

Temperance Column

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

OUR NATION'S REPROACH

"A wonderful and forcible thing is committed in the land." In the midst of war, sin is on the increase! War is the child of sin, and is permitted to affect the world in order to bring men to repentance and righteousness; but what of our destiny when, throughout the period of affliction, wickedness is allowed to flourish, yea is encouraged?

Was there ever a time in our nation's history when the name of God and His Son Jesus Christ were so commonly profaned? Men in the factory, women in the homes, even children on the street carelessly and in vulgar manner blaspheme the Name that is above every name, and yet, the immitable warning of the Word is, "God will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain."

Medical men report an alarming increase in venereal diseases, and this indicates a corresponding increase of fornication and adultery.

The population, military and civilian, is shamelessly indulging in this sin which undermines the health, blights the home, and brings reproach on God-created humanity. Those who have read the Scriptures know of the fearful judgment meted out to nations which have indulged in this iniquitous form of evil.

The government saloons are crowded with patrons in these war-time days. Fathers and mothers, sons and daughters rub shoulders in the disgraceful line-ups at the publicly-owned booze shops. Drinking and drunkenness have greatly increased during the past five years. We are doomed to reap the harvest of woe, sorrow and wounds which follow in the train of this enemy which "biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

With victory for the Allied cause in sight, we are in dangers of failing to learn the lesson that God has sought to teach us as a nation.

Mrs. F. A. Dunlop

Some men may rightfully boast of having climbed higher on the ladder of learning than others, but all must admit that their minds, at one time, were as void of knowledge or wisdom as any other new born babe.

Life is our teacher, and during our term of living, many and varied are the lessons taught. Some students advance very rapidly, apparently, while others find the lesson must be repeated again and again. Some truths are much more elusive than others, not always because they are so profound, but rather that we are victims of a delusion that affects our reasoning, and the experiences of the years cannot seem to rectify us, or make the lesson clear.

Who has obtained the proper perspective of the passing of time—time that has been so exactly uniform since creation? It seems that an illusory impression of the passing of time is created during the first ten or fifteen years of life that one finds increasingly hard to erase or overcome.

Evidently Moses felt the need of reminding himself of the transiency of life, even for those who live the longest. "In the morning they are like grass . . . in the evening it is cut down. We spend our years as a tale that is

told . . . so teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90).

Life looks long in prospect, but how very short in retrospect. Well too, might our prayer be, "so teach us, Lord, to number our days." Experience presents the lesson again and again: the crowded cemetery, another funeral, one more has left us; but our comprehension is dull, we are inclined to see life as very long for us.

Our Teacher is qualified. "He knoweth our frame!" Our aptitudes, our circumstances, our temperaments, even the length of our days are known by Him. God's influence as a teacher is unique. He can enlighten our understanding, direct our judgment, teach us eternal values, and help us to rightly regulate our lives as none other can. The heart "applied unto wisdom" will have those truths inculcated that will enable it to "rejoice and be glad."

May the Lord teach us ways of helping our Youth. To them, life appears not transient, but more or less permanent. Plenty of time for a few reckless years. Knowledge of the ways of the world has more attractions now than the "wisdom that cometh from above."

Satan's wiles and tactics are increasingly more subtle. Only God can teach us ways of building up in our youth a desire for the best, the right, the holy things. While we shield them from danger, inform them of its existence, they will be among the tempted. Youth needs every weapon and source of strength that we can give them, if they are to keep clean amid so much that is otherwise. Our own opinions and convictions on the right way of living are not enough, we need to confirm them with every fact and argument that is within our reach, and then to pray: "O satisfy them early with Thy mercy; that they may be glad and rejoice all their days." So teach us, Lord.

STOUT SOLDIER BURROWS LIKE A MOLE

Chaplain (Lieut.) Clarence J. Merriman, of Shawnee, Okla., told of the problems of a not-too-slender soldier in the South Pacific, and how enemy machine-gun fire made him do his best to keep the distance between his back and the ground just as short as possible. The chaplain said:

"No one was hurt but this boy beside me, and he was yelling and plowing under the debris like a mole.

"When we had worked our way out of the debris to the safety of a nearby knoll, this boy discovered I was a chaplain and showed me where one of the bullets had gone through his coat and trousers, ripping his woollens in places, and burning a streak across his back. He told me:

"Chaplain, I was nearer to hell than I have ever been in my life. Now I'm going to get ready for Heaven."

We know not just what the Chaplain told the stout soldier to do to get ready for heaven, but we will take for granted that he gave him the good news that the Lord Jesus Christ came all the way from glory to prepare for that glorious place.

And as the song-writer put it: "All the way to Calvary He went for me." Yes, into the dust of death He went to settle the sin question for guilty sinners.

His resurrection is proof positive of the

satisfactory nature of His work.

Now all receiving Christ by faith can give "thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (fit, or ready) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: in Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:12-14).

THE PRIME MINISTSER AND THE BIBLE

The following quotation is from a paper on "Moses," written by Winston Churchill and published in 1932.

"We reject with scorn all these learned and labored myths that Moses was but a legendary figure. We believe that the most scientific view, the most up-to-date and rationalistic conception will find its fullest satisfaction in taking the Bible literally. We may be sure that all these things happened as they are set out in the Holy Writ. In the words of a forgotten work of Mr. Gladstone, 'We rest with assurance upon the impregnable rock of Holy Scripture.'

"Let the men of science and of learning expand their knowledge and probe with their researches every detail of the records which have been preserved to us from these dim ages. All they will do is to fortify the grand simplicity and essential accuracy of the recorded truths which have lighted so far the pilgrimage of man."—Pentecostal Evangel.

RESURRECTION CONVERSE

It happened on a solemn eventide,
Soon after He that was our Surety died,
Two bosom friends, each pensively inclin'd,
The scene of all those sorrows left behind.
Sought their own village, busy as they went
In musings worthy of the great event:
They spake of Him they lov'd, of Him whose
life,

Though blameless, had incurr'd perpetual
strife,

Whose deeds had left, in spite of hostile arts,
A deep memorial graven on their hearts.

The recollection, like a vein of ore
The farther trac'd, enrich'd them still the
more;

They thought Him, and they justly thought
Him, one

Sent to do more than He appear'd to have
done;

To exalt a people, and to place them high
Above all else, and wonder'd He should die.
Ere yet they brought their journey to an end,
A stranger join'd them, courteous as a friend,
And ask'd them with a kind engaging air
What their affliction was, and begg'd a share.
Inform'd, He gathered up the broken thread,
And, truth and wisdom gracing all He said,
Explains'd, illustrated, and search'd so well,
The tender theme on which they chose to
dwell,

That, reaching home, "The night," they said,
"is near;

We must not now be parted, sojourn here."
The new acquaintance soon became a guest,
And, made so welcome at their simple feast,
He bless'd the bread, but vanish'd at the word,
And left them both exclaiming, "'Twas the
Lord!

Did not our hearts feel all He design'd to say?
Did they not burn within us by the way?"

—Cowper