

Temperance Column

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

A JUDGE'S TEMPERANCE SERMON

"Boys and girls—mere children—men and women are drinking as they never drank before" said District Judge Julius E. Haycraft at Jackson, Minn., recently, in sentencing Paul Poelaert to Sillwater Prison for life for the murder of his mother, his wife and two baby boys, following which he burned the bodies of his family, and their home.

Another man was Edward Rossow, of Lakefield, who murdered his wife with a shotgun as she sat in their home, while their horrified children stood helpless.

Judge Haycraft preached a temperance sermon which none who heard will forget, as he pronounced sentence on Poelaert. The judge's remarks, from the official record, follow:

"Under the law, the court has no discretion in pronouncing sentence. In some sentences the court has discretion to limit the maximum, or longest number of years, but in the crime of which you have been convicted, the penalty is definitely fixed. * * * * You will stand in front of the bench."

The defendant got up. "I cannot refrain at this time from making brief observation," continued the judge. "Within three months I have been called upon to sentence two men in this county to imprisonment for life, for the murder of relatives, and for the murder of a wife.

"Five persons have been murdered in this county within that time. In each instance it is undisputed that the crime was caused by the use of intoxicating liquor.

"I wish this might sink into the minds and souls and hearts of the people of this county and of other counties. Jackson County is no worse in that particular than adjoining counties, except that these tragedies have occurred here. Such tragedies may occur tonight in my own city!

"I hope those who have worked so hard to restore this evil, this curse, are satisfied with their work! I have lived as an adult in this state under the saloon regime, under Prohibition at its best and at its worst, and I am now living under the conditions brought about by the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment.

"I have opportunity to observe these conditions. As judge, these matters are brought before me, and I say to you, and to the world that I never saw conditions as bad as at the present time. People seem to have gone boozecrazy. Boys, girls, children, men and women are drinking as they never drank before.

"Here is one of the results—five innocent dead who should be alive and enjoying life today—two men doomed, sent to prison for the remainder of their natural life.

"The people of this country should think of these tragedies. There is no dispute in these cases. Each defendant has admitted his excessive use of liquor. It is perfectly clear that neither of these crimes would have been committed but for the use of liquor. I have mentioned only the crime of murder; I have not mentioned other crimes, of which there is an abundance.

"Why, the highways are virtually owned by drunks after midnight and until sunrise.

A law-abiding citizen drives at his peril. You can hear drunks backing their cars out—I heard them last night—ready to drive home, taking the chance of killing themselves or some innocent person.

"The law neither requires nor prohibits these remarks by the court, but I am a citizen of the State of Minnesota, and I have the right to express myself.

"I want to thank you jurors, and congratulate you for a duty well done. You have had a hard case, a difficult one, tried at some length. You have done, I feel abundantly sure, what you believe to be right under all circumstances of the case, and the law applicable."—Selected.

PREVAILING PRAYER

The Christian is often confronted with the fact that he must win the victory through prayer or suffer defeat. There are some things that can be done to bring the needed victory. We have been led recently to meditate on this fact and on the several scriptural incidents and statements that seem to bring us light from God on the matter of the essentials of successful prayer.

The manner of our living has much to do with the matter of our prayers being answered. Saint Paul warns believers that their domestic life should be of such a character that their prayers shall not be hindered. A holy life is undoubtedly the foundation for success in prayer, so far as the human side of praying is concerned. The life of an obedient, respectful child is a good foundation for success in the matter of getting favorable answers from his parents. Doubtless you have seen many illustrations of this fact in connection with an altar service, where some saint of God with a deep and victorious Christian experience would move things mightily by prayer when others had tried and had failed. Look deeper into the incident and you will invariably find a life marked by deep humility, by unselfishness, by true piety and undoubted separation from the world.

Prevailing prayer is costly. We do not win victories in the realm of intercession after the manner of a dress parade, such prayer as gets things from God is answered on the terms of God being satisfied that His people must not be denied. The notable prayers of William Tyndale comes to mind in this connection, of whom an unknown writer says: "William Tyndale resolved that he would bring the Bible so close to the English people that ploughboys would know more than the religious leaders then knew. He did, but it cost him: first, exile; then, imprisonment; then, death by strangulation and the torch. His last prayer was, 'Lord, open the King of England's eyes.' Three years after he died, there was a Bible in the English language! This was called the 'Great Bible.' The king ordered it to be used in every church in the kingdom. How happy Tyndale would have been could he have seen this!"

Prayers that are answered must be marked by great sincerity and earnestness of spirit. Speaking of Israel's bondage and oppression in Egypt, the Bible says, "And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant." (Exodus 2:24). Spurgeon says: "Prayer pulls the rope below, and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly. Others

give but an occasional pluck at the rope. But he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might."—Wesleyan Methodist.

THE BIBLE

However difficult it may be to adapt some of the Sunday School lessons to the younger grades of the school, our church continues to make the Bible its one text book in this department, and with good reason. It is our opportunity to implant the Bible in the mind and heart of every member of the Sunday school.

The Christian Century of Chicago recently printed an article written by an educator by the name of John Knox, in which he expressed his disappointment over the failure of a certain Sunday school to teach Bible stories to his young son. Speaking of the importance of preserving in young life the great facts that belong to the Bible and to the Christian religion, the professor said: "To cut our roots is to die. That is one reason our liberal churches are dying. Our people have lost their sense of the reality of the historic Christian culture and of their participation in it . . . I wanted the Sabbath school to help me initiate my son into the historic Christian community . . . I do not believe he can be integrated and whole within, unless he is integrally and organically a part of an historic culture, and that particular culture by which I want his life to be dominated is that of the Christian Church."—Wesleyan Methodist.

JOHN WESLEY

John Wesley's death-scene was one of the most peaceful and triumphant in the annals of the Church. Prayer, praise and thankfulness were ever on his lips. Many golden sentences worthy to be had in everlasting remembrance were uttered during his last hours. He sees only the shadow of his friends around his bed.

"Who are these?"

"We are coming to rejoice with you; you are going to receive your crown."

"It is the Lord's doing," he calmly replies, "and marvelous in our eyes. I will write!" he exclaims, and the materials are placed within his reach—but the right hand has forgot her cunning, and "the pen of the once ready writer" has refused to move.

"Let me write for you, sir," says an attendant. "What would you say?"

"Nothing but that God is with us!" "Now we have done all, let us all go." And now with all his remaining strength he cries out, "The best of all, God is with us!" And raising his fleshless arm in token of victory, and raising his failing voice in a pitch of holy triumph, he repeats his heart-reviving words, "The best of all, God is with us!"

A few moments before ten o'clock, on the morning of the 2nd of March, 1791, he slowly and feebly whispered, "Farewell, farewell!" and literally, "without a lingering groan," he calmly "fell asleep, having served his generation by the will of God."—Selected.

"Men may misjudge thy aim,

Think they have cause to blame,

Say, thou art wrong;

Keep on thy quiet way,

Christ is the Judge, not they,

Fear not, be strong."