

Public Morals.

Mrs. Hayes' temperance victory is thus set forth by the Washington correspondent of the *Christian Union*: "She came to Washington determined not to offer wine to her guests; this was the determination of a life-time, and she would not and could not abandon it. To give a state dinner without wine was declared to be impossible. All Washington society was opposed to her; I believe it even became a cabinet question; For a year she was a target for the sort of arrows which is hard to bear unflinchingly. But she bore it all by her patient persistence and her tact carried the day and conquered Mrs. Grundy in her own field. She never has offered wine: Washington follows her lead; and I doubt whether any State capitol, not excluding the capitol of Maine, is a more thorough temperance city than Washington to-day. The exclusion of wines and liquors from the Capitol dates from the days of Senator Wilson, but I judge that public sentiment has grown stronger, and that the exclusion is more complete now than ever before." It is declared that the ladies of the capitol would generally vote for her for a second term.

Dogs, Swine, Pearls.

Aesop, the old Greek fabulist, is not alone in having made use of the habits of animals to illustrate human actions and character. Many of the inspired writers, together with the Great Teacher himself, have done the same thing, though in a different way; which is by brief allusions instead of imaginary narrations. Thus in Matt. vii. 5, dogs and swine are spoken of as types of evil and unclean men. The dogs of the East were vile and fierce; living upon offal, as swine do in all countries. When, therefore, the verse tells us not to give holy things to the dogs, nor to cast our pearls or precious things before swine, it teaches us a lesson of reverence and discrimination. Other Scriptures teach us the power of divine truth to subdue the hardest hearts, and change the vilest natures. But bad men have the power of perverting the truth, and profaning sacred things. When we discern such a purpose, we are not to descend to their level, nor allow our precious faith to be scoffed at or trampled under foot. Even our efforts to do good are to be guided by discretion.—*Ec.*

It is a somewhat questionable compliment to speak of "a remarkably well preserved" old person. It commonly means that the person has lived to take care of himself; that his chief aim in life has been to live, and that he has obtained his reward. To be well "worn out" is ordinarily a great deal better than to be "well preserved." Wrinkles and deep-set lines belong to the face of one who has done and borne his part in life. A fair countenance in maturity is often an evidence of a useless life. It was after the patriarch Joseph had had more than a century of toil and trial that he became anxious about the preservation of his body. Then in accordance with his request, "they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin." More than two hundred and fifty years after that, they buried him in Shechem as "a remarkably well-preserved" old gentleman; but, after all, Joseph was of more practical worth to his fellows during his first exhausting century, than during his last two centuries and a half preservation.—*S. S. Times.*

—The oldest man in Texas, says a special to the *Nerves*, is Robert Kidd, of San Felipe de Austin, now in Houston. He is 105 years old.

—An Austrian Jew, named Julius Blum, has been raised to the rank of a Pacha and Assistant Secretary of State by the Khedive of Egypt. It is said that no other Israelite since the time of Joseph of old has reached such eminence in the land of the Pharaohs.

Bessie and Mabel.

BY ELISE LEIGH WHITTLESLEY.

"And now," said Mr. Gibson, the genial-hearted superintendent of the Hollywood Sunday school, the evening after Christmas, as the children, some three hundred in number, were assembled in the lecture-room, to see the Christmas tree, in all its alluring bravery of baskets of bonbons, cornucopias and brightly-festooned ribbons—"and now Miss Bessie and Mabel Ashley will sing for you," continued Mr. Gibson, as pleased and happy as a child himself, at seeing the little ones so merry and smiling.

Bessie and Mabel were twin sisters, a little less than eight years of age, and came third on the programme arranged for the evening's entertainment.

No sooner had Mr. Gibson finished speaking, than from behind the Christmas tree appeared two lovely little girls, of exactly the same height, dressed in white, with rose-colored sashes, and with long, golden hair falling nearly to their waists, and large violet eyes, as deeply and softly blue as azure velvet.

Their voices were remarkably strong and clear for such mere babies, and they sang in perfect time, and with a kind of gentle, sacred earnestness illuminating their fair little faces, as if they fully understood the sublime meaning of the beautiful words they sang with so much expression and sweetness:

"Jesus is king,
Jesus is king,
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradled a king."

Everybody was delighted, and the gifted little creatures were applauded to the echo as they ran from the platform as blithely as a pair of song-sparrows. Again and again they were recalled, and finally retired amid a universal whisper of "How wonderful! And such lovely little darlings as they are, too!"

One week from that evening, and it was known to the whole Sunday school that little Bessie was lying ill unto death with scarlet fever.

"She must die," seemed written on the faces of both doctor and nurse, and we who loved her so, and stood around her bed in an agony of fear and dread too great for words, dared not hope otherwise.

As soon as the terrible nature of the malady became known, Mabel was kept entirely away from her sister, and it was most pitiful to see the look that came into her eyes when denied the privilege so earnestly asked for of seeing Bessie "just once."

The sun was setting for the fourth time since she had been taken ill, and a few fading rays glimmered through the partially closed curtains, and fell like threads of gold about poor Bessie's restless head.

She knew no one, and all we could do was to wait in prayerful suspense the crisis of the dread disease. But even while we gazed, our eyes running over with tears and our hearts aching miserably, the fever-parched, unconscious lips slowly parted, and sweet and clear as the tones of a flute, the simple words of the dear, familiar hymn fell softly on our startled ears:

"Jesus is king,
Jesus is king,
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradled a king."

Hardly had the first note been uttered than another voice joined in, and Mabel, large-eyed, and innocently-indifferent to the dangers of contagion and death that surrounded her, stood poised on tiptoes in the doorway, like a bird listening to the call of its mate, and the two voices, sounding like one again, took up the low refrain, and sang together as sweetly as they had done beneath the gaily-decked branches of the Christmas tree.

The two little sisters, in that solemn moment, seemed as near to the angels as it is possible for mortals to be, and Mabel's hopeful, "You know me, don't you, Bessie?" carried with it the implied conviction that not to know her, under any circumstances, would be simply impossible. Mabel did not resist being taken away. She had seen her sister "just once," which appeared to quite satisfy her, and when the sun was set and the stars out in all their splendor, Bessie rallied, grew better every hour, and in a week was convalescent. And Mabel said, in her sweet child's way:

"I didn't take the fever, anyhow, and I came to sing with you, and the angels heard us away up in heaven; and the Great King, who was a baby once, and loves little children, told the fever to go away, that we might be together again. He sent the message by an angel—I know He did, for that's what angels are for; and, when they heard us singing, they were glad—and that's how you came to get well, Bessie."

And who shall say that Mabel's logic was not without some grain of reason?—*Ec.*

A dose of Yankee Cough Syrup taken at bed-time will insure you a good night's rest from coughing.

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