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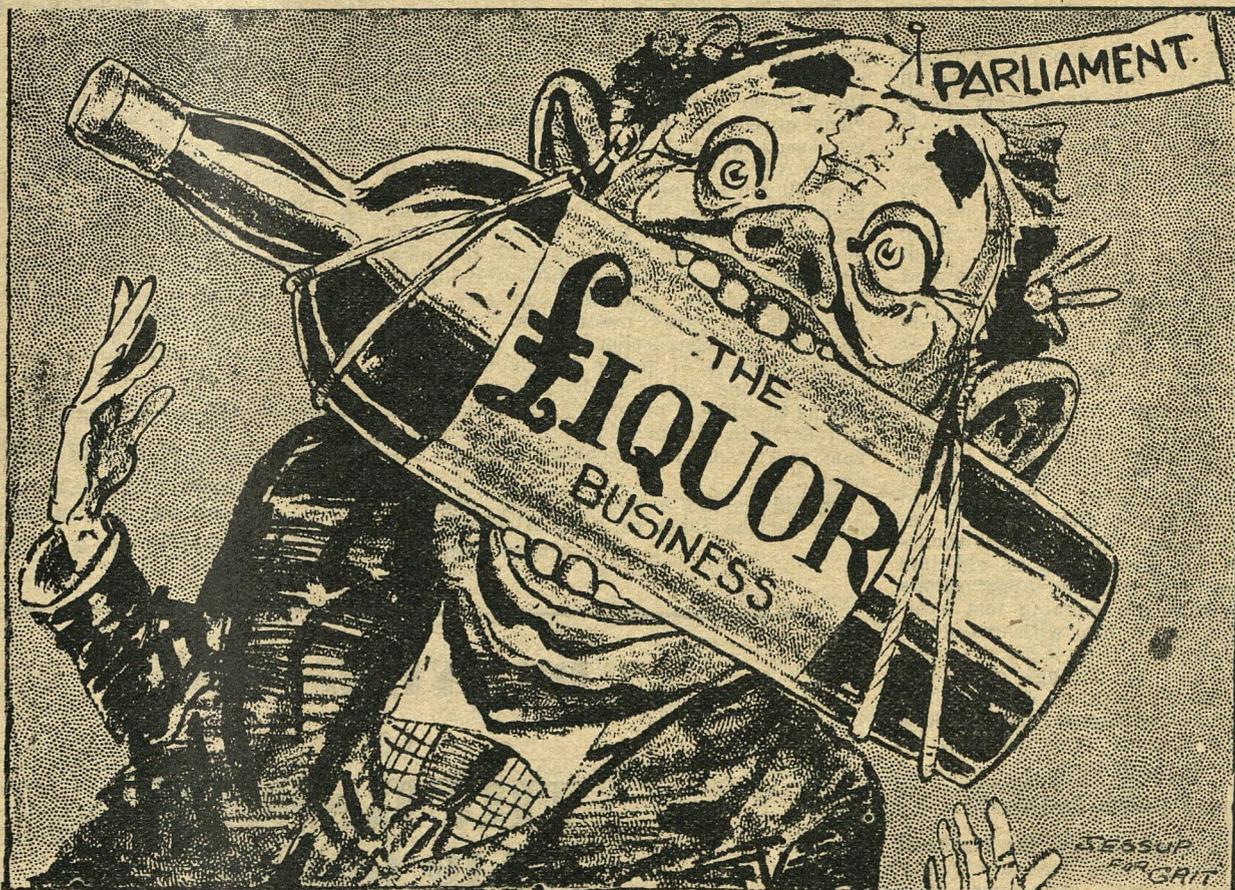
A JOURNAL OF NATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND PROHIBITION.

Vol. XXV., No. 17.

Twopence.

SYDNEY, JULY 2, 1931.

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SOME GAG, BELIEVE ME!



**PAY CASH AND COLLECT
GREEN COUPONS**



"GOOD OLD DAYS" BEFORE PROHIBITION.

Charges are constantly being made that prohibition has caused a "reign of hypocrisy, corruption and lawlessness," that crime has increased, that there has come "the rule of the bootlegger, the gunman and the gangster, all children of the Eighteenth Amendment." Although such claims are published without statistics, they are often taken at their face value by the thoughtless and uninformed, thus constituting a very real danger. What is the truth about the "good old days"?

Is Bootlegging a Result of Prohibition?

In pre-prohibition days, Chicago had 7,000 saloons, but was also unofficially reported to have more than twenty thousand unlicensed places, and an uncounted number of bootleggers. "McClures," in April, 1907, stated that the "average consumption of beer for every man, woman and child in Chicago in 1906 was two and one-quarter barrels, the average for spirituous liquors was four gallons."

Have We More Drunkenness Now Than Before 1920?

The Women's Organisation for National Prohibition Reform says that increase in drinking and other evils necessitate modification of prohibition laws. Read this letter, recently received by the "Union Signal," from F. G. Franklin, librarian of the Willamette University at Salem, Oregon: "One Saturday night last August I was one of a large group of students who explored South State Street, Chicago, under the guidance of Dr. Ben T. Reitman, once president of Hobo College and physician of the Chicago Vice Squad. Few would be better known around the slums of Chicago, or knew them better. As we left the district he asked, 'has anybody seen anyone drunk to-night?' Nobody had. I asked him, 'How would it have been in the old days?' The reply was, 'You couldn't have gone twenty feet.' I said, 'Then there is not one-tenth as much drunk here now.' (That is, in this South State Street district.) He replied with emphasis, 'No, not one-thousandth.' With my knowledge of old-time conditions there and with my observations there on more than one evening last summer, I could not charge him with exaggeration. I have been told that there are open saloons in Chicago all through the Loop district. No honest man who knows the meaning of words can repeat such a statement unless he is more resigned than he needs to be to being deluded."

Our Young People Drinkers?

The Women's Organisation for National Prohibition Reform states that the young people are drinking more than ever. The Newark (N.J.) "News" for June 10, 1904, says editorially, "The Union County grand jury, after being in session twenty-two days, recently brought in an unusual number of indictments, a great proportion of them being against disorderly houses, speakeasies, Sunday sellers, and those who sold liquor to minors. Some eight or ten proprietors of speakeasies in Plainfield were rounded up shortly after the indictments were found, lest they should be informed of what had occurred, and quit the state." There was lawlessness, there were

speakeasies, and young people were drinking before prohibition!

"Nothin' Like It Was in the Old Days."

"No sir, a cop's work to-day is nothing like it was in the old days," agreed three officers, according to the Youngstown (Ohio) "Vindicator," as they recalled the days "when they patrolled saloon-bedecked beats."

"What do you do on Saturdays and holidays now?" an officer was asked, and replied, "Nothin'! Only pull in a few drunks and a couple of reckless drivers and one or two disturbance arrests. But it wasn't that way in the old days. No, sir, every Saturday night we worked over two patrol wagon crews and hauled in upward of fifty 'flats' in the course of an evening."

"And we'd pick up more drunks on weekdays than we do on Saturdays and holidays now," added another, while the third officer added, "Some of the toughest work that any police officer had passed out with the day of the saloon."

As for Drinking Students—

A great deal is made in the wet press over any news of students who drink. But will conditions now bear comparison with a story in the "Voice," which was retold in the "Union Signal" of December 9, 1897? "One of the most disgraceful scenes ever witnessed must have been the drunken revels of Yale and Princeton students in New Haven on the occasion of the football game, November 21. It is said that there was little sleep for forty hours while the howling mobs had possession of the city. The saloons were packed full of drinking, betting students, and the day and night carousals beggared description. . . . In spite of the instruction of the mayor and superintendent of police to the officers to arrest no one unless he became so boisterous as to make it necessary, the lockup was full early in the evening. It is estimated that there were one thousand drunken students."

Would we like a return of the "good old days" in the reign of King Alcohol?

—"The Union Signal."

WASHINGTONIAN HOME TO BECOME RUG FACTORY.

The building of the Washingtonian Home of Chicago, formerly an institution for the cure of inebriates, has been purchased by the Olson Rug Company and will be remodelled into a modern factory. This noted drink cure was said in its first thirty-six years to have ministered to 20,000 persons. With the advent of prohibition, there was a gradual decrease in the number of patients, and finally, the Washingtonian Home Association, finding its usefulness greatly curtailed by the dry law, decided to invest its assets in a general hospital. This hospital stands on the site of one of the smaller old inebriate homes of the Association, and in its provision is made for the few alcohol and drug addicts who desire treatment.

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MY REGARDS.

By JACK CREAGH.

"And have you not been in places where you were moored, stranded, transfixed, and broke, in no wise able to know what to do, nor how to do it? Here's to all baffled folk who must do something when there is nothing to do."—Frank Crane.

TWO unemployed men who had been sleeping side by side in Hammond's Hotel, No. 1, met on the stairs the other morning. Their manner, speech and smile were charming.

For weeks they had said good morning and compared notes, always cheery and hopeful of the future. They had every reason to be downcast, but the indomitable will that is uppermost in some people (particularly when in trouble) came out.

They have never complained to my knowledge. Occasionally they have requested some trifling help and when it has been possible to give help it was always received graciously and with profuse thanks.

While I am often worried and perplexed because I cannot give to the many that come to me, all they deserve, I have taken comfort in the fact that great good can come out of hardship (unless the hardship is the result of personal sin) and even then good can come if the person who is suffering can come to an understanding with the Creator and himself.

Hardship endured can be the greatest factor in a person's life for success.

Some, of course, can and will go down under it, but those undergoing hardship have a new sense of values and when such get their chance a greater percentage make good. They make good because they are fairer and more careful in their dealings.

There are no two people alike. Experts say that no two finger prints can be alike. There will be some distinct difference.

In the same way, no two minds can see alike; one sees the hardship this way, another that. Sometimes a person who has lost much is affected less by it than the person who has lost little, and indeed has little to look forward to.

There is some process going on in each person's mind that decides their attitude. Then again, training, especially home training, shapes the course of a person's actions.

I often look at some person who is undergoing great trials and I say to myself, "How would you face such a position?" Invariably I feel a longing to do, and be like them, and I generally tighten up my belt and raise the chin a bit higher. It is better to look out over a world that at present is facing and moulding character—a testing that no other period in history had to face.

Culture Amongst Unemployed.

I have watched many unemployed men as they move in and out; as they do the serious things, such as the washing of a shirt or the ironing of a collar. It may be at meals, or in deportment as they play cards or sit around in general conversation.

Real culture is shown by very many. After all, culture is only the harmonious, healthy development of one's personality. Anyone can get in on this. It means a brain developed until it thinks clearly. The will, until it acts properly, and the feelings until they minister to life, in such a way that the big desire of the person is to help life, not destroy it.

Someone has aptly said, "Culture is simply skill in using one's self."

Then I am sure, to large numbers the experience of hardship has and will continue to shape and mould many, so that the highest grade of culture, backed up by more patience, and real sympathy will result.

A large number of people think that culture is to have fine manners, fashionable clothes, very correct speech, or skill in the tricks of politeness.

ALCOHOL WAR.

Drunks before Central Police Court, Sydney, month of May, 1931:
Men 425, women 94; total 519.
Signed pledge 141.

Drunks before Court, five months, Jan. to May:
Men 2646, women 590; total 3236.
Signed pledge 777.

The condition of those coming before the Court is just appalling. Their misery is extreme; after-care is urgently needed. It may win some.

It is very easy for unthinking people to think a person having the above qualifications is really cultured. My experience is that large numbers who have the above high toned mannerisms are just duds, hardly cheap imitations.

When they have everything working right for them they seem cultured; but when things go wrong, if they strike the trail hard, then they crack up, and soon the starch gives place to limpness.

Many are at their best when they hold the hand of a fair maiden, but if circumstances brought them down and instead of holding the hand of a fair lady they had

to hold and wash their torn shirt, that's the test.

A good many look good with a nice pair of well-pressed pants on their legs, but culture leaves many when they have to sit on the side of their bed and with the experience of an amateur they undertake to sew a patch on the torn seat.

St. Paul once said, "He knew how to abound and how to be in want." When this depression is over thousands will also say this.

A man said to me to-day, "One thing I have learnt, is how to handle money." Plenty have had the urge to spend unwisely; now the habit is to do without. They are a penny wise now, where previously they were a pound foolish.

During the late war, two Diggers met in a very boggy trench; it was raining hard, and pretty cold.

A general conversation took place, then after wishing each other good luck, they passed on.

One had been a bit sad, because of the hardships; his cobbler looked after him, and in a cheery kind of way shouted, "Cheerio, Bill; remember, if there were no rough places we would not be able to strike our matches."

I pass on the above Digger's remark to those who may be feeling the pinch of hardship.

If you gaze on a beautiful marble front of a modern building, the craft of the cabinetmaker, the lens of field glasses, or spectacles, you are either struck by their beauty, or utility.

Nothing Just Happens.

The above creations never came by accident, or they did not just happen. To get the marble front you have first to go to

(Continued on page 10.)

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Headquarters: S.A. Chambers, 140 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

Secretary:

COL. FISHER.

'Phone: M6058.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE FIELD.

Mr. O. A. Piggott, Field Secretary, writes: "Field day services continue to be our principal method of educating the people. It is a pleasant superstition that all church goers are convinced on the Temperance question. Unfortunately that is not correct, although there has been a wonderful increase in those who are, whilst there are comparatively few Ministers who are against us. It was not always thus. The field service is a wonderful opportunity, as one speaks to people who do not as a rule attend public meetings, etc. Think of the scope. All kinds and conditions of men and women are thus reached. A great responsibility is upon us when we enter a pulpit as the Alliance representative. Recently services have been conducted in various centres. It was my privilege to take the morning service at Ashfield Baptist Church on a recent Sunday. There was no doubt as to the interest. I was particularly struck with the fact that during the reading of the lesson even the smallest child that could read found the place in the Bible. It certainly augurs well for the future of that church. Mr. Stanton, on the same day, occupied the pulpit in the Ashfield Presbyterian Church. He was warmly received and speaks of the kindness of the officers. The Rev. H. C. Foreman, M.A., came to our aid that day and conducted an Alliance service at the Methodist Church. We were informed of his inspiring call to service and of his splendid exposition of our case. Later on at an after-church rally in the Town Hall, Mr. Foreman again stirred a fine audience to enthusiasm."

IN THE MANLY DISTRICT.

The first group of Manly district services were taken at the Presbyterian Church on the morning and the evening of June 14. Wide publicity was given in the local press and the attendances were large. The Balgowlah Methodist Church was filled at the morning service and with such a friendly atmosphere one was quite at home. At the Seaforth Methodist Church evening service a very cordial welcome was extended to our representative.

EASTERN SUBURBS.

On Sunday, June 21, we were at the Paddington and Waverley Presbyterian Churches and at Mill Hill Church of England.

CONCORD RE-VISITED.

It was a pleasure to re-visit the Concord Congregational Church. We have lost count of the times we have spoken in this area, but it is always a privilege to do so. Everywhere we go there is an earnest desire to know what can be done in the way of liquor reform.

LYCEUM RALLY.

This is simply an initial intimation of what we hope will be a great event.

Our friends of the Central Methodist Mission have granted us the use of the

Lyceum Hall for a Sunday afternoon and the Rev. R. Moffat Gillon has been secured as chief speaker.

Fuller details will be supplied in due course.

THE RELIGIOUS PAPERS.

Our plan is developing splendidly and the only fear we have is whether we will be able to supply all that is asked for. We are

DR. HARVEY SUTTON ON LIQUOR AND FITNESS.

Dr. Harvey Sutton, in "The School Magazine," wrote:—

As with the Greeks, our most deadly enemies are not without, but within ourselves. As a race, the enemies of disease and other racial poisons threaten us daily.

The chief disease which cripples and kills large numbers around us is alcohol. Alcohol is a great enemy of human fitness to-day, particularly when used as a beverage by the young.

The greatest thinkers of to-day believe that the way to fight these enemies is to prepare every boy and girl, every young man and woman to be fit.

The happy, vigorous, healthy boy and girl can readily resist the attack of the disease germ (tuberculosis); all they need do is to keep fit. To refuse to drink alcohol is not so easy, but it is easier for the healthy person to say "no" than the person who is careless about his health, and has forgotten the ideals of health, "the beautiful and the good," and belief in supreme fitness.

more than grateful for the splendid response to our request for space.

LADIES' FAIR COMMITTEE.

We must not forget the ladies. A very special meeting of the Fair Committee was held recently and the whole scheme of action for next year was reviewed. The ladies are not lacking in ideas and we are quite sure their ideas will materialise in benefit to the Alliance.

THE STATE COUNCIL.

This Committee will be meeting while this is being printed and a full agenda will claim attention. There are many important matters to be settled in order that a definite plan of operations may be followed.

CHURCH SERVICES.

Our way is opening for special ranges of services in the churches and the details mentioned this week by Mr. Piggott, our Field Secretary, will be of interest.

Oh, for money and men to spread the message throughout the whole State.

OUR NAME.

Do we suffer because of our name? We are "The New South Wales Prohibition Alliance," and generally this is understood to mean an Alliance aiming at the ultimate extinction of Alcoholic Liquor.

It has been suggested that we might gain a better backing if we had a different name and the matter has been under consideration.

Have any of our readers a suggestion to make? If so, please send it along.

(Continued on page 12.)

LEGACIES.

Friends are earnestly requested to remember the work of the Prohibition Alliance and for the guidance of those friends who may care to remember the Alliance when preparing their Will, the following is suggested as a form of bequest:

"I bequeath to the President and Treasurer of the New South Wales Prohibition Alliance the sum of £.... to be used and applied by the Committee of the said Alliance for its general purposes in the said State of New South Wales, the receipt of the said officers of the Alliance to be a sufficient receipt to my trustees for the said sum."

Any enquiries regarding this matter may be addressed to the President or the Treasurer at the office of the Alliance, 140 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

We deeply appreciate the kind remembrances of friends in days gone by. Any kind of property may also be willed to the Alliance.

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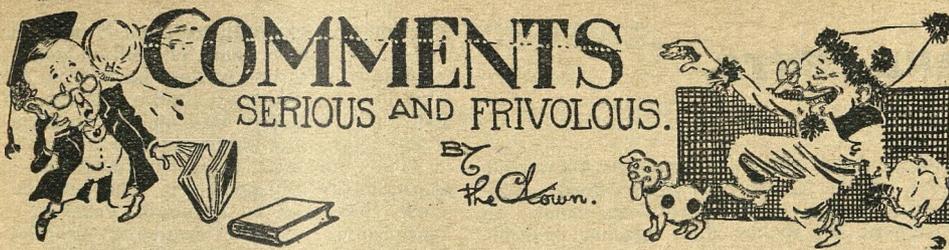
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"The man who goes too often to the bottle ends up in the 'Jug'."

CLEANER, HEALTHIER FILMS.

CANON ATTACKS CINEMAS.

(Special Service.)

LONDON, Monday.

"Unless the film industry is cleaned up, and raised to a healthy level, it will disastrously affect, not only the Empire, but the whole of civilisation," declared Rev. Percy Dearmer, Professor of Ecclesiastic Art, King's College, London, and newly-appointed Canon of Westminster, preaching at the Abbey.

"Producers are tempted to exploit the weakest and most vicious elements in human nature," he added. "There should be cinemas everywhere which children could safely attend. The Government has made an excellent beginning in the Imperial Institute Cinema. Hundreds of similar places are needed throughout the Empire."

CUTS IN BRITISH FILMS.

AUSTRALIAN CENSOR UPHELD.

(Special Service.)

LONDON, Wednesday.

"There is a certain amount of truth in the Australian Censor's statements," writes the film critic of the "Daily Mirror."

"The British Censor," he says, "has now found it necessary to step in and order cuts to be made in Elstree's latest effort, 'Keepers of Youth,' dealing with the unpleasant side of school life.

"All the films to which Australia has objected only just scraped past the British Censor, with the qualified certificate of 'For Adults Only'."

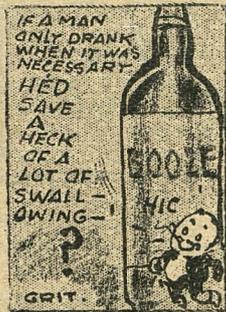


The two clippings given above speak a whole mouthful to those whose ears are open, and whose eyes are not afflicted with the moral squint.

The films could be made the greatest factor in spreading education and religion in the whole round world—and by the same token no greater instrument exists for the spread of evil.

Let us continue to progress by all means, but, what is the use of human progress if the wonders of scientific invention are to be handed over without protest to the devil?

WASTED TIME.



A newspaper has figured out that the average man during the average life-time, by sleeping longer than necessary, wastes anything up to 10 years of his life in sleep. . . . When the same newspaper has time, "Grit" suggests that it sets to work and

figures out what the same man, in the same time, loses by drinking more than is necessary. It would be equally astonishing.

"HOOTCH."

"There is a ready market in Sydney for illicit liquor. A leading official said yesterday that some city and suburban hotels are known to be retailers. They mix the semi-poisonous brew with labelled brands at a good profit."

The above is not just a few ribald remarks from "Grit's" Clown. It was clipped from the columns of one of our great (?) dailies—quite recently. Anyhow, if the Clown had written it, he would have said—"They mix the doubly poisonous



with the totally poisonous at a good profit—" So, now, when old John Henry buys his favourite blend from the heather-clad hills of Scotland, and it tastes like gasoline, or a Waterloo rubbish tip—he'll know what has happened—and perhaps he wont.

LOST TRADE.
Among Ship's Firemen.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

Once upon a time, a year or two ago, the conviviality of ship's firemen was a regular excuse for the late departure of steamers from Melbourne. Not infrequently they had to be carried aboard.

Yesterday, the chief steward of a coastal boat called on Mr. George Moate (secretary of the Marine Stewards' Union), and complained bitterly about the falling off in his bar trade. "We have eight firemen on the boat," he said. "Seven neither drink nor smoke, and the eighth has a small beer about once a week. What's the world coming to?"

That old man booze is not the man he used to be—the foregoing extract seems to testify. When thirsty souls like ship's firemen go off their suds, there would seem to be an extremely large blowfly in the ointment somewhere. What the world is coming to—my brothers and sisters—is Prohibition—there is nothing else for it.

FROTH.

"Froth and beer, and the worth and cost of beer, are reminders that in well-regulated and pre-war Germany (and probably in equally well-regulated Germany to-day), the froth-blowers were law-protected against too much froth. It was (and probably is) verboten for beer to have more than an infinitesimal depth of froth on its top. This as a protection against at once the beer-drinkers' robbery of real beer by the froth pretence, and the possible injury to the health of the beer-drinking citizen from the too much gas in beer that a too deep froth would mean."

The writer of the above supplies an ingenious but transparent excuse for the heavy death rate among beer drinkers. He blames it on the froth—or, rather, the gas in the froth. Which is rot—or words to the same effect. The reason for the mortality in beer-drinkers is that instead of beer being liquid bread—it is poisoned water. Facts are facts. . . .

MILK IN THE RUM.

Hotels not "Traders" under Dairy Act.

"The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Dunn) stated yesterday that hotelkeepers and restaurant proprietors need not be registered by local authorities under the

(Continued on page 10.)

IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

Mrs. Irving Fisher, wife of the noted American economist, in an article published in the report of the Women's National Commission for Law Enforcement and Law Observance, gives convincing proof of the economic benefits from prohibition in the following statements by leading authorities:

Professor Thomas Nixon Carver of Harvard University, as quoted by Herman Feldman in his book, "Prohibition, Its Industrial and Economic Aspects," says: "I should assume that drunkenness, or anything that tends to destroy a man's dependability, would tend to prevent his promotion or cause his demotion, thus increasing the congestion in the lower occupations. Anything which makes for sobriety should, other things being equal, increase the rate of promotion, and thus relieve congestion at the bottom. . . . If we can facilitate the movement upward, even into the high managerial positions, so as to make high grade managers abundant where they would otherwise be scarce, this will cause expansion of industry."

Professor Irving Fisher of Yale University, in "The Noble Experiment," says:

"So far as I can ascertain after diligent and thorough search there is no economist in the United States who opposes the view that the nation has gained enormously in an economic sense from national prohibition."

As chairman of a round table on prohibition at the St. Louis meeting of the American Economist Association in 1926, Irving Fisher said that having somewhat pronounced views on prohibition, he felt it especially incumbent upon him to see that discordant views should be presented. The "American Economic Review" (Supplement, March 1927) quotes him as follows: "I got a list of the economists who are supposed to be opposed to prohibition and wrote to them. They all replied either that I was mistaken in thinking that they were opposed to prohibition or that, if we were going to confine the discussion to the economics of prohibition, they would not care to respond. When I found I was to have no speaker representing the opposite point of view, I wrote to all American economists listed in 'Minerva' and all American teachers of statistics. I have not received from any one an acceptance."

"Some effort has been made to associate the present depression with prohibition and to sneer at the prosperity which was previously enjoyed under prohibition," says Mrs. Fisher. "But even averaging the depression with the previous years of prosperity there has been a large net gain compared with the pre-prohibition situation. Of course, no serious economist would attribute the present depression to prohibition, unless in the very indirect way of having contributed to prosperity so rapidly as to have helped to lead to the orgy of speculation which periods of rapid prosperity engender. It is a little odd that the same argument was not brought up as to the depression of 1920, immediately after the coming of prohibition. We have had, thus, two depressions since prohibition, although neither can properly be ascribed to prohibition itself. It is the impression of good observers that in both depressions the distress had not been as acute as in the old days when the workman tried to banish his cares

through drink and only increased them and those of his family. In other words, conditions during both depressions create an argument for rather than against prohibition.

"President Hoover, when Secretary of Commerce, ascribed to prohibition an increase in efficiency in the individual worker of upwards of 10 per cent., stating in posi-

PARENT-TEACHER CONGRESS RENEWS PROHIBITION SUPPORT.

At the closing session of its thirty-fifth annual convention, which was held the first week of May in Hot Springs, Arkansas, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, with 870 delegates present and voting, unanimously renewed its stand in support of the Eighteenth Amendment. Among the many other measures adopted was support of the movement to create a Federal Department of Education with a Secretary in the President's Cabinet; taking a stand for cleaner and better motion pictures; trained leadership, parent education, and character education. The "Children's Charter," adopted by the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection last year, was accepted for the guidance of the Congress in an address by the president, Mrs. Hugh Bradford.

tive terms: "There is no question that prohibition is making America more productive."

"Using only half of Mr. Hoover's estimate of 10 per cent. increase in productivity, or 5 per cent. for the nation as a whole, Irving Fisher has calculated that prohibition has raised productivity by at least three billion dollars a year. To this he adds at least another three billion in the diversion of pro-

duction and expenditure from liquor to useful goods, or at least six billion dollars a year in all. Other writers have, from other standpoints, reached similar figures. The estimate of Roger Babson, the well-known statistician, was about six billion a year.

"To sum up, whatever may be said against prohibition from other points of view, there can be no doubt whatever that from the viewpoint of economics, prohibition has been of vast benefit to the great majority."

—The "Union Signal."

DRY LAW IMPROVED PUBLIC HEALTH, SAYS DR. CABOT.

Dr. Richard C. Cabot of Boston, the newly elected president of the Massachusetts Anti-Saloon League, declared recently that everyone, from a medical point of view, should be a prohibitionist. "There is no question that prohibition improves public health," insisted Dr. Cabot. "Even to-day, with unsatisfactory enforcement, all competent authorities agree that the health of the children has markedly improved, due probably to the larger proportion of their father's wages that are now spent in their care."

Eleanor Stanton,
L.A.B.

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UNCLEAN PICTURES.

INFLUENCE ON UNBALANCED MINDS.

"THANK GOD FOR THE CENSOR."

(By D.G.M.)

Isn't it a thousand pities that the wonderful influence of the moving picture screen is not more constructively used? Leaving out of consideration some—but proportionately insignificant—fine presentments of the type and dialogue of Disraeli (one that comes quickest to the mind) and a few good examples of British-produced "talkies," the stuff that splurges on the screen is mostly suggestive, sordid, hysterically tragic, or downright obscene. We are told that this fault lies with the American producer, the be-all and end-all of whose "good" picture is thrill, no matter how the emotion is arrived at.

The "producer" cares not two hoots about public morality. To talk to him of the cultivation of the finer senses would make him "laugh," to use his own vernacular, and he would probably refer you to the Y.M.C.A. His job, he admits, is to provide the stuff, the desire for which is being continuously excited. Suggest public morals to the picture interests, especially if you are standing near the box office, and they will whisper, "Be your age." Some of the vitiating rubbish which drags its bestial slime across the screen makes one ponder in imagination of the orgy of lawlessness, sensuality and vulgarity that would invade the pictures were it not for the censorship. Things are bad enough as they are, heaven knows, in the way of undesirably suggestive influence on youthful and weakly-balanced minds, but we are at least saved from the worst by the official who draws upon himself the frequent wrath of the picture interests by his use of the pruning knife.

This brings me to the burden of my story, which is that the Editor of "Grit" has just handed me, direct to him from the author, a copy of the 1930 report of the Chief Commonwealth Censor (Mr. W. Cresswell O'Reilly). In view of the awfulness of most American film stuff, with its inevitable Yankee twang, the chewing gum disease, the degenerate social manners—or lack of them—and the negligible code of morality, it is depressing to gather from Mr. O'Reilly's observations that there is apparently no hope of a let-up from this deplorable state of affairs, so far as substantial relief from Great Britain is concerned. The fact is that Hollywood has so educated the public to a taste for the suggestive, the sensuous and the prurient, and for admiration of the crook because he is a clever crook (and therefore with children worth emulating) that the British producer has set sail to catch the box office by similar means. Mr. O'Reilly not only points out the poor quality of many British films but emphasises that British picture-makers are exploiting bedroom farce ad nauseum. "Surely," he says, "there are other humorous ideas and situations available besides men and women getting into one another's rooms." There is also a tendency to step over the border line into indecency. The trouble about this kind of thing is that it is insidious, and the dirty rubbish comes to be more eagerly looked for with each added experience. There can, of course, be

only one effect on the childish mind. In this respect the report refers to an endeavour which has been made by the Censorship to induce restriction of the influence of contaminating films on the minds of children. But the endeavour is merely in the form of a suggestion to the trade, and to parents and guardians; there is nothing compulsory or prohibitive about it.

America continues, of course, to hold the fort against the world in the matter of picture production. Figures with regard to Australia's importation of films reflect this. Of the total number of feature films imported, 580, no fewer than 525 came from the U.S.A., 50 from the United Kingdom and 5 from other countries. There were practically double the number of rejections from the United Kingdom over that from America, which indicates that the British producer has a long way to go yet before truly meeting the proprieties so far as our moral bulwark, the Censorship, is concerned. And it is the moral aspect of the thing with which this notice has to do.

The strict censorship exercised by Mr. O'Reilly is indicated by the fact that more than half the films rejected by the Censorship Board in the first instance were released by the Appeal Board. In many of these cases, however, it is only right to say, eliminations were made before being passed by the Board.

It may be remembered that in February last a British film entitled "Compromising Daphne" was banned by the State Censor, and later, on appeal, this decision was up-

held. The story was that of a young woman who, when her father objected to her marriage, suggested a plan whereby it would appear that her young man had compromised her. The theme with its suggestiveness was not one, it may be imagined, that a father would care to see enacted in the presence of his daughter. After the appeal, however, an official of the British International Pictures said: "Apparently a certain member of the Commonwealth Board of Censors has developed a purity complex." To which let us add: "Thank God for the purity complex."

One feels impelled to speak in this way for the reason that the Censorship of Mr. O'Reilly has lately been the subject of a good deal of ill-considered criticism, much of it inspired by commercial interests. What I personally would like to say is, "To hell with commercial interests" if they subordinate the interests of the moral sense in the rising generation. Even the "Sydney Morning Herald," usually calmly judicial in its views, some weeks ago criticised the severity of the Chief Censor's standard and wound up with the surprising pronouncement: "If a doubt exists as to the decency of a picture, British films should be given the benefit of it." While the success of the British film, or any other, industry is a consummation devoutly to be wished, right is right and wrong is wrong, and even patriotism should not condone an unclean picture.

Last month Judge Sheridan at Newcastle said that he had attended a picture show and seen a film which he thought would influence unbalanced minds. The main character openly killed two policemen. "The people who should be in the dock," said the judge, "are those who put on stuff which tends to pollute the minds of the young." This film, it may be said, had been rejected by the Chief Film Censor but passed on reference to the Appeal Board. In Melbourne, also last month, the Chief Justice of Victoria (Sir William Irvine) remarked from the bench: "One particular class of

(Continued on page 12.)

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A Personal Chat with my readers

OTHERWISE O.K. For some years we have had a "Truth in Advertising" campaign without much evidence of its effectiveness, and some day some brave soul will start a "Truth in News" campaign, and the result will probably not be noticeable.

The rush to print, the cutting down to fit the "news" item in, and the faulty training of the reporter whose orders are "get news, make it snappy," largely explains the unsatisfactory newspaper presentation of current events.

I have never kept what is usually called a "vanity book," that is, one filled with the reports and comments made in the press. I seldom read them; they only annoy me when I do. Small omissions of qualifying words, suggestive head-lines, statements taken from their context, and sometimes wicked misreporting, all combine to give a wrong impression and make one a helpless victim without redress. I read an account of some remarks of mine as reported in the press this week, and it made me think of the following story. A man said to his friend:

"Did you hear about Thompson making \$1,000,000 in cotton?"

"Yes, I heard about it, but you haven't got it quite right. It wasn't Thompson, it was Johnson. It wasn't cotton, it was copper. It wasn't \$1,000,000, it was \$100,000. And he didn't make it—he lost it!"

Apart from these corrections, the report was most interesting!

THINGS THAT SATISFY. Few of the things we pay most to possess really satisfy. The things we fuss most about not having and that create in us most dissatisfaction

are really disappointing. Margaret E. Bremer writes this truth in these lines:—
The simple things of earth are loveliest:

A fire on the hearth, the lamplight's glow;
The hour when the heart finds peace and rest,
A mother's lullaby crooned soft and low;

The wayside blossom, tiny woodland stream
That sings a happy, lilting roundelay;
Soft, billowy clouds that drift as in a dream,
The hush of dawn, the sun's last flaming ray;

The friendly trees that give of fruit and shade,

The tendrils of the grape-like clinging hands;
O there are scenes more gorgeously arrayed,
But these the heart has known and understands.

Mankind has reached the pinnacle of power,
Has conquered land and sky and ocean's crest,

And yet, when comes the heart's deep, prayerful hour,

He knows the simple things are loveliest.
Why should the spirit of mortal be proud
when the loveliest things of earth are set free for all?

THE NEGRO. Next to the Jew, the negro is the most wonderful human on earth. During the half-century since the coloured

man, Booker T. Washington, founded the famous negro school called Tuskegee, the 10,000,000 coloured people in U.S.A. have made greater progress than any other people on this earth. President Hoover, speaking a few weeks ago at the jubilee of Tuskegee, said: "The negro race in U.S.A., in the last fifty years, has multiplied its wealth more than 130 times, has reduced its illiteracy from 95 per cent. to 20 per cent., and reduced its death-rate by one half. It has risen to the ownership of 750,000 homes; has accumulated property to the value of billions of dollars; has developed a far-reaching internal net work of social, religious, and economic organisations for the continued advancement of its people; has produced leadership in all walks of life that for faith, courage, devotion and patriotic loyalty ranks with all other groups in our country."

We are foolish indeed if we despise a people who have made such progress in so brief a period.

A WORLD "OUT OF JOINT." The Sixth Biennial Session of the International Chamber of Commerce, meeting in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., brought together 1000 leading business men from thirty-five nations.

They do not seem to have agreed as to a remedy, which no doubt is due to the fact that the reasons for the world being "out of joint" are so many and so varied that it is not a question of a remedy so much as it is of a combination of remedies.

GRIT

A JOURNAL OF
NATIONAL EFFICIENCY
AND PROHIBITION.

"Grit, clear Grit."—A pure Americanism, standing for Pluck, or Energy, or Industry, or all three. Reference probably had to the sandstones used for grindstones—the more grit they contain the better they wear.

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SYDNEY, JUNE 25, 1931.

The one single thing that would do most for the world would be an acknowledgment of God, a development of spiritual life and a change of our standard of values. In the absence of this, nothing will succeed, and even with this changed attitude towards God much else will be necessary, and will get its power and worth from its association with our recognition of obligation to God.

A statement by Sir Arthur Salter, read to the meeting, contained this hopeful paragraph:—

"Ours is a problem of the impoverishment that comes from plenty.

"And this, however difficult, is in its nature capable of solution, and offers the richest prizes, if we can solve it. If only we can so refashion our system as to use fully our productive capacity, to bring again into useful work those who now stand idle and ask for nothing better than to be usefully employed, there will be such a leap forward in prosperity as the world has never seen, with results beyond all estimates or imagination in terms of human happiness and welfare."

The Editor

THE STATE LOTTERY.

A COSTLY AND JACK O' LANTERN SCHEME.

WORSE PLIGHT OF HOSPITALS IN SIGHT.

A Government controlled lottery is now a fact in New South Wales. In this State of "all in" finance, nothing comes as a complete surprise nowadays, but with regard to the projected biggest gamble that the State has yet promoted, it is remarkable that an exhaustive examination of all sides—and the inside—of the proposal was not made before assent was given to an undertaking that is doomed to failure in its ostensible object, the maintenance of public hospitals.

From the moral aspect the thing is, of course, an abhorrence; but let that go. It is useless moralising with a bankrupt government. At the same time there is this anomaly—that if a New South Wales policeman hears the call of "heads a bob," he makes an arrest, yet while he is doing so—from the moral viewpoint—the Government that stands behind his action is taking steps to promote a bigger "school" than all the two-up pitches in New South Wales put together. It is a wonderful elasticity of principle; but let that go also. The main point here is not that a State or any other gamble is immoral (which, however, is a fact), but that it is bound to crash badly as a substitute for present activities for charities; that it will discourage—indeed, completely kill—the voluntary-giving spirit; and that it will land both the hospitals and the Government of the State in a monetary Slough of Despond, so far as the latter and charity finance are concerned. The handwriting is not only on the wall; it is blazoned under the noses of all who have taken the trouble to more than casually examine the position.

Before putting its Lottery decision into operation the Government agreed to give opponents of the scheme an opportunity of raising a certain amount by appeal for hospitals throughout the State. The Council of Churches directed the appeal, which the Government "stood behind" in a general way; a gentleman was appointed on behalf of the Government to control ("apportion" would be the better word), the advertising for the appeal. The subsequent statement of expenditure on advertising as against receipts was startling. The newspapers got £2,492 in advertising, and the appeal fund received £862 after months of campaigning, which was little more than reported as a current activity by the Press.

The large amounts that the individual newspapers scooped from the ill-starred venture should not, of course, be expected to influence their judgment, but, in spite of the fact that in the main they were opposed to the principle of a State Lottery, the editorial support from the Press was not worth a snap of the fingers. So that effort to vindicate the attitude of those opposed to a legalised State gamble (including the principal newspapers) came to an inglorious ending, a result to which the luke-warm, or so-called, support of the Press largely contributed. This left the whole position in *statu quo*. Notwithstanding multiplying evidences of "a sticky end" the Government has determined to go on with the Will o' the Wisp enterprise.

Now listen to this! On the same day that the New South Wales Government decided

to launch the Lottery, the Government of Queensland came to a decision to impose a tax to raise money for hospitals because the return from the Golden Casket (the Queensland State Lottery) had proved insufficient to finance these charities! And with this in mind, it has to be remembered also that the Golden Casket failed notwithstanding that it had the whole of the Australian States as a field for its operations, with only the over-riding opposition of Tattersalls. The New South Wales Lottery will have to almost wholly eliminate the fertile field of Queensland from its calculations in revenue and it is faced with the discouraging fact that even Tattersalls, with its big "pulling" resources, has been unable to fill even the No. 1 sweep which (as in the case of the Sydney Cup, for instance) was drawn *pro rata*. What a shining prospect, then, presents itself for a surplus from a lottery here—at the present time, at all events. Even art unions, with their closely systematised organisation, are down to zero so far as profit is concerned, even where they manage to struggle through at all.

The Golden Casket has never entirely supported the hospitals of Queensland, yet its incidence has had the effect of practically suffocating voluntary giving in that State. Nearly 74 per cent. of the money subscribed by the public to the Golden Casket goes back to the public in the way of prizes, salaries, &c. Only 26 per cent. benefits the hospitals. In other words, of every £1 subscribed the hospitals get 5/-.

In 1908, a Select Committee was appointed in England to inquire into the question of a State Lottery. The following paragraph from the subsequent report of that Committee is worth quoting here: "The foundation of a lottery system is so radically vicious that your Committee feel convinced that, under no system of regulations which can be devised, will it be possible for Parliament to adopt it as an efficacious source of revenue and at the same time divest it of all the evils of which it has hitherto proved so baneful a source. No mode of raising money is so burdensome, so pernicious, and so unproductive as lotteries, and the Committee question whether any pecuniary advantage, however large or convenient, would compensate for the vice and misery which they produce."

An extremely serious consideration is the effect that the failure of this lottery—and failure may surely be anticipated—will have on the position of the hospitals. In the first place the Charities will have lost—beyond recall in many instances—individual support and organised voluntary effort. This result will be calamitous and, even if the failure of the Lottery scheme leads to the revocation of the Act which legalises it, the former standing will take years to rehabilitate. This aspect cannot be too strongly stressed. When, or if, the voluntary spirit of Charity becomes even impliedly officially discouraged, and Government control enters, the day will be a sorry one for the hospitals. Such a result is being led up to by this Jack o' Lantern scheme with expectations that will never be realised. Most certainly the posi-

tion of the hospitals will be infinitely worse than it now is.

At present, apart altogether from Government aid, the hospitals of New South Wales receive more than £500,000 a year by private contribution, so that the Lottery results would have that amount to make up before showing any profit as a new scheme. That is a big handicap, and it will prove a fatal one in present conditions. Haphazard and difficult as are present methods for the financial support of hospitals, they at least operate in an atmosphere of charity. With a State Lottery as an excuse and incitement for gambling, a foetid moral environment will be substituted, while the financial results, on the reasoning here given, will leave the unfortunate charities lamenting and lead to the consolidated revenue being still further drawn upon in large subsidies—either that or the inescapable alternative, a special tax and still the death of the charitable spirit.

NEARLY HALF GONE.

In Victoria, the Licensing Board has just issued its Annual Report. Further licenses have been struck out or surrendered, leaving 1,802 Licensed Hotels on January 1st, 1931. In May, 1907, there were 3,507. The Licensing Board is the instrument by which reduction is brought about, but Temperance Sentiment is the driving force at work; for this the Christian Churches and Temperance Organisations are almost entirely responsible.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

Mr. Finlayson's Campaign.

An eight weeks' tour of the Northern Rivers Districts has just been concluded and Mr. Finlayson reports having had some very successful meetings. In several places, particularly in Lismore, wet weather sadly interfered with the attendances but in other centres there was evidence of a keen interest in Prohibition work.

Three new Lodges were opened, committees formed in seven localities to organise Lodges, and all districts report a strengthening of interest as a result of the visit.

A return visit to the South Coast is planned as from July 11th, and special arrangements are in progress for the institution of a District Lodge at Wollongong on that date. A contingent of Grand and District Lodge officers will attend from Sydney and large numbers are expected from the South Coast towns. Since Mr. Finlayson's visit in February there has been quite an influx of members, 58 being initiated into the Dawn of Hope at Wollongong during the past three weeks, and three new Lodges have been instituted, while four more are expected as a result of the return visit.

The Quirindi district is booked for a campaign from August 15th to 21st and the Wauchope district from August 22nd to 27th. Then Orange, Blayney and Bathurst have a turn in September, and gradually the campaign will spread over the State. Old members of the Order are invited to communicate with the Grand Lodge Office in Sydney if they desire a visit from Mr. Finlayson and are prepared to assist in establishing Lodges and Juvenile Temples,

My Regards—

(Continued from Page 3.)

the quarry. There you see a gang of rough men. Watch, and you will see them sink holes in the face of the stone. Then they get some gelignite and ram it down deep into the holes.

Look on top and you will see a man with a red flag (not the Communist kind). At a given signal he shouts and waves the flag. The workmen move away. Then the all clear signal is given, and a loud roar is heard as the electric battery is fired.

When the smoke clears away we go up close; then you observe that there was method in all that was done.

But what do they go to all the trouble for? Well, that ugly block of stone is the start of a hard process that will eventually adorn the front or inside of some beautiful building.

Teams pull the ugly block out; then, after much trouble, the block is lodged into the marble works.

Saws begin to cut, slowly but surely, into the ugly lump; soon the saws are through and the flat slab is laid on the polishing table; a wheel goes round the surface, and emery is constantly thrown on top.

Then, at the end of the day, the surface may be right; it stays until it is right.

Another trip, and a shrill whistle is heard; a man swaying from a long chain hooks the slab; another whistle and it rises until a mason with a serious face and with trowel and heavy maul fixes the mortar and slab of marble—a thing of beauty (real material culture); but what trouble, what care, hard work and anxiety came first before the ugly block became our admiration!

It does not matter what the article is, if it has a value or beauty, the work to make it such is extensive, but abundantly worth while.

We Come from the Rough.

The same procedure holds good in regard to the making of a real man or woman. No one single set of circumstances will suffice. One has to be in touch with all branches of life, the good and the bad, the happy and the sad; you may be rich or poor, but every element is in every class to make or to mar the individual.

The poor often lose a golden opportunity when they try and ape the rich. On the other hand, many a rich person remains in action and habit, poor; there are always two sides to every question, or principle, but only one is really right.

There are two ways to dispense, or manage wealth, and I do not only mean monetary wealth.

The gift of song, of medicine, and surgery, and many other talents, are wealth.

When the above gifts are used unselfishly, then as just stewards (as workmen), they enable their gifts to help smooth the hard surface of humanity. (They act as the emery powder did on the face of the marble slab.)

They put the finishing touches, as it were, to happiness, both for self and others.

My memory will always look back on my association with men of the type now resident in Hammond's Hotel. The larger number appreciate the position and effort being made for them. Sure they often get uneasy and dissatisfied, but I feel sure the majority will weather the grinding period and they will emerge from the strain in better shape to carry out the remainder of the life left to them.

I write this in appreciation of their fine qualities under great disadvantages.

This goes for the many hundreds of women we are helping in some small way. Again let me urge the steady and generous support from those who read "Grit."

They have my assurance that their wishes and the many acts of kindness are helping to make smooth the lives that without their help would have a much harder time.

Remember, neighbour, that from the wounds and acids of life, we gather prudence, patience, self-control, will-power, equanimity and courage on the one hand, by practising kindness and consideration for others, we make it possible for the under-dog to win out. It's a long way from the quarry to the pillar, but we can make it. My regards. Please help, and thus be helped.

Comments.—

(Continued from Page 5.)

Dairies Supervision Act as milk vendors, unless they engage in a retail milk vending trade.

"The supply of milk to boarders or its use in beverages by hotel-keepers, he added, is not to be regarded as bringing them within the definition of 'retail milk vendor.'"

And yet it was only the other day, on this very page in "Grit," we gave two instances of boarding house keepers who had been prosecuted and fined for supplying milk which was not up to standard, to boarders. One would begin to think there was a law for the rich (?) landlord, and a law for the poor (?) publican.

OUTLAWING OF SALOONS GAVE CHANCE FOR HONEST RULE.

"In the long fight for clean government the saloon influence was the hardest fort to capture," writes William P. Lovett, secretary of the Detroit Citizens' League, in his new book, "Detroit Rules Itself." Mr. Lovett goes on to say: "It (the saloon) was all tied up with the system of election corruption. It was a constant threat in city affairs, not only with aldermen and other officials, but wherever any citizen group assumed to raise a civic question or offer an opinion. So entrenched were Detroit's political oligarchs with the commercialized saloon as an institution that it is doubtful if the shackles of bad city government could have been broken without a frontal attack in Michigan on the political liquor business. While this attack was made successfully in the area of the state, its benefits to Detroit were immediate and significant."

CATHOLICS AND PROHIBITION.

"In 1894, Bishop James A. Watterson, of Columbus, Ohio, published the law that no new Catholic society should be formed in his diocese which would admit to membership any person engaged, either as principal or agent, in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors. I understand that in the Church of the Sacred Heart in Trenton they have had a total abstinence society for more than fifty years, and that it is still active.

"Aside from the fact that it is the law of the land, why should we Catholics not favour prohibition? More and better churches have been built since the coming of prohibition than ever before in the same length of time. Catholics are rubbing elbows with prohibitions from the time they are born. As Catholics, we submit to the prohibition of meat on Fridays and fast days, the prohibition of certain forms of amusement in Lent, the prohibition against divorce, against reading certain books, and many other similar prohibitions. We are in accord with all those various prohibitions, feeling that it is for our own welfare, as well as for the welfare of our religion.

"The Knights of Columbus deny membership in their order to anyone engaged in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. In fact, the Eighteenth Amendment is practically a copy of the laws of the Knights of Columbus. Not even a stockholder in any liquor concern could be a member of the order."

"The Law of Compensation" seems sublime
To growing youth exultant in its prime,
But aching age finds little to console
In mere survival—Nature's niggard dole.
"The Law of Compensation" brings one boon
Where science pours it to a silver spoon—
For gasping lungs there's ease and comfort sure
In soothing Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

We want you to send to our office and ask for "HELPS TO PARENTS IN EXPLAINING MATTERS OF SEX TO THE YOUNG," issued by the Bishops and General Synod, together with 10 White Cross booklets suitable for parents, boys and girls.

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Address all letters to Uncle B., Box 3690SS, G.P.O., Sydney.

SUCCESS WITHOUT A CHANCE.

Professor Joseph Wright, of Oxford, died last February, aged 75. He went to work at the age of 6. He drove a donkey and cart for 1/6 a week. Then he became a mill-boy. At 15 he could not read nor write, but he set out to educate himself. He became one of the best known philologists (one versed in the science of languages) in the world.

You have a better start than he had and the question is what are you doing with it?

Surely incidents like this, of which Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Colgate, and many others are striking examples, prove to us that success is not dependent on circumstances, but on ourselves.

There is plenty of room on top, but the lift is not working, and we must all walk up.

UNCLE B.

Our Letter Bag.

GLAD HELPERS.

Doris Smith, "Strathmore," Dandaloo St., Narromine, writes:—I really forget whether I'm a scallywag or not, as I forget when I wrote you last, but I do not think I am, all the same. It is raining dreadfully hard here just now, and it looks as if it is never going to stop. We sent a bundle of clothes down to you last week, and then my brother forgot to put who they were from. However, that does not matter, so long as you got them all right. We all think you are a wonderful man, and wish you success in your great work, and I am sure we will try to help you by sending you old clothes regularly. June will be six on the 5th of June, and is looking forward to going to school. Well, Uncle, there really is not much news to tell you at all this time, so I will conclude.

(Dear Doris,—Your letter is most encouraging. I am glad to find out who sent that bundle. It was most welcome. Thank you, not only on my own account, but also on account of the needy ones.—Uncle B.)

ONLY SEVEN.

Grace Haggart, Chisholm Street, Turramurra, writes:—As I am now seven years old, I am writing you a letter on my school holidays. There is a week of our holidays gone already. Holidays seem to pass very quickly. I like school very much, and I like writing and spelling, but I do not care very much for sums. I go to Sunday School every Sunday with my little sister Mary; she is three years old. I like singing the hymns our teacher gives to us. It was my birthday this month, and I got a nice book from my Sunday School teacher. I will finish now.

(Dear Grace,—Your letter is fine. It is not often a little lady of seven cares to write or is able to write such a good letter. I am glad you like school. Those who like school get twice as much good and twice as much fun out of it as those who only go because they are compelled to.—Uncle B.)

A NEW NI.

Peggie Prichard, Trades School, Lithgow, writes:—The Rev. T. Hughes, the Church of England minister at Wallerawang, asked me to write to you. He gave me several copies of "Grit" a few months ago, and since then has sent me two copies regularly. I enjoy reading your paper, especially "From Seven to Seventeen." My birthday is on the 5th of January. I belong to the 3rd Lithgow Company of Girl Guides, and have been a member since 1926. I am in 3rd year at High School, and am going for the Intermediate Examination this year. Our Sunday School teacher often reads extracts to us from "Grit," showing what wonderful things you and your friends are doing for the unemployed in Sydney, especially in the Domain.

(Dear Peggie,—I am glad you have joined my big family. I wonder will you write and tell us something about the Trades School. How does it differ from any other school? Did you see the fire in Lithgow yesterday? I dread fires. I think they are always very sad.—Uncle B.)

A LOVELY HOLIDAY.

Bessie Brown, "Nevarna," Narrabri, writes:—I have had a lovely holiday. Wes., Beryl, and I went to our aunty's place near Curlewis. We were to go down by train, but the river was over the bridge and we could not get to the station. That Saturday afternoon we went and got a little lamb from a neighbour. He is a big chap now. The next Tuesday we went to aunty's by car. The next day we went for a picnic up on the mountains and had a roam round. On Thursday mum and dad came back

home. Wes. put up a swing and see-saw for us. I learnt to play cards and a few other games with uncle. On Sunday there was a very big frost. Beryl and I are collecting for the poor, starving babies of Sydney. We have 3/3 each now; 1/6 will provide milk for a baby for one week. We had some little playmates over there, May Knapman and her sister. We came home on the train on Saturday, and had to wait three or four hours at the station for someone to take us home. I have just finished my Sunday School lessons. This morning Beryl and I took some lettuce, beans, and some flowers over to a sick neighbour, and she gave us an orange each and some turnips.

(Dear Bessie,—Your letter is very interesting. I am always so delighted when my Ne's and Ni's are concerned about the poor and try and help them. It was nice of you to visit that sick neighbour. That is being a true Good Samaritan.—Uncle B.)



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Unclean Pictures—

(Continued from Page 7)

film is responsible for inculcating and fostering a kind of adventure that takes the form of violence." The subject again arose in the House of Representatives on 3rd June, when Mr. Yates asked the Minister for Customs whether he had read certain criticism against a film in which one of the principal characters was a man who committed two murders and finally died a hero. This picture was "The Man from Chicago," which the Chief Censor had rejected but which had been passed on appeal to the Board. The Appeal Board, which consists of Mrs. Mary Gilmore, Professor J. le Gay Brereton, and Mr. J. V. Gould, replied to the criticism and concluded: "The recent strictures of the Chief Justice of Victoria leave our withers unwrung." A somewhat graceless attitude with regard to remarks which had betterment as their intention.

In the trend of modern films there is undoubtedly a morally polluted tide which has become more pronounced since sound pictures arrived. There is also the criminal atmosphere, the glorifying of the evildoer because, as a fugitive from justice, he is against odds, counterplotting his pursuers often in dramatic circumstances which show him in heroic relief like the picture of a stag at bay—a desperate thing surrounded by hunters and hounds. The casual use of "guns" by crooks and social blackguards generally; the flow of slang, and the easy regard of virtue are all in the day's march of 80 per cent. of the mush that comes from the Land of the Free.

On top of this depressing state of things, we have attacks on the "severity" of the Censor, and the airy remark of the Appeal Board (which passes more than 50 per cent. of the Censor's rejections) that its withers are unwrung by criticism from responsible quarters. Apparently Mr. O'Reilly's moral standard is above that of the Appeal Board. It is contended—and we may shrewdly judge in whose interests—that such a standard is liable to keep many good films out of Australia. There are, however, variations of the meaning of the word "good." The picture showman from his ticket office has one meaning, and those concerned in public morals another. But it is, after all, the interpretation of the Censor that goes. For which we fervently repeat, Thank God for the Censor.

The New South Wales Prohibition Alliance.—

(Continued from Page 4.)

PRAY FOR THE ALLIANCE.

Do our readers pray for us?
Will they do so?
Our human efforts may accomplish something but our dependence is upon the Divine—God bless the Alliance!

ANNUAL MEETING OF Y.P. COUNCIL.
Rev. W. Torrance Re-elected President.

The annual meeting of the Temperance Educational Council (the Y.P. Department of the Alliance) was held last week, when Rev. W. Torrance was unanimously re-elected President; and Rev. C. W. Wilson (Secretary, Band of Hope Union) and Miss Fowler (President, Y.W.C.A.) were elected Vice-Presidents.

The annual report (which was included with the Alliance Annual Report already published) was adopted. The proposals of the Alliance Executive that Youth Pledge signing rallies be organised, was sympathetically considered and a small committee appointed to draw up a pledge and plan of campaigns and report to next meeting of the Council.

The "Waterwags Own."

The "Waterwags Own" increase campaign was also discussed and several new avenues of circulation suggested. The proposal to ask every Sunday School not only to supply its scholars monthly with copies, but to take sufficient for the Minister to distribute to his day school Scripture class, was heartily endorsed. It was reported that the circulation was steadily increasing.

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"Grit" Subscriptions.

Will subscribers please note that 1/- must be added to the 11/- when subscriptions are three months overdue.

"Grit" subscriptions received to 26/6/31 and where not mentioned the amount is 11/-.

D. R. Howard, 12/-, 30/12/31; Miss Ida Southwood, 5/8, sales; Miss Mankin, 24/-, 30/12/31; Mrs. H. K. Nock, 20/-, 30/12/31; Miss P. Robens, 1/-, sales, 25/6/31; Fiji Social Service Alliance, £2/16/-, 30/3/31; Mrs. Paterson, 12/-, 30/6/32.

ADMIRAL MARK KERR ON PROHIBITION.

A correspondent directs our attention to the references to American Prohibition in "Land, Sea, and Air," the reminiscences of Admiral Mark Kerr. The distinguished author, after reaching the highest rank in the navy, showed his versatility, his powers of adaptation, and his capacity for grasping new facts and meeting new situations by becoming a Major-General in the Royal Air Force. As one who had travelled extensively in the United States both before and after Prohibition, Admiral Kerr was able to contrast his experiences and note the changes. His conclusions do not differ from those of other competent and impartial observers. He saw the economic effect of Prohibition in increased industrial production and efficiency translated into the raising of the standard of home life. One of the chief causes of wretchedness and poverty was being attacked at its roots. The change, he notes, was found in its fullest extent in those States which had been longest under State-wide Prohibition before the passing of the Eighteenth Amendment, but it was apparent everywhere.

LICENSE AND NO LICENSE, NEW ZEALAND. MOST ENCOURAGING PROSPECTS.

The following comparison of similar populations shows how No-License, although it permits liquor to enter the territory, reduces drunkenness as compared with License. The figures are from the 1929 Justice Statistics for New Zealand:—

License Towns.	Total Population.	Total Convictions for Drunkenness.	Convictions per 1000 of Population.
Palmerston North, Napier, Carterton, Paeroa, Waihi, Taihape	45,340	600	13.1
No-License Towns.			
Masterton, Oamaru, Balclutha, Matakura, Gore, Invercargill	48,450	207	4.3

With a larger total population, there is only one-third of the drunkenness. Making allowance for Carterton and Taihape being bad spots, situated on the borders of No-License Districts, the difference is sufficiently impressive to sustain the contention that No-License, by removing the temptation of the open bar, materially reduces drunkenness.

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OUCH!

The modern husband may find the safety-pin okay as a substitute for a button, but it is not so good for closing up the hole in the toe of a sock.

STRIKES THE KEY-NOTE.

Jud Tunkins says he and his wife always think exactly alike, only she usually has first think.

ECONOMY PLUS.

"Here comes the parade, and your Aunt Helen will miss it. Where is she?"
"She's upstairs waving her hair."
"Mercy! Can't we afford a flag?"

HOME TREATMENT.

"Good morning, Mrs. Kelly," said the doctor, "did you take your husband's temperature, as I told you?"
"Yes, doctor, I borrowed a barometer and placed it on his chest; it said 'very dry,' so I bought him a pint o' beer an' he's gone back to work."

TRAFFIC OKAY.

A little girl was explaining to her younger brother that it was wrong to work on Sunday.
"Well, policemen work on Sundays," said the boy. "Don't they go to heaven?"
"No," she replied; "they don't need policemen up there."

HATS OFF TO A MARTYR.

A man went to his doctor and requested treatment for his ankle. After a careful examination, the doctor inquired:

"How long have you been going about like this?"

"Two weeks."

"Why, man, your ankle is broken! How you managed to get around is a marvel. Why didn't you come to me at first?"

"Well, doctor, every time I say something is wrong with me, my wife declares I'll have to stop smoking."

GOOD SKATING RINK.

Teacher: "Yes, Johnny, Lapland is rather thinly populated."

Johnny: "How many Lapps to the mile, teacher?"

When a budding genius asks an editor for "candid criticism," what he means is "candied."

Congress adjourned, many have returned home to repair their political fences. They have had lots of experience in wire-pulling, but may find only post-holes left.

ALL WET.

"I've been spending a holiday at a watering place."

"Why, Harry told me you were on a farm."

"Yes, a dairy-farm."

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Author of "Heart Cheer," etc.

SUNDAY.

Fresh Fields.

"Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount."
—Deut. 1:6.

The call is constantly coming to us to move on. Stagnation means death. We may have laboured long in one field and feel reluctant to leave it, but the Master has wider visions for us. There are parts as yet uncultivated which need the seed that the Lord has given us to sow. Let us go forth and leave the old for the new. Others require our services. As the old door closes another door is opening for us; wider spheres are stretching out which we should never enter upon while confined in the narrow corner where we have been toiling so long. Hard it may be to tear up the roots which had taken there, but where the Master calls, we must follow. Let us go forward without complaint. Others must fill our place. They may plant where we have watered, and reap where we have sown. Forward must be our watchword.

"I know not what awaits me,

God kindly veils my eyes,

And at each step of my onward way

He makes new scenes to rise.

And the only thing that I say to Him

As He takes my hand is 'Hold it fast;

Suffer me not to lose my way,

But bring me home at last'."

MONDAY.

"Arise ye and depart, for this is not your rest."—Micah 2:10.

Arise! The Master calls you, He bids you take your way

Through paths as yet untraversed; you must not longer stay.

The road leads ever onward; rest not on earth below;

He bids you now go forward, and He the way will show.

Oh, but this pleasant valley has been so fair to see,

Fain would you rest for ever, here you would always be.

The heart shrinks from the future, and dreads the path untried;

But would you linger longer, and stay without your Guide?

See! how the road leads upwards through pleasant paths of shade,

While the Master walks beside you, no need to be dismayed.

See, through the vales and mountains—the paths as yet untrod,

Lead onward, ever upward, right to the Throne of God.

This life is swiftly passing, here we may not abide,

Our home is over yonder, our rest is by Christ's side.

Then rise and take this pathway, steep though it be and rough;

His presence will be with thee, and that will be enough.

TUESDAY.

"All these things are against me."—

Ex. 42:38.

So it seemed to poor old Jacob, when, after all the struggles, sorrows, and disappointments of his earthly pilgrimage, he

was threatened with the loss of his last son. "Ye have bereaved of my children," he exclaimed; "Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away!" He had had so many disappointments in his life, that he felt this last blow would break his heart, and life would be no longer worth living. His life was bound up in his son's life, and all the brightness would depart were he to lose him. "All these things are against me," He sighed. Yet all things were working for his heart's desires. He was led out of the land of famine, against his own will, fearing to undertake the journey, scarcely believing his son's tales. They had deceived him before as he had deceived his father, and how could he believe them now! Yet, in spite of all his timorous fears, God was providing for him in a marvellous way, restoring to him his long lost son Joseph, and permitting him to end his days in peace and prosperity with his family around him.

Perhaps you too are feeling that all things are against you. The props on which you leaned have given way one by one, and it seems almost as if God Himself had forsaken you. Yet it is not so. Better things are awaiting you than you dream of. "All things" are working together for your good if you love God. Even though you feel your love is cold and faint, yet He ceases not to care for you. Like Jacob, you may have been a faltering weak kind of Christian, but He knows how you have trusted Him in the past, and He will not fail you now. "Through waves and clouds, and storms, He gently clears thy way. Wait thou His time, so shall this night soon end in brightest day."

WEDNESDAY.

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him, for He knoweth our frame."—Ps. 103:13.

Like as a Father careth, so cares He for our cares,

And every pain He beareth, and every sorrow shares.

Kinder than kindest mother, truer than truest friend,
And unlike any other, His patience has no end.

Like as a Father loveth; but infinitely more,
His heart with pity moveth to all the wide world o'er.

Just as a Father careth for each child's special need,

So the Great Father shareth his gifts, and each one feeds.

Such love the Father showeth, He gave His only Son

That all who that Son knoweth may be in sonship one.

But all who are refusing to own His Son as King,

By this their sonship losing, their birth-right from them fling.

THURSDAY.

"Have faith in God, for verily I say unto you that whosoever shall say unto this mountain Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea, and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."—Mark 11:24.

"Have faith in God," though earthly hopes have perished,

And life's young spring has passed,
Though all is gone which once you fondly cherished,

To faith in God hold fast.

Three things remain which still abide for ever;

When all things else have fled;
Faith, Hope, and Love—these will forsake thee never,

And with them nought is dead.

These shall bring to thee all in life worth keeping,

And give thee strength to live,
Knowing that He whose eyes are never sleeping

Will life's best blessings give.

(Continued on page 16.)

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SYDNEY'S UNFRONTIERED PRAYER MEETING

ADDRESS BY REV. R. J. WILLIAMS ON "I HAVE GRAVEN THEE UPON THE PALMS OF MY HANDS" (49 Isaiah 6).

Reported by HELEN GRAHAM.

"Tattooing an Ancient Custom."—For centuries this practice held sway among the native inhabitants to the uttermost parts of the earth. It was a distinctive tribal law indicative of kinship, class, or religion. Strange symbols carved on the face indicated the name of the idol worshipped as the god of their camps. For whatever the race, Maori, Aborigine, Papan, or African the same common desires obsessed all, to be a distinctive entity and to worship a Higher Power Whom they could not comprehend.

"God the Great Engraver."—His message is, "I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands." Here the conception is reversed. The Architect is the Great God Himself, the Designer and Finisher of the plan, the "I am" of the ages, not made or fashioned by men's hands. A God not implacable, but full of loving kindness, tender compassion, and sympathetic regard.

"The People to Whom the Message Was Sent."—The Jews were in exile, the walls of Jerusalem were demolished, the whole nation was in trouble, and disaster had overtaken them as a result of their forgetfulness of God. In their common calamity, they questioned, had God forgotten them, had He forsaken them, and were they to utterly perish?

"The Prophet's Comforting Assurance."—"I will not forget thee, thy walls are continually before Me." The All-seeing Eye continually noted the awful ruin, destruction and havoc of the walls of Jerusalem, once so magnificent, stable and protective. He was also cognisant of the utter despondency and depression of the exiles. So His message was charged with a significance, peculiarly adapted and impressively vital, not alone to these people as a nation, but to every individual. His love, compassion and sympathy are so God-like, so unparalleled that they embrace a whole nation as one man, and one man as a nation; and He declares, "I have graven thee, nationally and individually, upon the palms of My hands."

"Lessons For the Times—God the Labeler."—God's love for the people of Australia is as strong, fervent and endearing as it was centuries ago for the exiled Jews of the Babylonian captivity. He has sign-manualled us as individuals and as a nation, and has graven our names on those wonderful Hands as indelibly as the piercing spikes left their cruel impress on the Hands stretched out on the cross on Calvary's Hill centuries ago.

"God's Comforting Assurance."—He says, "Thy walls are continually before Me." He is not unmindful of our physical distress, despairing efforts, and captive condition. They are but the natural sequence to the folly of ignoring His decalogue and repudiating His Fatherhood, saying, "We will not have this Man to reign over us." When there is a returning unto the Lord He will restore the prosperity prayed for.

"The Significance of This Engraving."—The hand represents man's equipment for work, his implements of labour. God desires to enter into all man's actions, his achievements, and operations. He expects

such work to be executed in a manner worthy of one who has a tribal distinction, who bears the name of Christ, and who worships the Triune God. Shall we, then, approach His Throne in the spirit of penitence, confessing our sins as individuals and as a nation, and receive His assurance of forgiveness and reconciliation, and in that blessed experience, and with hearts inspired with fresh courage, and with a clarified vision, go forth to fight life's battles, to trust implicitly, to believe that by this depression God is working out a purpose, wonderful and sublime, and for man's eternal welfare. And shall we ever remember that He Who cannot lie has declared, "I have graven thee upon the palms of My Hands, thy walls are continually before Me."

If unable to be present at this inspiring prayer-meeting, send your prayer appeals, or praise epiphanies to the Editor, and they will be read while the whole congregation is in the attitude of prayer. Add these to your list for at least a week; then you might send them to a friend, for God is assuredly working by means of these petitions. He needs your co-operation:—

"My sister is in hospital, suffering from an incurable disease; please pray for her. My friend has become mental through the death of her son, killed by a motor accident; pray for her. My sister and I are both widows, and we have had no work for a year; ask God to help us find positions, for we help to support our dear invalid mother. Pray that my dear son may wholly follow the Lord. Pray my friend may accept Christ as his Saviour; also that my father may be enabled to give up smoking. Pray my friend may find employment. My friend suffers from nerve trouble; please pray for her. A friend who has to earn her living is in indifferent health, ask God to make her strong. My friend who was suffering from rheumatoid arthritis is much better since she was prayed for. Pray for the salvation of some friends. My friend is in great trouble and is unsaved; pray for her conversion. My friend is very ill in the hospital; ask God to speak very clearly to her. A misunderstanding has arisen between my partner and myself; pray that it may be cleared up. Thank God for the improvement in the health of a man prayed about at these meetings. A young woman has become engaged to a divorced man, and this is a great grief to her mother; pray that God may intervene. Two sisters are in great difficulties regarding their home; pray that God may make the way clear for them. Thank God for three answers to prayer. Pray for a young

man whose mental balance is being affected. Ask God to continue to inspire me to do the right thing. In answer to prayer God sent rain to our district; we do indeed thank Him, and enclose £1 as a thankoffering. My sister has had some nervous collapses and is threatened with another; pray it may be averted. Give thanks to God that a woman whose case was prayed about last Wednesday has recovered from the operation. Thank God for the change in my daughter's life in answer to prayer. Pray that my son's health may improve and that he may wholly follow the Lord. Return thanks to God for His great goodness to me; I do desire to live entirely for Him. Pray that my sister and I may be more in earnest about speaking a word for the Master. My sister-in-law is suffering from cancer; pray she may be healed. Ask the dear Lord to bless my sister and myself with strength for our many duties. My sister ridicules religion; ask God to speak very definitely to her. Pray that three sisters, away from home, may find Jesus as their Saviour. My sister is faced with an unjust debt; ask God to help her in this time of trouble. My poor sister has been mental for seven years; please pray for her. I desire prayer that my sister and niece may realise Jesus as their Saviour; the Bible is a closed Book to them. Pray for the conversion of my sister and her husband; they both know the Gospel, yet refuse God's offer of mercy. My husband is out of work and we are behind in our rent; pray for us. Thank God for the conversion of a friend. A mother asks that her daughter and son-in-law may live as God would desire. Mr. Bradley's letter of sympathy was a great comfort to us in our sad loss. My husband and his brother have not spoken for five years; pray there may be a reconciliation. Thank God for the recovery from melancholia of my son-in-law in England, and also that my son has got work when it seemed so hopeless. Prayer is asked that my husband and daughter may realise Christ as their Saviour. Pray that my message to a number of women may be inspired by God. Pray that God will bring back a man to his broken-hearted wife and children. Thank God for many wonderful answers to prayer. Pray for the conversion of my husband and his two friends; also that he may soon get work."

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Daily Inspiration—

(Continued from Page 14.)

FRIDAY.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusteth in Thee;"

"The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever" (Isa. 32, 17).

Here we have cause and effect. "There is NO peace, saith my God, to the wicked." From this we learn it is the "work of righteousness." "The righteous are bold as a lion," while "the wicked flee when no man pursueth." They are always in fear of some boding evil, fancying trials will overtake them when none are visible. Their hearts are like the troubled sea, which is never at rest. While those who trust in the Lord cannot be moved by any passing affliction, knowing that all their affairs are in the hands of a wise and tender Father, Who has their best interests at heart, and Who is preparing a home for them for which He is preparing them by the changes of this mortal life. "The effect of righteousness is quietness and assurance forever"—quietness for the present, and the assurance that whatever happens in the future will be good. "This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord." When the waves come we shall find we are lifted above them, and carried more swiftly to the place where we would be.

SATURDAY.

"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength" (Isa. 30, 15); "Their strength is to sit still" (Isa. 30, 7).

"Sit still," faint heart, nor look with anxious longing
Thy future path to see,
By doing so thou mayst, perchance, be wronging
The One Who cares for thee.

"Sit still," and thou shalt look one day with wonder
At all He had in store;
For as you gaze back on the past and ponder
On all the days of yore.

You see so much of tender loving kindness,
All working for your good,
So much which you in your weak foolish blindness,
But dimly understood.

"Sit still," sad heart, nor seek to find some token
Of what may be in store,
God's promises have never yet been broken,
And He will go before.

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