

SOCIAL REFORM
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solution to the problem will not come until parents live up to their responsibilities and train their children to follow the God-given laws of morality."

"Based on what has happened in the past, it seems we have to predict that unless a very substantial improvement occurs, several hundred thousand boys and girls who are at present attending the schools of the land, will, within a few short years be enrolled in the army of crime."

"Crime conditions, in this country indicate that we are in need of a moral and spiritual awakening; and there is no real morality without a religious foundation. The vicious philosophy that anything is all right if you 'get by with it,' must be definitely rejected and thrown out of American thinking and living. The firm, and sometimes stern administration of discipline, may be an unpleasant duty, but it is indispensable to the proper development of the character of youth, and on the other hand it prevents deterioration of the character of the adult charged with this responsibility." Again we revert to the fact that to be right, to do right, and to furnish the proper guidance for others, we must possess a "deep religious experience and a continuing religious faith." "Where necessary, the government can provide the child with physical necessities, or it can compel the parents to provide such, but only God's grace can change a neglectful parent into a thoughtful, dutiful one, who will provide the child with necessary guidance to enable that child to develop into a useful, God-fearing citizen." Parental love and care combined with the interest and burden of the church must furnish the proper environment for the child's development, first of all the spiritual, and then as a by-product, attention should be given to provide clean recreational facilities as a means of directing his physical activities and his mental culture, thus providing an impetus to clean and temperate living.

Among all the agencies which might assist us toward this end, we would most fervently desire the provision of an abundance of clean wholesome Christian literature, and among all the adverse influences which we blame for the corruption of youth we place the cheap, slangy, profane and obscene literature of our day as one of the most degrading. The younger children read little but the comic strip and the comic book, having no appetite or interest for anything more wholesome. We do not condemn the "funnies" for the grain of humor which they contain, but because they present distorted ideals and unworthy heroes for the child's imitation. These, coupled with the movies, are directing our children into useless and criminal channels.

Words fail to express what our hearts feel when we consider the modern type of book that we find in the book stores, the type which our young people are buying, and reading and feeding their minds upon. A few years ago a minister was courteously offered the free use of any of the books in a town's lending library. After looking over the whole lot, not one could be found that was considered profitable to read, and many were unfit to be classed with respectable literature. Another minister who received several books as gifts was so outraged by the contents that he burned one before completing its reading. Is it possible that we

as a people are coming, or have come, to the place intellectually, and have lowered our moral perceptions to such a level, that clean literature no longer appeals to us, and that the kind of reading the public demands must be suggestive of evil, and even obscene before it is considered interesting enough to buy and read! A few years ago we seldom saw any swearing in print, but now printed conversation reeks with it, and otherwise wholesome bits of humor seem to be considered insipid unless pointed with an oath.

The church faces a problem now and will in the post-war days. The "Herald of Holiness" states: "There will be no magic transformation made in the world when the war comes to an end. There will exist deep hatreds, bitterness and unrest in the hearts of people and nations, it will be a sick and wounded world. The one agency that has the healing balm for such a world is the Church of Jesus Christ. Its power for ministering such healing balm must be found in sources deeper than man's ability, than the holding of conferences and discussing the problem, than in the legislative efforts of the nation; here is a case where the old prophet's words are clearly applicable, 'not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord.' What about the moral situation after this war? It is utterly impossible to sow the seeds of moral carelessness and immoral practices such as seem to be so prevalent today, without reaping a sad harvest. There are problems of the spirit, problems that are deeper than any surface remedy can touch. For such problems, the Church of Jesus Christ alone has a remedy. The Church must arise in the power of the Spirit to raise high the standard of morals, and it must come to the place where it has some influence on the moral situation of the world. To do this it must be purged of its loose and careless thinking about sin, it must be brought to a new consciousness of the sovereignty of God, of His absolute abhorrence of, and His intolerant attitude toward evil of all kinds. It is only as the power of the Holy Spirit operates widely and effectively through the Church that the influence of the Church can be felt to any great extent.

Peoples of the earth will never have a durable peace until the nations shall observe the moral code which guides the individual Christian's conduct. What is wrong for one to do is equally wrong for the people as a whole. Mere numbers acting collectively cannot make right out of wrong. We must get back to fundamental and Biblical ways of living.

May God help us to fill our place as a Church in meeting these problems. We can make the greatest contribution to the world now, and at the close of the war, by more zealously and more passionately devoting ourselves to the promotion of our mission, the getting of people saved and sanctified." May God help us to do it!

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. H. C. MULLEN

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH
OBSERVANCE

The Sabbath was made for man; not man for the Sabbath. Mark 2:27.

In this significant statement our Lord reveals the meaning and purpose of the Sabbath Day. By it He gives emphasis to a truth

that often escapes those who seek to acquaint themselves with the law and commandments of God's word, namely, that all the requirements laid on man by his Creator were designed for his happiness and well-being. The "shalt nots" of the law were not written to rob man but to protect him. We all cherish God's promises, yet His commandments if obeyed can and will bring abundant blessing to our lives. We hear David saying, "I delight to do Thy will, O God."

We read that God blessed the Sabbath Day and hallowed it and Jesus revealed not only by precept but by practical means that "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." But how the enemy of all good has succeeded in deceiving the hearts of the children of man in this respect.

God hath specifically said: Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man servant, nor thy maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day. Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath Day and hallowed it. But Satan would have men make the Sabbath Day merely a servant to their common earthly interests.

In these days we find ourselves surrounded by war industries running on Sunday as on Monday, and men and women alike are made to feel their duty at their country is greater than their obligation to God.

In addition to this, many of those in authority are lending strong emphasis to Sunday amusements, particularly for the Armed Forces. There is great cause for alarm in the action of the Department of National Defense in legalizing, during the past year, Sunday movies in three of our Canadian cities. One of them being the Maritime City of Halifax. Concerts of a very secular nature, given headline publicity in the press as "Sunday Night Concerts," and many of them sponsored by leading church members, along with sports of different kinds, are becoming a very common part of the Sabbath Day. Almost every monster parade in recognition of some event of National importance, military demonstrations, Victory Loan rallies, etc., is held on the Lord's Day. All of these evils held under the guise of patriotism can do nothing more than to pave the way for a program of like nature after the war is over.

In the sphere of labor there are countless numbers who ply their trade six days of the week, and God's day is used to saw the wood, dig the sewer, paint the house, do the gardening, etc. We fear that our nation along with all other nations that have disregarded God's commandments will surely suffer the woe pronounced upon those who fail to hold the Lord's Day in sacred regard.

Finally we feel a note of warning should be sounded within our own ranks. In these days of laxity and compromise, when places of business such as drug stores, and canteens are commonly opened to the public on the Sabbath, there is too strong a tendency on the part of some professing Christians to purchase ice-creams, candy, etc., which can by no means be considered necessary. Another influence which with great subtlety is entering some good Christian homes, and robbing

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