

Temperance Journal.

ORGAN OF SONS OF TEMPERANCE OF AMERICA

OUR MOTTO—NATIONAL PROHIBITION.

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Editor and Proprietor.]

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A Recent Incident.

An old man stood in the court house,
Who bore with the weight of years,
On withered face and shrunken form,
Traces of toil and cares.
He had stood through the day's long trial
In alternate hope and fear,
With his eyes upon the prisoner—
For it was his boy there.

His boy, who for years had cherished
The light of this life to him,
Whose future had seemed so bright, but now—
And the old man's eyes grew dim,
As he thought of the tiny infant,
So very near to him now;
As he pictured the happy boyhood,
The light on heart and brow.

And then of the budding manhood,
And the many temptations met;
Of the tongue that could never frame the "No,"
Causing a life's regret.

And the old man burned within him,
As he thought of that youthful pride,
And deep in his heart he muttered,—
"Twere better he than had died."

He remembered the ceaseless pleading,
And the sunny answers given,
The many falls, and the final crash,—
The twig from the old tree riven.

And roused from his sad reveries,
He woke to the present pain,
When this self-same son stood at the bar,
Stamped with the curse of Cain.

And hastily moving forward,
He would have left the room,
But changing, turned him back again,
To list the murderer's doom.

As "Guilty!" rang upon the air,
Spite of his many years,
His sobs broke forth, and he left to tell
The news to his wife by tears.

M. BATTERHAM LINDSEAY,
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Temperance Education of the Young.

(J. EDMUND BROWN, M. D.)

The use of alcoholic beverages and other narcotics, affecting as it does the material and spiritual interests of the entire human family, presents problems of profound importance the solution of which taxes the time and talents of educators and philanthropists throughout the civilized world.

Temperance education of the young is an exceedingly comprehensive expression. It includes child-training and child-teaching not only in matters directly referable to temperance but in the moulding of character as a whole. It includes the directing, shaping and controlling of a child's thoughts and actions during the entire course of his infancy and childhood, as well as the securing to him of knowledge beyond the reach of his own senses. In short temperance education of the young is the operation of all moral and intellectual forces that have a tendency to fix in the youthful mind an unalterable determination to abstain from the use, as a beverage, of all intoxicating liquors.

In the securing of such determinations we have four important factors—home, society, public school and church.

It is, perhaps, due to the influence of home more than to any other that the child, when he merges into manhood, has thoughts and tendencies in sympathy with or averse to temperance. The child spends most of the hours of his childhood at home and, as a matter of course, a far greater number of opportunities for the moulding of character are afforded under the paternal roof than in any other place. Add to this the fact that in the earliest years of life the personal faculties and powers are most susceptible of shaping and it is not difficult to understand the importance of home training as applicable to the subject of temperance.

It is a serious mistake for parents to defer the temperance education of their child until he has entered the public school. Indeed, many a child is well trained in life by the time it is six weeks old. A child can be trained to go to sleep on a bed without being rocked in the arms of its nurse; it can be trained to take food at fixed and proper hours or at any time suggested by its own fancy. It is largely a child's early training that settles the question whether he is graceful or awkward in his movements, tractable or captious under

the bit of restraints, methodical or slovenly in his work, considerate or thoughtless in his bearing toward others, industrious or indolent, courteous or discourteous, or whether his tastes are refined or low. It is during the period of infancy as well as that of childhood that the intricate and inscrutable operations of mind by which habits of obedience to law and the proper regard of right and wrong may be directed in a wise channel.

Character has been defined as the sum of one's habits, and habit is formed by repetition over and over again of any mental or physical action. Parents, therefore, who have the well being of their child at heart cannot fail to see the importance of causing the child to repeat indefinitely such acts of courtesy, of forbearance, of thoughtfulness for others as shall tend to develop in him a character amiable and well proportioned.

It is not the wisest plan to exaggerate the evils of temperance before the eyes of the child or, by playing on the one string of 'touch not, taste not, handle not,' try to impress upon the child the folly of his meddling with intoxicating liquors. The pages of history abound with the illustrations of failure from such methods of moral teaching. It is not fair or just to assume that, except in some cases of heredity, a child is born with a taste or tendency for strong drink, and to caution a youth not to drink has often a diametrically opposite result from that intended. Certain morbid longings to test the effects of this forbidden thing are indulged in by the youth, and if his training in self-restraint has been neglected he is apt to overstep the boundary of temperance notwithstanding all the wise precepts which a fond parent has endeavored to put in his possession.

Shall we then, says one, neglect to recite precepts of rectitude to our children? No, indeed. Such methods are useful auxiliaries in the education of the child and should be incidentally used. A wiser and more important method of child training is to fill the child's mind so completely full of good thoughts that there will not be found any room for morbid vagrants. Is there a family in your neighborhood distressed from the effects of intemperance? ask your child to go and find out the wants of the poor children, with a view to relieving their distress and filling your child's mind with a desire to uplift the father. Be assured that without any words from you he will not often engage in such acts of mercy until his thoughts go out in pity for the drunkard and a determination to shun the evil be strengthened. This is but a single illustration of the thousand and one ways by which a wise, thoughtful and ingenious parent may engage the thoughts and attention of his or her child with pure notions, noble deeds and lofty aspirations. Continuing in this course, right habits are formed and moral and temperate character is established.

Supplementing the temperance training of home is that of temperance organizations. These all when properly conducted have a powerful influence for good and should receive the support and hearty cooperation of every well-meaning citizen. It would unduly increase the size of his paper to particularize upon the many and varied ways in which temperance societies, in their influence upon young members, should strive to subdue certain characteristics, develop certain others, and so control and direct their actions that, while unconscious of being thus controlled, they are nevertheless being moulded into firm and true temperance men and women. Here, however, is a fitting place for the discussion of questions which relate to the use and abuse of intoxicating liquors, and temperance lodges should not fail to place in the hands of their members a supply of wisely written articles on temperance and such other temperance literature

as may from time to time come to their knowledge.

The public schools of our land furnish an important factor in the temperance education of the young. For some years the question of furnishing to the pupils of our public school instruction regarding the effects of alcohol upon the human system has been discussed by educators and legislators, and several states of the Union have so modified their school laws as to provide for such instruction. It is only a matter of time when other states will fall into line and endorse such a course. On account of this new departure a number of text books treating of hygiene and the effects of alcohol have been placed upon the market. In too many instances these works have emanated from enthusiasts who know little of psychology and less of the moral methods of child-training. These over-zealous persons make the statement that alcohol is a deadly poison without any qualifying explanations, and when the child reads this, and then recalls the fact that Mr. So-and-So has drunk intoxicating liquor for years and is still living and apparently well, he naturally enough loses confidence in his author. Not only this, but instinctively he champions the cause of much maligned King Alcohol, and the object for which the text book was placed in his hand is subverted. Children are quick to perceive inconsistencies and not slow to vindicate the cause of one who is wronged. It is, therefore, important that text books dealing with the subject of intemperance should be written by those who, from long study and experience in the training of the young, have broad and comprehensive views and are able to see both sides of a question.

Such text books should contain the elements of anatomy and physiology, and present a truthful statement of the physiological actions of alcohol and allied narcotics. But the teacher must not rely entirely upon the book or presume that temperance education embraces no more than the teaching of the truths contained therein. Indeed he, too, must remember that the child's habits of self-control, of thoughtfulness for the welfare of others, of obedience to the dictates of a properly directed will, should be carefully considered in his school training.

But the opposing forces which the enemies of good bring to bear upon the youth when he goes out from the influence of home to engage in the battle of life are prodigious. That he may not lose his good character it is necessary that a powerful influence for good about him. In the Christian religion we have the needed character-sustaining element. In the Sunday school the boy has learned the golden rule of life and has been taught to rely upon the strong arm of One who is all-wise, all-powerful and plentiful in love and mercy. Having on the armour of the Christian soldier he is able to withstand the keenest darts which the emissaries of evil can direct against him, and when temptations come he can look to his divine Helper and turn a deaf ear to the suggestions of Satan.

In this way the once easily influenced youth becomes a man in the noblest sense of the word—one whose face is set against evil in every form and whose principles are like adamant.

Questions and Answers on a Drink of Whisky.

BY CEDENO HULGEE BURBIN.

A drink of whisky doesn't hurt any man.

Let us reason on that remark and see if it is true.

Dead in the alms-house—his mother is there—a man whose life history, so pathetic in its abject misery, it ought to be, and indeed is, a lesson to all who are deceived by a drink of whisky.

One hundred dollars a week. Yes, he often earned that sum, but he died a pauper. Why?

Only because he believed a drink of whisky doesn't hurt any man, and drank it when he felt like it.

But a drink once in a while didn't make him a drunkard?

Not if drinking is not the cause of drunkenness, and if the drink did not create an appetite that led him to his doom. Let us see. Listen to facts.

Fact 1st.
No, not drunk, only a little tight; cheeks flushed, eyes bright, jolly, good fellow. How he pities the poor sot, so ragged and wretched, who so eagerly eyes the drinks he and boon companions quaff, and out of his well filled purse flings a dime to the bar-tender for the drink, and treats the man, whose condition does not warn him of the danger in the drink.

Fact 2nd.
Yes, drunk, no mistake, often so now. Lost his position, and really it is a wonder he kept it so long, drinking as he does. His mother won't give him up, follows to the saloon and station house and stays with him day and night.

But he will drink.
Fact 3rd.
One of the worst drunkards in town—friends have deserted him, and he is a miserable drink-diseased, penniless, homeless outcast. Yet "a drink of whisky doesn't hurt any man."

Why then is he, poor victim of drink, what he is? Only because alcohol is an instant, narcotic poison, unfit for food, drink or medicine, as the evidence of its work of destruction abundantly proves.

A drink of whisky has ever and always a poisonous action on the human body. It destroys the vital functions of the tissues by abstracting their constitutional moisture with avidity. (For alcohol has a great affinity for water.) This violent effect is succeeded by stupor and intoxication, even a small quantity produces a thirst.

Remember the fact.
Fact 4th.

Alcoholic liquors produce a morbid condition of the whole body, especially of the nervous system. Certain quantities not only cause death, as a speedy result, but the moderate use of these beverages is the prolific source of many chronic diseases, and it is a well known fact that alcohol alters the condition of the blood; inflames and ulcerates the stomach, hinders digestion, overexcites the heart and the after effect is the loss of tone; it produces cerebral excitement and insensibility, functions of the brain are impaired, and the entire system suffers from the poison fluid that has been recklessly introduced into the circulation, the stimulant action is directly felt. The liquor being absorbed by the veins, it passes into the liver which is seriously injured in its functions and stricture. The disordering influence of strong drink not only is felt in the nausea, headache, inappetency and the wretchedness and depression which ensue, but also in the uncontrollable desire that craves more. This thirst is one of the most sure and marked symptoms of the pernicious habit of dram drinking and its fatal tendency lures on to gratifications that end only in debauched manhood and inebriety. These facts sufficiently prove that it is madness for rational beings to cultivate the use of so potent an evil as intoxicating drinks.

For who can deny that the use of whisky leads to indulgence of the craving desire that is the natural result of even an occasional drink, for drunkenness is a disease produced by violated physiological law, and there is no doubt of the truth of the evidence against the use of ardent spirits as a beverage, evidence based on undeniable scientific and alarming facts.

Oh! drinking men, are these assertions true or false?

Does your experience prove that "a drink of whisky doesn't hurt any man?"

Alas! Alas! Write on the new

laid sod of the grave of the unfortunate, who died in the poor house. Write, Oh! write this truthful line, "Where there is drink there is danger."—Southern Journal

For Baby's Sake.

We were witness the other evening to a touching incident that occurred on one of the streets of the beautiful city of churches.

In the doorway of a drinking saloon stood two men whose faces bore the traces of recent dissipation. The elder, and if possible more dissipated looking, was urging his companion to step inside and take a "smile," as he termed it.

He was about to comply with the request when a woman stepped forward. In the glare of the street lamp it was evident that she was young and once beautiful—perhaps before she bore that dreadful brand upon her face, the brand of a drunkard's wife.

Don't go, John, for my sake! she said pleadingly.

With an oath the husband turned to join his drunken companion.

Nothing daunted, she stepped forward again, and laying her hand softly on the man's arm, whispered:—

"Don't go for baby's sake."

"For baby's sake!" The words were like magic. And here was a picture. In the glare of the street lamp stood the tempter, the tempted, and the noble, patient wife.

A moment of suspense followed, while the woman scanned eagerly the bloated face of her husband. She conquered. Turning from his companion, he whispered hoarsely—

"Go on, Ben I'm not with you tonight." Then turning to his wife, "Mary, God giving me strength, I'll never drink another drop—for baby's sake."

She drew her faded shawl about her, and we watched them walk away together in the darkness, to that little child at home all unconscious of the noble work performed. Something like tears glistened in our eyes, and a fervent prayer arose to God to give that father strength to resist temptation. "For baby's sake." What a temperance lecture—grander than a ever given by Gough.

Young man—fathers—ye who stand on the brink of destruction, with the yawning chasm of intemperance at your feet stand back! Dash the wine-cup from your lips—"for baby's sake!"

HAERRIFT LANE WALLACE

How?

All true temperance workers are striving for the final and complete overthrow of the hosts of rum; but the question comes: "what can we do in that direction now?" In our work there are two things so intimately connected that to accomplish the second we must accomplish the first and by accomplishing the first we work toward the accomplishment of the second. The one is the enforcement of the present liquor laws and the traffic. What we should do now is to enforce the existing laws, and by doing this we will work toward and up to total prohibition. How strict the law in regard to Sunday selling to minors and to habitual drunkards! And yet here in our own town how openly are the laws violated. Almost under the shadow of our churches and places where the work of God is proclaimed do we find the damning stuff dealt out Sunday after Sunday. True, there was an effort made not long ago to enforce the Sunday law, and with some success, but is the matter to drop here? Shall the public officers and others interested in the enforcement of the law put their hands to the plow and then turn back? A good beginning was half the battle, but not all. If after a good beginning the warfare is abandoned, the enemy are the victors. Let us not desist, but rather fight to the death and overcome through the Lord of Hosts, who is surely on our side,