

OUR CHILDREN AND THE COMIC MAGAZINES

We have been truly alarmed lately to note the number of children, many of them in church homes, who sit for long periods of time and pore over comic magazines.

Now everyone may enjoy glancing at the "comics" occasionally, as they appear in the daily newspapers. But most of these offer little other than a moment's relaxation, and they do not compare in viciousness to many of the features in the comic magazines. A few moments' examination will convince any sincere parent of this fact.

Recently the Toronto Globe and Mail has been quoted as authority for this striking and truly embarrassing statement: "Copies of five 'comic' magazines were displayed to the management committee of the Toronto board of education yesterday by Trustee W. R. Cockburn, who claimed they were 'degrading and detrimental to the welfare of our youth.' The trustee pointed out that after a survey he found that ninety-four per cent of these magazines now being sold in Canada were imported from the United States. He . . . showed copies of 'Daring,' 'Human Torch,' 'Black Terror' and 'Boy Commandos' to fellow-trustees. 'I have never seen anything more degrading,' commented Trustee Cockburn. 'These books contain nothing but glorified stories of criminals, which certainly don't improve children's minds. They're nothing but a lot of rot about daggers and guns.'"

If, as is constantly affirmed, we learn much more readily through the avenue of the eye than the ear, we cannot deny that our children are absorbing ideals and ideas from these low-rate magazines which, if not counteracted in some manner, are certain to bring forth bad fruit later. It is a threat which no conscientious parent can pass lightly by.

We recently saw a group of children holding a sale of these magazines on a front porch. Each of the group had accumulated a stack of funnies and was tired of poring over them. So they sold them to one another for a penny a copy—and each child's fund of vicious knowledge was increased accordingly.

The movie as it is allowed to exist today is undoubtedly one of the devil's most effective weapons in degrading souls, but these comic magazines which fall into the hands of innocent children (some of them still unable to do more than read the pictures!) are a close ally of the evil movie.

Once the habit of reading comic magazines has been formed by a child it is exceedingly difficult to break. Blessed is the child indeed whose home provides other pleasures which are wholesome and interesting, and which elevate his thoughts and ideals above the "cops and robbers" as exemplified by the exceedingly vicious characters which dominate most of the popular comic features.

One of the saddest sights we notice today is a girl or a boy hurrying homeward from the corner drugstore on Sunday morning with a fat Sunday newspaper, which will take over the family's attention for the morning while all ought to be in church and Sunday school. The comics of the Sunday newspaper, while not, as a rule, on a par with those of the comic magazines in viciousness, are a step in that direction. When they are allowed to take the place of the Sunday school lesson, they become doubly vicious and dangerous.

We appeal to . . . parents particularly to be on the alert to check the comic magazines which their children are reading. Some are much more vicious than others. A few purport to show Bible comics, but these, too, need checking at times, for frequently the artists who attempt to portray Biblical themes and scenes are not too careful to be accurate.

We are careful of our children's food and drink, their school associations, and their companions. Why, then, allow Satan to reach his slimy finger into their minds through the pages of the comic magazines?

Let's be on the alert!

—Gospel Messenger.

BETTER SERMONS . . .

the Urgent Demand of This Age—

Christianity has much to gain from better preaching. In quality, sermons range from routine to inspired. To move an audience is a great art. In preaching, the art is supplemented by Divine Inspiration. Religious experience and prayer are the basis of such inspiration.

An audience senses, at once, the amount of preparation which has gone into a sermon. In routine sermons, the minds of the people of the congregation can, and do, wander far. Hasty preparation of sermons reveals itself in empty pews. Every sentence ought to mean something. Every thought should have the quality to "stick" in the minds of the hearers.

One great minister has said that when he finishes his manuscript, he goes over it, phrase by phrase, and asks himself this question, "Well, what of it?" Each phrase must measure up. After he has carefully prepared his sermon and memorized it, he then rehearses it over and over, always finishing on Friday night. Needless to say, that minister takes neither notes nor manuscript into the pulpit with him, although every word and comma has been carefully placed. He preaches to thousands.

Language is a man-made device. If God has a sense of humor, the fine distinctions attempted to be made in doctrine and in the interpretation of words, must amuse Him. Ours is a Gospel of action. To love our neighbor "as I have loved you" is as definite as the multiplication table. It is the theme of all good sermons.

The religious experience of the minister is an important element in the effectiveness of a sermon. Hearers, unconsciously, measure it that way. To talk about flying, from mere book knowledge, avails nothing. Effective sermons are testimonial. Testimony is the summation, not of ideas, but of experience. Jesus lived the Lord's Prayer for forty days on the Mount of Temptation before He spoke it.

A real preacher can stand on any street corner and interest hundreds of passersby with a sermon. That is the test of a sermon. Jesus preached in no other way. Wesley aroused the world by preaching on street corners and in open spaces. When folks, who have no special reason to listen, do listen, then one may know that the sermon is effective.

Sermons which count are the need of our age. As revealed in "Acres of Diamonds," they are within the grasp of preachers who have sufficient zeal and will power.

—The Protestant Voice.

HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD

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then became my present Saviour and my soul found rest—such rest that no words can describe it. The secret of holiness was revealed to me, and that secret was Christ—"made unto me sanctification'."

Andrew Murray once said. "Let us bow very low and very humbly in the thought that the great Spirit of God is waiting to get complete possession. The Spirit of Christ is waiting to get full possession. I cannot force Him. I cannot grasp Him. But I can lie down at the foot of my God and say, 'Father, fill me with all the fullness of God.' O give up yourself in emptiness, in surrender, as Jesus gave Himself unto death and the grave, and remember that God raised him to the throne in glory and gave Him the Holy Spirit to give to us. Sink down in your nothingness and helplessness in the grave of Jesus and God will lift you up and fill you with His Spirit. Let us cherish an intense hunger after righteousness. Let us fall very low, and humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. Never mind if there are difficulties. There is God's promise, God's gift, and God's power. Believe with desperate faith. Sink low down and with your whole heart look to God and He will fill you 'with all the fullness of God.'"

MEETING TROUBLE

Dr. E. Stanley Jones, brilliant as his ministry has been, knows much of personal hardship himself. He gives this advice to those who are in trouble: "Don't think your case unique; it can be matched many times over. Don't give yourself to pity; the temptation will be to feel sorry for yourself, a self-pitying self is a pitiable self; don't allow yourself to slip on that. Don't give yourself to excessive grief. Many do it, thinking they thereby show their love. Don't retail your sorrows; doing so will cause them to grow. Don't resign yourself to sorrow and feel it will continue. Don't complain; the more you complain about things the more things you will have to complain about."—Exchange.

WEDDINGS

Adams-Hitchcock

On November 25th, at the Reformed Baptist Parsonage, Perth, Mariner Adams, of Perth, N. B., and Ella Hitchcock, of Lake Edward, N. B., were united in marriage.

Rev. M. M. Grant performed the ceremony.

Foster-Benson

Basil Foster, of Grand Harbour, N. B., and Georgia Benson, of Seal Cove, N. B., were united in marriage at the home of the bride, Oct. 19th. Rev. G. R. Symonds performed the ceremony.

OBITUARY

On October the 9th the funeral of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cannon was conducted by Rev. M. M. Grant, of Perth, N. B.

After a short service at the house, interment was made at the Larlee Creek cemetery.