

The Bible and Temperance.

A CONCERT EXERCISE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

BY J. DERHAM.

Performers to consist of 10 boys and 10 girls and a teacher who should stand between the two classes as leader. There may be as many performers as there are passages of Scripture.

GIRLS. LEADER. **BOYS.**
LEADER: The Bible says wine and strong drink are deceitful and loathsome.

GIRLS: Wine is a mocker.

BOYS: Strong drink is raging.

ALL: And whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Prov. xx. 1.

GIRLS: Who hath woe?

BOYS: Who hath sorrow?

GIRLS: Who hath contentions?

BOYS: Who hath babbling?

GIRLS: Who hath wounds without a cause?

BOYS: Who hath redness of eyes?

ALL: They that tarry long at the wine; they that try to seek mixed wine. Prov. xxiii. 29, 30.

1st GIRL: Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth on the top of a mast. Prov. xxiii. 34.

1st BOY: They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not; when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again. 35.

2nd GIRL: "They also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment." Is. xxviii. 7.

2nd BOY: "For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean." 8.

3rd GIRL: "Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink." Is. lvi. 12.

3rd BOY: "Thou shalt say unto them, thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword that I will send among you." Jer. xxv. 27.

4th GIRL: "Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand." Dan. v. 1.

4th BOY: "They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver." 4.

ALL: "New wine takes away the heart." Hos. iv. 11.

ALL: "The drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty, and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags." Prov. xxiii. 29.

LEADER: Does the Old and New Testament forbid intemperance?

5th GIRL: "They shall say unto the elders of his city, this our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard." Dt. xxi. 20.

5th BOY: "And all the men of this city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear." 21.

6th GIRL: "Be not among wine-bibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh." Prov. xxiii. 20.

ALL: "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them." Is. v. 11.

6th BOY: "And the harp and the viol, the tablet and pipe and wine are in their feasts." 12.

7th GIRL: "Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink." 22.

7th BOY: "Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine." Is. xxviii. 1.

LEADER: Does God show that it is wisdom to abstain from drink?

8th GIRL: "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor the wine which he drank." Dan. i. 8.

8th BOY: "Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink." Dan. i. 12.

9th GIRL: "And at the end of ten days, their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat." 15.

9th BOY: "Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse." 16.

10th GIRL: "He (John) shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink." Luke i. 15.

10th BOY: "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended or is made weak." Rom. xiv. 21.

ALL: "Now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother, be a fornicator, or covetous, or idolater, or railer, or a drunkard or extortioner; with such a one no not to eat." 1 Cor. v. 11.

LEADER: I understand that the liquor seller is virtually condemned by the Bible.

1st GIRL: "Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps." Dt. xxxii. 33.

1st BOY: "Is not this laid up in store with me, and sealed up among my treasures?" 34.

2nd GIRL: "To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that come upon them make haste." 35.

2nd BOY: "The Lord spake by his servants the prophets, saying, because Manassah king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made also Juda to sin." 2 Kings xxi. 10, 11.

3rd GIRL: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth it, both his ears shall tingle." 12.

3rd BOY: "And this is the condemnation that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil." Jno. iii. 19.

ALL GIRLS AND BOYS: "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou may look on their nakedness." Hab. ii. 16.

ALL: "For the law is fulfilled in word, even in this; thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Gal. v. 14.

One girl steps forward and speaks:

"THE SIGN BOARD."

1. I will paint you a sign rum-seller, And hang it above your door, A truer and better sign board, Than ever you've had before.

I'll paint with the skill of a master And many shall pause to see This wonderful piece of painting, So like the reality.

2. I'll paint the form of a fair young man A father's most noble boy, Just in the pride of his manhood, As a mother's pride and joy.

He has no thought of stopping, But you greet him with a smile, And you seem so blithe and friendly That he pauses to chat awhile.

3. To finish this truest of paintings I will paint you as you stand With a foaming glass of liquor Holding in either hand.

He wavers, but Oh! you urge him Drink! drink! pledge me just this one He lifts the fatal glass and drinks, And the bellish work is done.

4. And I next will paint a drunkard Only a year has flown, But into that loathsome creature This fair young boy has grown.

The work was so quick and rapid I will paint him as he lies

In a torpid drunken slumber, Under the wintry skies.

5. And I will paint the form of a mother As she kneels at her darling's side, Her beautiful boy that was dearest Than all the world beside.

I'll paint the shape of a coffin Labeled with one word "lost," I will paint all this, rum-seller, I will paint it free of cost.

6. Of the sin and the shame and the sorrow The crime and the want and the woe That is found there in the rumshop, No hand can paint you know.

But I'll paint you a sign rum-seller, And many shall pause to view This wonderful swinging "sign board," So terrible, fearfully true.

LEADER: What is the penalty on the intemperate?

4th GIRL: "If that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Lord delayeth his coming, and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken." Mat. xxiv. 48, 49.

4th BOY: "The Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of." 50.

5th GIRL: "And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 51.

5th BOY: "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revellers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Cor. vi. 10.

6th GIRL: "The works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness." Gal. v. 19.

"Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variances, emulations, wrath, strife, seditious, heresies." 20.

6th BOY: "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like, of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." 21.

LEADER: Civil rulers were forbidden to use strong drink anciently, should anything less be expected of them now?

GIRLS: "The Lord spake unto Aaron, saying, Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation lest ye die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations." Lev. x. 8, 9.

BOYS: "And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between clean and unclean." 10.

GIRLS: "And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses." 11.

7th GIRL: The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, when either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the Lord." Num. vi. 1, 2.

7th BOY: "He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes nor dried." 3.

8th GIRL AND ALL GIRLS: "All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine-tree, for kernels even to the bark." 4.

8th BOY: "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." 1 Cor. ix. 24.

9th GIRL AND ALL BOYS: "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink." Prov. xxxi. 4.

ALL: "Lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted." 5.

One boy steps forward with a glass of water in his hand, and speaks:

WATER FOR ME.

Oh! water for me—bright water for me! And wine for the tremulous debauchee! It cooleth the brow, it cooleth the brain, It maketh the faint one strong again;

It comes o'er the sense, like a breeze from the sea, All freshness, like infant purity.

Oh! water, bright water, for me, for me, Give wine, give wine to the debauchee.

Fill to the brim, fill, fill to the brim! Let the flowing crystal kiss the rim!

For my hand is steady, my eye is true For I, like the flowers, drink naught but dew.

Oh! water, bright water, a mine of wealth, And the oers it yieldeth, are vigor and health.

So water, pure water for me, for me, And wine for the tremulous debauchee.

Fill again to the brim—again to the brim! For water strengtheneth life and limb; To the days of the aged, it addeth length, To the might of the strong, it addeth strength.

It freshens the heart, it brightens the sight, 'Tis like quaffing a goblet of morning light.

So water, I will drink naught but thee, Thou parent of health and energy!

When o'er the hills, like a gladsome bride, Morning walks forth in her beauty's pride, And leading a band of laughing hours, Brushes the dew from the nodding flowers,

Oh! cheerily then my voice is heard, Mingling that off the soaring bird, Who flingeth abroad his matins loud And freshens his wing on the cold gray cloud.

But when evening has quitted her sheltering yew, Drowsily flying and weaving anew Her dusky meshes o'er land and sea, How gently, Oh sleep, falls thy poppies on me!

For I drink water, pure, cold, and bright, And my dreams are of heaven, the life-long night, Thou art silver and gold, thou art riband and star

Hurrah for bright water! hurrah! hurrah!

LEADER: Temperance is enjoined especially on Christians, what saith the Scriptures?

9th BOY: "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptable crown; but we are uncorruptable." 1 Cor. ix. 2.

10th GIRL: "And take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke xxi. 34.

10th BOY: "It is good to neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine; nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth or is offended, or is made weak." Rom. xiv. 21.

GIRLS: "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like; of the which I tell you before as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Gal. v. 21.

1st GIRL: "Let us walk honestly as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness." Rom. xii. 13.

1st BOY: "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law." Gal. v. 22.

ALL: "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity." 2 Peter i. 6.

ALL: "For if these things be in you and above, they make you that ye shall neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter i. 8.

BOYS AND ALL: "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I also have told you in time past, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Gal. v. 21.

ALL: "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revellers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Cor. vi. 10.

GIRLS: "Look not upon the wine when it is red.

BOYS: When it giveth its color in the cup.

GIRLS: When it moveth itself aright.

BOYS: At last it biteth like a serpent.

ALL: And stingeth like an adder." Prov. xxiii. 31, 32.

One steps forward with wine glass

in hand and speaks:

"LOOK NOT UPON THE WINE WHEN IT IS RED."

Look not upon the wine when it is red within the cup! Stay not for pleasure when she fills Her tempting beaker up!

Though clear its depths, and riclits glow, A spell of madness lurks below.

They say 'tis pleasant on the lip, And merry on the brain; They say it stirs the sluggish, And dulls the tooth of pain.

Ay, but within it glowy deeps A stinging serpent, unseen, sleeps, Its rosy light will turn to fire, Its coolness change to thirst;

And, by its mirth, within the brain A sleepless worm is nursed. There's not a bubble on the brim That does not carry food for him.

Then dash (dashing glass on the floor) the brimming cup aside, And spill its purple wine; Take not its madness to thy lip, Let not its curse be thine.

'Tis red and rich, but grief and woe Are hid, those rosy depths below.

THE GUSHING RILL. (See Festival Chimes.)

1. Oh! if for me, the cup you fill, Then fill it from the gushing rill, With water, water, sparkling bright, As clear as truth and free as light.

CHORUS. Then if for me the cup you fill, Then if for me the cup you fill, O, fill it from the gushing rill, O, fill it from the gushing rill, Tra, la, la, O, fill it from the gushing rill.

2. Kiss not to me, the mantling brim Where dancing bubbles gaily swim, For in each shining crystal sound A deadly lurking fiend is found.

CHORUS. 3. Speak not to me of rosy wine, Of nectar cups or draughts divine, The taste of bitter tears is there, Wrung from the hearts most true and dear.

CHORUS. The above song from "Festival Chimes," or on pages 17, 44, 36, 82, of "Temperance Chimes" are suitable songs.

The Christian Gentleman.

He is above a mean thing. He cannot stoop to a mean fraud. He invades no secret in the keeping of another. He betrays no secret confided to his keeping.

He never struts in borrowed plumage. He never takes selfish advantage of our mistakes. He uses no ignoble weapons in controversy.

He never stabs in the dark. He is ashamed of innuendoes. He is not one thing to a man's face and another behind his back. If by accident he comes in possession of his neighbor's counsels, he passes upon them an act of instant oblivion.

He bears sealed packages without tampering with the wax. Papers not meant for his eye, whether they flutter in the window, or lie open before him in unguarded exposure, are sacred to him. He invades no privacy of others, however the sentry sleeps. Bolts and bars, locks and keys, hedges and pickets, bonds and securities, are none of them for him.

He may be trusted alone, out of sight near the thinnest partition—anywhere. He buys no offices, he sells none, he intrigues for none. He would rather fail of his rights, than win them through dishonor. He will eat honest bread. He tramples on no one. He insults no man. If he is rebuked, he bears it bravely, and becomes the wiser by it. He is open, manly, brave—brave enough to do right.—*Messenger.*

It happened one day that Mr. Spurgeon and the Rev. Dr. Campbell, a prominent Independent minister of London, met at a bookseller's shop on Paternoster Row. While conversing and examining books, Dr. Campbell pointed to a copy of "Thorn on Baptism," a book of some fame on the Pedobaptist side of the controversy.

"There," said the Doctor to Mr. Spurgeon, "There is what Paul would designate a thorn in the flesh for you Baptists." "Quote the whole passage," was Mr. Spurgeon's immediate reply, and he finished it himself—"A messenger of Satan to buffet us." Dr. Campbell enjoyed the repartee, and laughed heartily at its force.—*Standard.*