

Temperance Column

Encouraging news from U. S. A.

Thank the Lord that the temperance forces are still alive and active in some of the states in the great union. We sincerely hope that we might have a resurrection from the dead of the temperance interest in Canada.—Editor.

Read the following:

WE ARE ON THE MARCH

By Dr. W. Henderson Barton

Associate General Superintendent of the Temperance League of America

Excerpts from address given before the Southern Baptist Convention at the Coliseum, Chicago, Illinois, May 11, 1950, with nearly 5,000 in attendance:

Since our annual gathering last year in Oklahoma City a number of very significant developments have taken place in the temperance cause. The Christian and moral forces of Oklahoma won a glorious victory by a majority of more than 55,000 votes. Today Oklahoma's constitutional provision stands like a Gibraltar. The moral forces of the nation have been thrilled and challenged by this victory. Our people are aroused; the armies of righteousness are on the march against Demon Rum with a courage and determination they have not had in a generation.

In February, this year, the Georgia Senate passed a statewide "bone dry" measure by 25 to 3. The frightened "wets" hastily secured the adjournment of the Legislature before the House could vote upon the measure. They have won a temporary victory, but I predict that these delaying tactics cannot prevent the enactment into law of the sovereign will of the Christian forces of that great commonwealth who are determined to rid their state of the liquor evil.

At this very hour the Temperance League of Arkansas is initiating a state-wide election on the liquor issue, and please God, when that election is held in November Arkansas will swing back into the "dry" column.

North Carolina is pressing for a state-wide election. Already 89 of the 100 counties are "bone dry" and 70 out of the 100 counties have outlawed wine and spirits.

Of the 941 counties in the South which have local option privileges, 470 counties are "bone dry," and an additional 155 counties have outlawed the sale of whiskey. Thus there are 625 counties in the South that are either wholly or partly dry.

Some well-meaning but misguided people are still searching for the "solution of the alcohol problem." WE KNOW WHAT THAT SOLUTION IS. There is just one solution for the liquor problem, and that is total abstinence for the individual, and elimination by law of the traffic in beverage alcohol. Speaking for the Temperance League of America, and for the National Temperance League, Inc., that is soon to be, I pledge you that we shall continue to wage a relentless and uncompromising warfare against the legalized liquor traffic in America until we win the great victory for which we will work and pray.—The American Issue.

MARRY A CHRISTIAN

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath right-

eousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?" II. Corinthians 6:14.

"They were married." This sentence ordinarily is the ending of many stories of fiction. It is just the beginning in most true stories. To the young men and women, who are looking forward to this beginning, I implore you to read and understand the passage written above. In sincere reverend prayer, ask your heavenly Father to open your eyes to the true characteristics of your betrothed. Wait upon God for the perfect answer.

A young couple had enjoyed a year of courtship together. During this time, there seemed to be no doubt about their future happiness. As they drove away from the church, after the marriage ceremony had been pronounced, he glanced at her somewhat recklessly and stated concerning the marriage vows, "All of that is a lot of hooley; a guy can do what he wants and come home and smooth it all over with a few kisses." Girls, place yourselves in this position for one minute. Imagine hearing this frivolous remark from the one you have just turned your life over to. The little bride was crushed and it was only the beginning. Being a girl with a Christian spirit, she stuck with her bargain. Her life from that day on was full of heartaches.

In complete distress and with a broken heart, she continued in prayer throughout the years for comfort and divine guidance in contending with the sinful deeds of this worldly man. My dear young friends, if only you will spend part of that time on your knees now, asking God to help you choose your life companion, you will be saved from an ocean of tears.

Ask yourself these questions: Has your prospective bride or groom been saved through the blood of Jesus? That is what it means to become a true Christian. Do they love the word of God? Do they look forward to attending church with you? Are they generous in giving to the Lord's work? When you are out in public together do they do everything possible to make you happy? In their conversation do they speak more of your interests than of their own? Are they loving and thoughtful of your parents? Are they sympathetic toward those who are less fortunate? My young friends, if you cannot answer the questions in the affirmative, then right now, ask God to give you strength to overcome this devotion. Any character which falls short of these requirements will not be able to return your love.

True love is of God. True love can only come from God. Many young people mistake a physical passion for love. Physical passion alone, can pass away but love is lasting. Paul gives us a most perfect definition of love in I. Corinthians 13. Before we are yoked together we will be wise to study this writing of Paul.

How the world needs these teachings today! Millions of lives and homes being broken, little children made orphans, all because we did not wait upon the Lord.

Be sure that you are marrying a Christian! —Revival Herald.

FALLING TEMPERATURES

"The love of the great majority will grow cold." To leave one's first love, to become lukewarm, then cold is the solemn prediction and condemnation of the declension in spiri-

tuality which will accompany the prevailing wickedness of the end times. At ease in Zion with a mere formal routine of grudging service, without heart and fervent zeal, shameful internal dissensions among professing Christians, envies, jealousies, evil speakings, lack of confidence, betrayal of one another and lack of concern for the salvation of others or of disposition to make any real sacrifice for the promotion of Christ's cause will indicate the trend.

"The cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things," will render the Word of none effect. The neglect of private devotions, regular attendance at Divine worship, the weekly prayer-meeting and the Sunday evening evangelistic service, and to be actually lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God will further leave its trace of the sad decline. Every Christian is faced with the alternative of drifting along in this way with the great majority or of becoming singular with the minority who by constant watchfulness and frequent renewing of the Holy Spirit, keep themselves in the love of God. Christianity is now exposed to the perils of the last days just as one might be exposed to a malignant germ infested atmosphere. Diagnosing the commonplace in religious life today, Vance Havner says: "We are a generation of tired, fussy little Christians, experts but not examples." If this is true of us we face the condemnation of those of whom our Lord says: "He that knoweth his Lord's will and doeth it not shall be beaten with many stripes." A fervent spirit with robust, spiritual health is our only safeguard.—Free Methodist.

ANSWERING AN INFIDEL

Replying to an atheist, who had mailed him some infidel literature, one Christian gave the following excellent answer:

"My dear sir, if you have anything better than the Sermon on the Mount, the Story of the Prodigal Son, and that of the Good Samaritan; or if you have any code of morals superior to the Ten Commandments; or if you can suggest anything more consoling and beautiful than the Twenty-third Psalm; or if you can supply anything that will throw more light on the future and reveal to me a Father more merciful and kind than the New Testament does, please send it along."

There was no answer.—Preacher's Magazine.

GATHER THE CHILDREN

Isabel Gray

"Some would gather money
Along the path of life,
Some would gather roses,
And rest from worldly strife;
But I would gather children
From among the thorns of sin,
I would seek a golden curl,
And a freckled, toothless grin.
For money cannot enter
In that land of endless day,
And roses that are gathered
Soon will wilt along the way.
But, oh, the laughing children
As I cross the sunset sea,
And the gates swing wide to Heaven,
I can take them in with me!"