

Temperance Column

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

A CESSPOOL OF INIQUITY

Rev. John F. Harvey

"A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land." Jer. 5:30.

The liquor traffic is a cesspool of iniquity. From its putrid depths flow the crimes which debauch and destroy the souls and bodies of men.

The legal liquor traffic exists in our nation by the permission of the voting public, who cannot escape responsibility before God for the evils that flow from it. The so-called failure of Prohibition lies at the door of the law-enforcing agencies of our government. Their unfaithfulness to their official responsibility will meet them at the judgment bar of God.

Thirty years ago the American public had sufficient honor, conscience, and moral integrity to take its stand on the side of righteous government and vote out this gigantic evil. There has been a change not for the better. The voting public has degenerated to such a low moral and social level, that it would again vote overwhelmingly for the liquor traffic, regardless of its rottenness.

"Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor." No good can come from closing our eyes to existing facts. Let us put responsibility where it belongs. The liquor traffic is carried solely upon the shoulders of a voting public that has not the honor or moral integrity to stand for righteous government.

Judging from the rapid decline in moral standards, we can expect nothing else than that the majority of the people will sink deeper in the bog of sin. The floodgates of legal damnation have been opened by the votes of a degenerate majority, and upon the advice of some in high places of governmental authority. The horrible result is that, there has never been known such an open and widespread flow of liquor and the evil products that flow from this brew of hell.

This deluge will not cease unless the moral and social standards of the voting public are lifted to higher levels. This is a nation of majority rule. It rules, but it is not necessarily right. We are living in a world dominated by the Devil. Jesus said that Satan is the "prince" of this world and the "god" of this age.

In the face of the present moral and social standards it is a waste of time and effort to attempt to educate them to the evils of the liquor traffic, or to talk to them about the return of Prohibition. They tell you liquor conditions were worse under Prohibition than under the present system. What can be done with such ignorance and blindness? The hard fact is that, in the present set-up, there are not enough voters in this nation with high and righteous ideals, to raise any moral standard higher by means of the ballot-box.

Is there no hope for the betterment of the present situation? Absolutely none, except as the sinful hearts of men are changed by the power of God. When a man is really born of God he immediately becomes a prohibitionist. Some men who are not Christians are prohibitionists, but all Christians are prohibitionists.

Did not many church members vote for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment? Yes, to their everlasting shame. But I am not talking about mere churchmembers. Many in pulpits and pews have never known the spiritual

birth, without which, they are still in the realm of the "natural man" who cannot know the things of the Spirit of God.

The preachers, church conferences, and assemblies would do the prohibition cause more good, if, instead of preaching and resolving about prohibition, they would get down to the real business of proclaiming the gospel of Christ, and getting men saved.

This nation will never go dry until the moral standards are raised, which can only be done by the spiritual regeneration of the people.

The day is coming when the judgments of God will be in the earth, the elements will melt with fervent heat, and the world and its works will be burned up. Pull as many as you can out of eternal burnings. Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save. Point to his redeeming blood and say, "Behold the way to God."—Sel.

STANDING TRUE

It is human to stand with the crowd; it is divine to stand alone. It is manlike to follow the people, to drift with the tide; it is God-like to follow a principle, to stem the tide. It is natural to compromise conscience and follow the social and religious fashion for the sake of gain or pleasure; it is divine to sacrifice both on the altar of truth and duty.

"No man stood with me, but all men forsook me," wrote the battle-scarred apostle in describing his first appearance before Nero to answer with his life for believing and teaching contrary to the Roman world.—Selected.

WE MUST PRAY MORE

A young man had been called to the foreign field. He had not been in the habit of preaching, but he knew one thing, how to prevail with God. Going one day to a friend, he said, "I do not see how God can use me on the field. I have no special talent." His friend said, "Brother, God wants men on the field who can pray. There are too many preachers now, and too few pray-ers. He went. In his room in the early dawn a voice was heard weeping and pleading for souls. All through the day, the closed door and the hush that prevailed made one feel like walking softly, for a soul was wrestling with God. To his home hungry souls would flock, drawn by irresistible power. In the morning hour some would call and say: "I have gone by your home and longed to come in. Will you tell me how I can be saved?" or from some distant place another would call, saying: "I heard you would tell us how we might find heart-rest."

Ah, the mystery was unlocked! In the secret chamber lost souls were pleaded for and claimed. The Holy Ghost knew just where they were and sent them along. Mark this: if all who read these lines would thus lay hold upon God, with holy violence and unconquerable persistence of faith-filled prayer, a great many things would give way, against which we have been beating with our puny human wisdom and power in vain. The prayer-power has never been tried to its full capacity in any church. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine grace and power wrought instead of weakness, failure and disappointment, let the whole church answer God's challenge, "Call upon me, and I will answer thee, and will show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (Jer. 33:3). We must pray more.—J. Hudson Taylor—Sel. from Church Herald.

WHAT IS BIBLE HOLINESS

Isaiah describes it as a way within a way, "and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it." David calls it the "Beauty of Holiness."

Sin is ugly; holiness is beautiful.

Sin is a disease; holiness is health.

Sin is darkness; holiness is light.

Sin is filthy; holiness is clean.

The Apostle John called it "being made perfect in love." Christ called it "being made pure in heart." Paul called it "the destruction of the body of sin the crucifixion of the old man; being made free from sin. A condition in which the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile."

This is the kind of holiness commanded by God when He said, "Be ye holy for I am holy." This is the holiness provided by Jesus Christ, through His shed blood; an experience wrought by the Holy Ghost, purifying the heart and shedding abroad the love of God, so that "We being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, should serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our life."—Exchange.

MISJUDGED

No doubt you read the story of the trapper in the north woods who had lost his wife and while he cared for his traps must needs leave the baby in the care of his great dog which was half wolf. Coming home through a storm one day, he found the cabin door open and the crib empty. Blood was smeared about. From under the bed crawled the dog, himself bloody. In his agony the trapper jumped to the conclusion that the wolf nature had gained the ascendancy and that the baby had been killed and eaten by the one left to guard him.

Snatching an axe, he split wide open the head of the dog. Then he found in one corner of the cabin a timber wolf, dead. And under the bed the baby alive and unharmed. The true story was then easy to read, but the faithful guardian had been misjudged and, in too much haste, slain.

Perhaps this is just a story of that north country. But something almost as tragic has often happened in life. Many a man or woman has been judged before all the facts are in and, if not killed with an axe, stabbed by an unsympathetic tongue. The suffering may be as bad as death.

What business have Christians to judge another anyway?

"Who art thou that judges another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand."

Will it not be at least disconcerting and humiliating, having passed the judgment and having used the ax or the tongue, to find that God causes him to "stand?"

Lord, help me to be faithful in the judgment of myself—I have all the facts in this case—and be very slow to judge the other one—especially since I have not all the facts.

And if I had all the truth, still I am not the judge and surely not the executioner.

—Exchange

God hears the heart, though without words; but he never hears words without the heart.—Bishop Hopkins.