

Fireside Talks

With Members of the Newspaper Bible Class

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Oak Park, Ill.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 2, 1919: "TEMPERANCE LESSON."

Golden Text: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31.

Lesson Jeremiah 35:1-8, 12-14a, 18, 19.

I. Fairly Well Settled.

Some things are fairly well settled. Temperance does lengthen life. Life insurance companies are good authorities upon the effect of liquor. The American Temperance Life Insurance Association of New York was organized to provide insurance for total abstainers. After basing the cost of its policies on the average life of total abstainers, the company later changed its rules and admitted moderate drinkers. At the end of twenty-six years from its organization it failed because the deaths among "moderates" were fifty per cent, more than they were among the total abstainers. The Youth's Companion was right when it observed that "a well-preserved man" is never preserved in alcohol.

The majority of the people in the United States are agreed that drink deceives, disables, deflects, disfigures, deprives, degrades, destroys. As someone has said "Real ginger never comes from gin." He who chooses the drink discovers afterward that drink does what it

chooses with him. It is like going on a train: "First you take the train, then the train takes you." You stop when it stops and not until then.

Great business concerns realize their responsibility with reference to the saloon business. That responsibility is based upon the consciousness of the damage which drink does. The New York Billposting Company a few years ago refused a half million dollars' worth of whiskey advertising and has steadily adhered to its action as regards such posters. "Realizing the great power of the poster advertising medium," its president says, "and desiring that its influence should be directed along right lines, the Poster Advertising Association, years ago, abolished the advertising of questionable proprietary medicines, and since that time has censored all posters."

II. The Next Step.

We have gone a long way in helping the world by making the United States dry. Now it is our business to see that the traffic does not fasten its fangs upon other nations and particularly upon those which are helpless. A big brewery concern in California has boasted that it has taken its entire plant to China. The Oriental nations will be easily susceptible to the business methods of the organized saloon. Foreign missionary work takes on new and deeper significance today. These

missionary stations are great outposts on the firing line for decency, order, health and righteousness. They will be able to give the teaching which has made a generation in the United States familiar with the physical results of alcohol. They will be able to tell others what we know here. A drunken man can never be free and can never be safe for others in a free country. Some time ago a man was asked to join in the fight against the saloon. He replied that if people wanted to drink liquor that was their business and not his. Months later he waited at a railway station for his wife and children, who were to come on the train due at six o'clock. The time came but no train. Soon there was a message over the wire: "Train wrecked. Twenty injured." He learned that the cause of the wreck was that the engineer had taken a little liquor before starting.

III. Modern Revelations.

A great many things have been sharply impressed upon our nation by the care given our soldiers. Men do not need whiskey in order to be good fighters. They are in better physical condition and have more resistance against disease when wounded if they have never been drinking men. The conservation of food which is necessary for the world's comfort today makes it imperative that we shall not waste grain in the production of liquors. It is our business to help the nations to remember these things.

The power of the churches in this regard is great. In Illinois on a given Sunday by concerted arrangement in over two thousand churches, the pastors discussed a pending temperance measure and urged their congregations to support it. It thus became a recognized political issue of the State. The church must work in these ways in order to save men and women spiritually, mentally and bodily.

And we shall not forget that just beside a cemetery stood a saloon. The sign on the outside of the saloon appropriately read, "the key to the cemetery within!"



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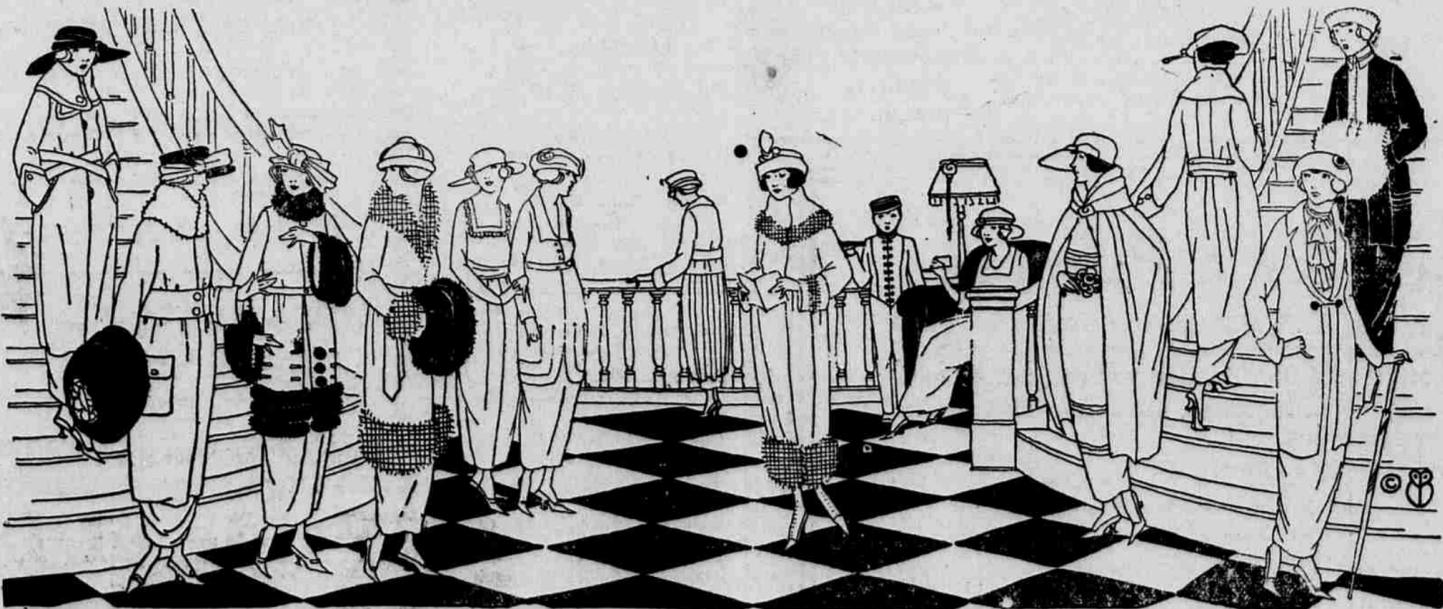
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\$75.00 Suits—now	\$64.75
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