

Christian Life Column.

CIGARETTES ARE BLIGHTING OUR BOYS.

At a recent session of the Shelby District Conference, while the presiding elder was questioning the pastors about the condition of their charges and to what extent worldly amusements were practiced by their people one of our truest and most observant preachers reported that there were some dram-drinkers among his people, some who danced occasionally and a number who went to circuses, all of which was damaging to their piety and hurtful to the church, but that smoking cigarettes was doing more harm on his work than any other one thing, if not all of them.

Another brother reported that no young man in his pastoral charge who had the cigarette habit was doing any good religiously. This view was endorsed by other ministers as true. When we think of the prevalence of this terrible habit, when we remember that hundreds and thousands of the sons of our Methodist people are already confirmed and habitual cigarette smokers and that almost irresistible influence is being brought to bear upon boys from six years old and upward in almost every town, village, city and country place to begin the use of them and contract the habit, is not the outlook threatening indeed?

Is it not time the church is waking up to the real situation? Is it not time some action is being taken to save our boys from this fearful evil? Is it not time that our preachers are trying out against it?

We are not an alarmist. We are not among those who magnify small evils. We have no disposition to turn the minds of the readers of the Advocate to an imaginary wrong; but we have looked into this matter; we have taken pains to inform ourselves and we are quite sure the time has come for every minister and member of the church, for every editor and lover of his race, for every parent and teacher to take a stand and speak out against the seductive and destructive evil that is destroying the bodies and souls of so many promising youths.

Sometimes silence is golden, but at other times it is criminal. Surely no pastor who understands the situation and keeps silence can be guiltless. The time has come for a crusade against the cigarette.—Greensboro Christian Advocate.

WANT OF FAITH.

It is often regarded as a blessing that ninety-nine men and women in a hundred utterly lack the ability to realize conditions that they do not see. Who of our readers has ever realized the heathen man's need of the gospel? Who has lately realized the extreme distress of our missionaries in China, none of them knowing what a day may bring forth? Who has read the graphic reports from India and has in the slightest degree realized their truth? Men and women and children are starving there by tens of thousands; millions are in the clutches of famine. But who can really see before him one child dying for bread? Power to realize the truth is the secret of enthusiasm and devotion. If you do know that a dollar of yours will prolong a life a month, you will give it if it is your last. If you do know that all you have will save a soul from death you will give it to the last. Your trouble is what? Want of power to realize. What? Want of power to lay hold upon the evidence of things not seen—faith. Want of faith is at bottom of all indifference. Faith is realization of things not seen.—Biblical Recorder.

Dark hour come to us all; and if we have no clew to a peace that can pass unbroken through their murky gloom, we shall be in a state of continual dread. Any stone flung by a chance passer-by may break the crystal clearness of the Lake of Peace, and send disturbing ripples across it, unless we have learned to trust in the perpetual presence of him who can make and keep a "great calm" within the soul. Only let nothing come to you which you shall not instantly hand over to him.—B. Meyer.

Temperance gives nature herself play and enables her to expand in all her force and vigor. An able man shows his spirit by gentle words and quiet actions. He is neither hot nor timid.—Chesterfield.

Children's Column.

A-BRINGIN' HOME THE COWS.

It ain't no fun a-hoeing corn— The sun, it's bilin' hot, And pa he keeps a feller just A-go'in' at a trot. You bet I'm glad to see the sun A-shinin' through the boughs, 'Cos then it's time for me to be A-bringin' home the cows.

Sometimes I finish out my row, But mostly Uncle Bill He says, "Just drop your hoe, my son; I guess you've got your fill; I'll take your row out from here. You whistle for old Towse, And go and have a little fun A-bringin' home the cows."

And when the cows is 'cross the crick I strip and swim across, And drive 'em in the swimmin' hole, And then I ketch old Boss Right by her tail and hang on tight— Gee! how the old cow ploughs Right through the water—lots of fun! A-bringin' home the cows.

Then when I git up to the barn Pa he picks up a stick, And says, "Young man, I've told you nough To keep out of the crick!" And then I say, "Why, pa, they went Across the crick to browse, And I jest had to swim across A-bringin' home the cows."

It ain't no fun in winter-time— You git ketch'd in the dark And hear the big owls hootin', and Them big red foxes bark; The snow's a-fallin', and the wind's A-howlin' through the boughs; It's lots of fun in summer, though— A-bringin' home the cows! —People's Home Journal.

THE BOY WANTED IN BUSINESS.

"What kind of a boy does a business man want?" was asked of a merchant.

He replied, "Well, I will tell you. In the first place he wants a boy who don't know much. Business men generally like to run their own business, and prefer some one who will listen to their way rather than teach them a new kind. Second, a prompt boy, one who understands seven o'clock is not ten minutes past. Third, an industrious boy who is not afraid to put in extra work in case of need. Fourth, an honest boy—honest in service as well as matters in dollars and cents. And fifth, a good-natured boy, who will keep his temper, even if his employer does lose his now and then."—Augusta Chronicle.

PUTTING OFF.

"Come, Helen; breakfast is ready." "Yes, father, pretty soon," said Helen. She was tying a ribbon round the neck of her kitty. She fastened the bow securely, and then pushed kitty off to see how it looked; but the little creature did not choose to be admired, and away she ran down the garden walk, and Helen started after her.

"Helen!" called her father again. "Yes, father, in a minute," said Helen; "I want to catch my kitty." The kitty ran in among the currant bushes, and Helen pushed in after her; but before she reached her, pussy was away out on the other side. Helen continued to chase until she captured the little runaway, and then she walked slowly back carrying her little pet. When at last she went into the house, father and mother had finished breakfast, and were just leaving the table.

"Oh, dear! I don't want to eat alone," said Helen. "Those two little words, 'pretty soon,' will cause you greater inconvenience than this," said Helen's father, "unless you resolve not to listen to them. Yesterday when mother called you to put away your duster you said 'pretty soon'; but before you came Fido had torn her pretty clothes and broken her arms. Last week you were going to give your canary some water 'pretty soon' but he was left nearly all day without anything to drink. By putting off your duties we often lose the opportunity to perform them at all." Helen thought of her father's words while she ate her lonely breakfast, and she resolved in the future to go as soon as she could. She will find this much the happy way. Children who are always putting off will likely become useless men or women.—The Morning Light.

Teacher—"Now suppose there were five boys going skating, and they had only three pairs of skates; how many boys would have to look on?" B.—"I know; the two that got the rest of the fight."

HOW CARE CHEATS THE UNDERTAKER.

The oldest doctor in England died in the present year. If he had lived a few days longer he would have reached a hundred years. The most interesting thing about his career was not any special work that he did, but the fact that he never practiced his profession because of his delicate health. He was one of the many men who expected from early youth to die soon, but through care outlived every early associate. We see the same experience constantly. The thin, sickly looking, apprehensive person, whom no insurance company would accept on appearances, at any price, clings on year after year and becomes a veteran, while the rosy citizen who can eat all day and drink all night and who has no fear of consequences drops off suddenly, and many in the large attendance at the grave express wonder that such a healthy man should die while others so plainly marked for the cemetery are present at his funeral.

Nothing could better show the value of care in the business of living. We seem to know practically everything about disease nowadays, but as Benjamin Franklin remarked, "Want of care does us more damage than want of knowledge." The sickly fellow cheats the years by taking care of himself, while the healthy person has an early funeral because he laughs at food and fate. If the doctor who lived to be nearly a hundred could not practice his profession because he was too delicate, the average patient on whom the doctors do practice ought to pause a while and think. This is undoubtedly an age in which the human body is disorganized and weakened by too many medicines. It is a period of overeating, and a lot of judicious starvation would probably be about the best thing that could happen for the race.

With all the accumulated wisdom of the centuries few men have come to really appreciate the fact that pure air and plenty of it are more important than mere food. At the same time, of course, he need not slight his food, and if he is sensible he will get the best that his purse can buy. Be careful, be cheerful and be comfortable!

"Joy and Temperance and Repose Slam the door on the doctor's nose." —Lynn Roby Meekins in Saturday Evening Post.

AN EASY CASE TO TACKLE.

Young Symple was at a club dinner the other evening, and tried to make an impression on a well-known lawyer who sat next to him. But the man of law did not appreciate the attentions of his neighbor.

"I suppose you gentlemen have some strange cases to deal with at times?" observed Symple. "Yes," answered the lawyer. "Some very puzzling cases," said the young man, trying again; "cases that almost confuse you and—er—"

"Just so," said the legal gentleman, a look of determination overspreading his countenance. "I knew a man once who had a case to deal with of the kind you mention. He gave his full and undivided attention to that case during the whole of one night, and when he had finished he really did not know which side of the case he was on, he was so confused." "Really!" exclaimed Symple, delighted at having drawn the lawyer at last. "Most interesting! What kind of case was it?" "It was a case of champagne," replied the other. He was left in peace after that.—Collier's Weekly.

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