

SATURDAY NIGHT TALKS

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WHAT MAKES HARD TIMES?

International Bible Lesson for
June 27, '09—(Rom. 13: 3-14).



The most widespread, destructive antagonism Christianity has to meet in all our land is the liquor habit. According to the recent census there are four grogeries in this country to every church and six bartenders to every minister. And thirty times as much

money is spent every year in drinking places as is given to all church and benevolent purposes in this country. Think of it. The annual drink bill of the United States is over four times as much as the value of all the church property of all denominations. That is to say, in one year the people of this country pour down their throats money enough to build four times as many churches of the same grade as now exists. Statistics prove that it is the direct cause of a yearly output of 100,000 criminals sentenced to prison, 200,000 to the poor house, 300 murders, 400 suicides, with 500 funerals a day.

Beer vs. Bread.

Statistics do not mean much, we are not able to comprehend them. But a comparison may help us to get some idea of where the money goes. Suppose the liquor bill for one year was devoted to the purchase of flour. It would buy over 200,000,000 barrels, or more than two barrels for every man, woman and child in the country. Now suppose that flour loaded on teams of 15 barrels each, it would take 20,000,000 teams to deliver it. Allowing each team 24 feet of room, it would form a procession over 90,000 miles long, extending nearly four times around the globe, or more than one third the distance from the earth to the moon. Save that money which is worse than thrown away and this nation would never hear the moan of hard times from now on to the millennium.

The Pocket Nerve.

You would have more money in the bank, better clothes on your back, better food on your table, more leisure, more luxuries, for yourself and your family, if it were not for the demands made upon you to provide houses of correction, prisons, almshouses, insane asylums, reformatories, hospitals, institutions of all grades into which marches or is carried a long procession of men, women and children, the finished product of the liquor habit. There is where the money goes. Nine-tenths of all the poverty and suffering of this land without question is owing to sinking the money in this bottomless pit of intemperance. Save the money sunk in this black abyss annually and not another woman would shiver in the cold, not another half-starved child cry for bread. Every man who is inspired by philanthropy, patriotism or religion ought to be interested to smash the nation's greatest curse. On the principle of self-defense, protection of our own interests, as citizens and taxpayers, we ought to arouse ourselves to this evil, if from no higher motive.

Precept and Example.

And judgment must begin at the house of God. There is one perfectly sure remedy for intemperance, and that is total abstinence. Let us bring our children up by our example as well as by our precept. Let us set in our household such a blazing light before our children that when they come into the temptations of great cities they shall be strong in advance of their period of trial; let us put the church on the right side, a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, a guide to the militant host, a confusion and destruction to her foes. When we purge the church we shall purge the parlor, we shall purge the press, we shall purge the statute books, we shall purge the ballot box, we shall purge the executive, administrative powers of the government, and we shall thus deliver civilization from a curse which has gnawed our vitals more deeply than war, or pestilence, or famine.

This is the next step in social reform. And the fight thickens every day. The field of conflict extends year by year. As Lincoln said, "This nation cannot endure half slave, and half free," so we say, "This nation cannot endure half drunk and half sober." One or the other condition will have to be changed. Constantly the fact looms up in darker hues and more fearful proportions that rum is man's deadliest foe, and we are pressed to the conclusion that the demon's reign must end. And stronger grow the hands, and more hopeful the hearts, and more earnest the prayers of the great army arrayed against this foe of God and man, marching on to its destruction. Since rum in one form or another is the main evil and obstacle in the pathway of humanity and religion, it is inevitable that it must go.

Notes and Comment

Of Interest to Women Readers

BEAUTIFUL MURIEL WHITE.

Good Fortune of the Daughter of American Ambassador to France.

Just because the father of the bride-to-be was soon to retire from his post as United States Ambassador to France didn't interfere in the least with the wedding plans of Miss Muriel White and Count Herrmann Scherr-Thoss, officer in the Royal Prussian Cuirassiers.

Miss White, as a Prussian Countess, won't have to return to the United States when her father, Henry White, so many years in the diplomatic service of his country, comes home.



Muriel White.

All Europe realizes the good fortune of Miss Muriel White. She becomes allied to one of the most distinguished families in Europe, possessed of estates so large that in comparison her father's money appears but a drop in the bucket. As for a match for money or title—it is not to be considered.

Miss White has all the social position that an American could possibly wish; Count Herrmann Scherr-Thoss has all the money he could possibly need. Neither the American dollar nor the European title has anything to do with this engagement. It is a love match, pure and simple.

Count Herrmann Scherr-Thoss is twenty-nine years old; Miss White is twenty-five. Count Herrmann is the eldest of the four sons of the Count Scherr-Thoss, and as such will succeed to the hereditary Prussian peerage and great estates in Prussia Silesia.

JOAN OF ARC BEATIFIED



In St. Peter's, Rome, the Beatification of the Maid of Orleans has taken place and Canonization will follow. The French Heroine's character emerged triumphant and spotless from the crucible of Merciless examination of the Roman Catholic authorities.

Butterfly Jewels.

There is a new way of wearing jewels which affords delight to the young woman who likes to be an embodiment of glitter and scintillation. This method is called the butterfly coil. The basis is a structure of puffs and coils arranged in the manner becoming to the pretty face beneath it. Scattered over it is a swarm of jeweled butterflies. There are a hundred different ways of arranging gorgeous insects, almost any of them likely to be becoming. The aim is to secure as brilliant effect as possible. The general feeling in regard to this fashion seems to be that the larger the butterflies the better, but when they are made of very rare jewels their possessor is usually content to have them of moderate size.

The most exquisite of these ornaments are made of diamonds finely set in the butterfly's head, the markings upon the delicate wings being formed by brilliant rubies, emeralds, and sapphires. Now and then, however, there is a butterfly whose beauty is dependent upon less costly gems. A specimen whose counterpart may be seen any summer's day, poised on some delicate garden flower, is made of clear yellow topazes. Black pearls are set at intervals along the wings.

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