

people and if it is easily available they will read it, but, for goodness sake, see that it is suitable, that is, see that it honestly says what it has to say in an amusing or attractive and above all, in a clean way. In an extract taken from the "Chicago Daily News," November 9th, 1948, and reprinted in the "Union Signal," December 11th, 1948, we read as follows:—"The comic book threat to decency and even to the very lives of children is causing trouble as far away as Australia—strips featuring sex, violent crimes and murder probably will be banned in most of the larger cities 'Down Under.' Melbourne, the 'Boston' of Australia, will be the first to remove the books from the stands. Many Melbourners believe an illustrated comic book to have been the inspiration behind the recent death of a young teen-ager who hanged himself by using a leather strap. His eight-year-old sister discovered the body." That is the end of the quotation but by no means the end of the sorrow of the parents, or of the nerve shock of the little sister. What occurred there can easily, just as easily, occur here. We have the Right to prevent the circulation of such literature. Let us use it.

Our Right to Peace. World peace must surely begin in the heart of the individual; it can only be there by the steady cultivation of the virtue of **goodwill**, goodwill toward those in our homes, toward our neighbours, then to the community and so, in an ever widening circle, to our country and the world. Our children and young people are in dire need of a sense of security and if there is not peace in the home how are they to obtain it? It is not so much material security that is needed as security in the fundamental truths of life—such as the real, and if need be, sacrificial affection of those who are supposed to have their welfare at heart. There can only be mental and spiritual security in a home where the parents set for themselves a high standard of right and happy living. There is no need to lower one's moral standard because one has to live in a crowded room or flat.

I suppose we are all at times shocked and unhappy when we read of the large number of divorced couples each year, and we grieve for those, generally young couples, who have come to such a sorry pass, but what of the children, and there are frequently one or two, who are the outcome of such marriages? Are they likely to have that sense of mental and spiritual security and peace which is their birthright? The only way, as far as I can see, to prevent the frequency of divorce is for children to be taught the value of a promise and, as they grow older, the sacredness of the marriage vows. Both these teachings will be infinitely helped by good example. Let young people be taught that marriage is not just a jaunty little picnic with white satin and iced

cake, but that it is something to be well considered beforehand. Both man and woman giving good thought to the fact that they won't always be dressed in their best clothes attending parties, but that they must, of necessity, "go back to old clothes and hard work"—the woman to the wash-tub, sweeping, polishing, etc., and seeing that she has three good meals a day ready for the "good man" of the house. Very often all this, and much more, is required of her without previous training. Probably she went straight from school to factory, shop or office and has never had time or opportunity to learn how to run a home. How would any one of us feel if we were, suddenly, set down to a very varied job, requiring a considerable amount of skill, patience and judgement? Married life is certainly not a joke. So much for some of the woman's difficulties but the man has to do some facing up too. There is the fact, and it is no negligible one, that however hard he is willing to work it will be impossible for him to spend as much on sport, or generally having a good time as he used to do because it really does take more to keep two than one. Both parties have the right, and the responsibility, of making the marriage successful and very happy. Therefore I would say to all young men and women get married, if you want to, but make sure that you are marrying not the one you can live with, but the one you cannot live without; remembering that marriage is, or should be, a life sentence.

What of our rights and responsibilities toward the chief, and chief by a long way, factor in destroying marriage and the happiness of children, affecting their health, mental capacity, and even their very lives.

Just at this minute, **now**, and I wish with all my heart that I could make that **now**, coupled with the words Right and Responsibility, ring in the hearts and minds of all our members so loudly, and so insistently, that each one will be afraid to let slip any effort within her power, that will bring victory at the polls next month. Perhaps you cannot address meetings or go from house to house delivering literature but you **can** talk. I have heard you. See that each person you talk to knows without a doubt that six o'clock closing means less drinking; that open bars in the evening will mean more drinking. If it did not mean a greater consumption of alcoholic poison would the brewers want it? In view of the difficulty of obtaining staff it may seem as if the hotel proprietors and managers would not welcome the change. But don't count on their support; the Devil and the liquor traders will leave no stone unturned. Get to work and turn them back again.

Undoubtedly there is a large amount of evening drinking now, but so long as we allow this privileged trade to serve alcoholic liquors to "boarders,"

very much so called, and very little care taken to differentiate between "boarders" and "casual callers," this drinking will go on, but do not let us add to it by approving open bars in the evening. I sometimes wonder what would happen to grocers and other respectable tradesmen, if they took in a boarder or two and then threw open their sitting-rooms in an evening so that anyone who cared to do so might come in; the boarders, by right of claiming to be such, demanded the right to buy an unlimited amount of tea, butter, sugar, etc. Surely it would not be very long before at least some of the casuals got mixed up with the boarders at the counter, buying as heartily as any boarder. A grocer might as well put sand in the sugar and chips in the tea and think to get away with it as try to turn his sitting-room into a late market.

A clarion call for us to join the fight against this diabolical trade is the need for the defence of the rights of our Maori people, who surely have a prior and definite right to say whether they will have liquor sold in certain areas or not and certainly it is a very ugly stain on our boasted British justice that they should be obliged to fight, yes and even to beg, that we, the people who brought the Gospel of Christ to this country, shall see to it that a solemn pact signed just 109 years ago on February 6th, by seventy-eight persons—the number increased to five hundred and forty-one by June of that same year, shall be honoured. There are four classes of people who are ready and willing that this pact should be broken:—

One—those who make money from the manufacture and sale of alcohol.

Two—those who are deliberately urging the sale of alcoholic poison in the King Country because they "like a drink" when they visit that part of New Zealand. Thus proving themselves to be lacking in self-control and to be the slaves of appetite.

Three—those who have not enough backbone to either contradict, or cut loose from class two.

Four—those who are too bone lazy to think or understand what is taking place. Quite a number of them are Church members. It just means this—those who either by wrong action, or by lack of action are, as Billy Sunday is reported to have said, "laying up a very difficult matter to explain when they appear before the Judgement Seat."

When next general election comes you and I must see to it that we vote for men and women who are so strong in their belief in God's justice that they will not allow themselves to act under the direction of a power which they know to be evil.

Madras Province, India, celebrated Gandhi's birthday by instituting legal Prohibition of intoxicating liquor. "Time" reports that Prohibition is gaining ground in self-governing India. "About one-seventh of Travancore, half of the Central Provinces,

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