacher has no established rule or custom in the home, has nothing to say

about the language, dress, and conduct of his children, how should he be able to take care of, or to govern in proper manner, that greater and more important society, the Church of God?

There is not a more beautiful sight than that of a minister and his wife kneeling by the cradle of their first-born praying God's blessing on their baby. Neither is there a sadder sight than these parents, in a few years, made to take a back seat by the same child's demands and passions. Their children were born amidst prayer and godly environments and they all went to church while the children were too small to express their objections about having family prayers, or about going to Sunday School and church services; but now things are different. The minister and his wife bow at the family altar, make their way to the mid-week prayer meeting, Sunday-school and church services while their family do as they please in the home and go where they please day or night. When these little ones found they could have their own way at home, they developed rapidly in selfishness and importance. As they increased in power they saw their parents decrease, and thus they concluded that the old folk were weak and needed looking after. Children who develop such carnal, rebellious natures generally go to the limit.

Now the preacher who ought to govern his own household but does not is a spiritual weakling and has found his children to be hard taskmasters. If instead of yielding to the first protest of their children, the preacher and his wife had remained king and queen in the home and lovingly but firmly kept the family under proper discipline, how differently would be the home and church life today!—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.

MEETING DISASTER

When William Carey had succeeded in establishing his pioneer missionary work in India his supporters in England sent him an assistant, a Mr. Ward, who was a printer by trade. Soon they were turning out printed portions of the Bible for distribution among the natives. Carey spent many years learning the language and wrote grammars and dictionaries for the use of his successors.

One day while Carey was away from his station, a disastrous fire broke out and completely destroyed the building, the presses, many printed Bibles, and, worst of all, the manuscripts, grammars and dictionaries on which Carey had spent so much time.

When Mr. Carey returned, his servant told him of the loss. Without a word of despair or anger he knelt down and thanked God that he had the strength to do the work all over again. He started immediately, not wasting a moment in idle despair, and before his death he duplicated his first achievements and produced far better work than he had done formerly. The ability to face failure is one of the requisites of a true Christian.—The Religious Telescope.

WINGS

There is an old myth that birds were at first made with feet but no wings. Then their Maker gave the wings and they complained, thinking that these were additional burden. Afterward they discovered that by these they could fly.

Thomas Cook remarks that this is the way with our duties. We do not see why such and such things should be put upon us. But as these burdens are assumed, they become continually less heavy, and by and by lift us higher and higher in the life of God.—Sel.