

**RATIONAL VIEWS**

**Of a Subscriber on the Best Plans to pursue in the Temperance Cause.**

When a physician is called to see a patient suffering with fever, he does not immediately produce his lancet and draw several ounces of blood; neither does he administer at once, doses of acetate or veratrin, though he knows that either would doubtless lower the temperature of the sufferer. He carefully inquires into the causes which produced the result before him, and also concerning the various phases which the disease has assumed before his skill was summoned, and not until he has diagnosed the case as thoroughly as may be, does he proceed with his remedies, and one of his first requirements may be that his patient be removed from certain malarial influences.

In considering the important question of intemperance, and the remedies for so great an evil, will it not be well to find some of the sources from which the evil will be likely to grow in our own midst, that we may deal with this social disease, as intelligently as does the physician with a physical disorder.

The brilliant opportunities which the new Northwest holds out, will bring to her fair estates thousands of young men, and nearly as many boys of ages from fourteen upward. A large number of these will be young men whose opportunities for education, observation and the accumulation of money have been limited. Many of them will come without friends, their young souls eager for the conflict before them; some of them, tasting for the first time the intoxicating draught of freedom of action; most of them with minds too undeveloped to comprehend, in even a small measure, the magnitude of the forces which will oppose them in the struggle for wealth and manliness. Large numbers of these homeless, untried youth will live in the boarding houses of the new towns, of which this land of our adoption is as productive as she is of cereals. Though the rapid growth of these new towns was never ceasing to be a marvel to one raised in the slower east or interior, and though one must admire the spirit and industry and perseverance which is at the foot of this rapid development, it cannot be gainsaid that the new prairie town at its best, offers small attraction to the homeless and uncultured lad, separated by thousands of miles from the restraints of his early environment. What wonder that he escapes the crowded, scantily furnished sitting room of his boarding house? What wonder in the restlessness of youth he clamors for a change, even though the only change possible to one of his acquirements may be that afforded by passing from one crowded room to another? And what, in most cases, will this crowded room prove to be, with its light and song and laughter and the clink of glasses? A saloon!

It is vain for those of us who are happy enough to have homes, to ask him to come to us. His every-day clothes and boyish bashfulness will, in most cases, be an insurmountable obstacle to his meeting us at our own firesides. Can we not offer him something which will not frighten him away by its propinities, and yet will be more attractive than the saloon?

Let us try and discover what draws him into such unwholesome surroundings. First of all, it is a desire for change. There are very few boys and young men who seek their fortunes in a prairie town to whom badness is attractive because it is badness. Then there is no need for them to make any change of toilet, or there will be no ladies there. It is probably lighter there than in their own quarters, and they can challenge each other to little games of cards and checkers and back-gammon, the material of which they do not find in the place they call their home. Many who seek the saloons care nothing at first for the liquor which is passed over the counter, and endure its presence only for the sake of the other inducements which to them are attractions. Says Pope of Vice:

"His son is not so familiar with her face,  
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

Now, if we could anticipate the coming of our share of the great army of young men, and provide for them an attractive room in which to spend their evenings, we should save many a bright lad from wearing all his life the scars left by early dissipation. If a suitable room or building could be secured by those who are eager to advance the cause of temperance, it would quickly be furnished by contributions from the mothers and sisters and friends who are already here. The lads would never heed that no two chairs were alike. Papers, illustrated monthlies and weeklies, a picture hung here and there on the walls, a few good books which would surely be offered; games of cards, checkers, back-gammon, plenty of light and privilege of smoking, would, the writer feels certain, prove an efficient and inexpensive safeguard to many young men not already given over to evil. This club room should have no

savor of the church about it. Let it be and remain simply an aid toward temperance, and let the evangelizing be done in other places. But let all the influences of such a room be for good, remembering however, that the average young man who has always smoked, is not going to give it up for any club room. Don't frighten the boys away by asking too much of them. Let this room, when the ladies have made it as pleasant as possible, be given into the hands of a committee of young men, who shall each have a turn at taking charge of it evenings. After our town has grown somewhat, little entertainments, such as amateur concerts, private theatricals, recitations, or short and practical lectures, followed, perhaps, by a cup of coffee and a sandwich might add much to the attractiveness of the room; and except on such occasions it would seem desirable that all work done by the ladies should be accomplished before the opening of the room for the evening.

The best physician is the one who helps people to keep well. Whether or not the above plan, the barest outline of which has been presented, should be thought worthy of consideration, let us be active in keeping alive the good which the young men bring to us.

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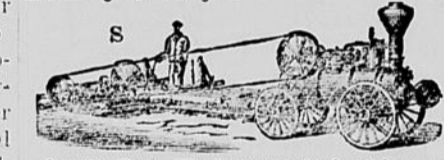
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