

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Committee on Social Reform

Since man is by nature a social creature, his interests bound up in the interests of his fellows, this subject has always been of supreme importance. Now as never before, as the increase of knowledge and the advance of science has brought the race together, it becomes more and more necessary that we should "think on our ways" both as individuals and as a group.

The very word reform suggests that all is not well with society, that we need to be brought up to a higher level than that on which we now live and there are few who will question this in the light of present day conditions. It is also true that many people, even professing Christians, condone and indulge in some of the popular evils of this age. Let us think of these evils as they affect the home, the foundation of society. This divinely ordained institution is threatened and in many cases destroyed as men and women, disregarding God's laws, turn to the divorce courts and there make mockery of the solemn vows taken at the marriage altar. Almost every sitting of the courts of our own province record new highs in the number of those who ask for legal sanction to make the commandment of God of none effect forgetting that what God has joined together man may not put asunder.

In many homes today Christ is forgotten. Parents blaspheme His name. Fathers and even mothers indulge in smoking, card playing and kindred evils. A school teacher was reproving a boy of twelve for smoking. She said, "your mother would not want you to smoke." The boy replied, "why, she smokes herself." The prevalence of such examples of parental delinquency—and such cases can be multiplied—suggest that social reformation is much to be desired but far from being accomplished.

Another glaring evil is drinking of alcohol in its various forms. True in our land the drinking is according to the law, but it is just as vicious and vile in the sight of God as in the day He declared, "wines is a mocker, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." The tragedy is that many are deceived, especially the young who are often made to feel that to be popular they must indulge in all these things.

In Paul's letter to Timothy we read "In like manner also that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array, but (which becometh women professing Godliness) with good works." We need to be careful lest we forget this exhortation. Are sleeveless dresses and other forms of scanty attire so often seen even among professed holiness people modest apparel? We think not.

God has condemned these things of which we have been speaking in His Word. However popular they may become in men's eyes, we will do well to listen to His voice. I will hear what God the Lord will speak says the Psalmist. Let us pray that God by His spirit will move men's hearts to repentance that they may find trouble and sorrow as they think of their sins in the sight of God that they confess and forsake their evil ways, that family altars may be rebuilt and parents instead of engaging in the questionable practices so

common in our day may find time to study God's word and prayerfully guide the feet of their children in the ways of peace. Then and only then will society be brought to that righteousness which exalts the nation in the sight of God.

MRS. H. S. WILSON
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Committee

Report From Committee on Sabbath Observance

The fact that the committee for this year is so similar to the one of two years ago immediately will explain what might be recognized as a singular lack in freshness and originality in this report. The practice, also, of making observations and deprecations for many years on the subject of Sabbath-breaking is certain to exhaust the field of original commentary in time, so that we might truthfully say that we have nothing new to contribute.

There is no doubt, however, that the widespread mistreatment of the Lord's Day is a matter Christians should notice and deplore. Our protest should be registered, as followers of Christ, and we should be meticulous in setting the best example we know as to the proper and most worthy use of the Christian Sabbath.

But speaking as the committee appointed to report on Sabbath observance, we cannot help but feel our emphasis is all too limited. When we turn to the twentieth chapter of Exodus to find God's teaching on the matter, we are struck with the fact that the Sabbath commandment is only one of ten—why not stress all other nine as equal in importance? Certainly we do not wish to emulate our good but somewhat misguided friends of a sister denomination, who have placed such an accent on the fourth commandment that it has been exalted far above the status of all the others, in fact beyond the other great Christian doctrines themselves.

Therefore it would perhaps be in keeping right now to mention each of God's great commands, in order that we, whose first desire is to obey and carefully follow our beloved Lord, might check again our practices as **individuals** and as a **church**, opening our hearts and minds to new light from the Spirit and the Word.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me . . ." Are we allowing **any** person, interest or material possession to crowd in ahead of Christ, until we push our worship of Him aside just a little into the immediate **background** instead of the prominent foreground of our lives?

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image" and "shalt not bow down to them, nor serve them." Are we guilty of limiting God to a man-made circumference of influence, making Him a God of convenience whom we allow to touch our lives only where we permit, but whom we prevent from having full, unlimited control of our very nature?

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain . . ." Are we careful in our praying to be always reverent, to really **seek** God's will so that we may intelligently pray for it, to work with God so completely and yieldly that He can actually use us to answer our own prayers?

"Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy . . ." Do we keep it **holy** or merely different from week days? Do we use it to rest and

uplift our spirits by bringing them into refreshing communion with God's?

"Honor thy father and thy mother." Is it a sacred duty to us to keep our family relations close and exalted, so centering them in Christ that every member of the family will feel the warm ties of love and respect?

"Thou shalt not kill." Can we afford to remind ourselves that in the sight of Christ all resentments, unforgiveness, and bitterness leading to hate are equal to the sin of murder?

"Thou shalt not commit adultery." Are we so careful of the mental food we allow to nourish our intelligence that we keep far from us all obscene or suggestive literature, conversation, or thoughts, remembering that here is where all immortality begins?

"Thou shalt not steal." To whom do we give the benefit of the doubt, ourselves or our neighbor? Are we guilty of stealing our employer's time by idleness, of being careless about the little honesties, of robbing anyone of **any** of his rights or privileges?

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." How conscientious are we about spreading rumors, voicing our criticisms, or hurting even slightly another's feelings or reputation?

"Thou shalt not covet . . ." Have we learned "in whatsoever state we are therewith to be content?" Are we radiant in our joy and thankfulness for all God has given us instead of sour or depressed because we see others with more than ourselves?

May the Holy Spirit startle and awaken our hearts to a sense of dissatisfaction with ourselves as we are and a stirring determination to smooth out the rough places so that He can move freely throughout our hearts and lives.

And as a Church whose main tenet is holiness, may we cleanse ourselves of any false notions or secondary ambitions, and be unafraid to lose our pet desires, our identity, and even our very lives in promoting **Holiness unto the Lord wherever** God allows our influence to extend.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. W. H. MULLEN
MRS. RALPH SABINE
MRS. BUDD D. PRICE

BEFORE ME LIES A FUTURE ALL UNTRIED

Before me lies a future all untried,

About are shadows sinister and grey;
But by my side walks He who planned the whole

And knows the way through each perplexity.

The future hid, the present bulging full

Of problems hard—but God's hand holds the key

That opens every seeming gate of brass

And will unravel every mystery.

'Tis joy untold to have an all-wise Guide

To plan, to choose, to dry the falling tear,
To make the darkness light, the roughness smooth,

To drive away all loneliness and fear.

The future's hid to me, but not to God;

I walk in darkness, but the way is plain

To him who ever orders all my steps

And seeks alone my soul's eternal gain.

—GRACIA L. FERRO.