

# The Bethlehem Babe And Other Babes

A Christmas Meditation by Rev. R. Cooper Bailey, Ph. D.

"Why do bells for Christmas ring?  
Why do little children sing?"

Once a lonely, shining star,  
Seen by Shepherds from afar,  
Gently moved until its light,  
Made a manger cradle bright.

There a darling Baby lay,  
Pillowed soft upon the hay,  
And His mother sang and smiled,  
"This is Christ, the Holy Child."

"So the bells for Christmas ring,  
So the little children sing."

—Eugene Field.

I am sure that one of the thoughts that must be uppermost in the mind at the approach of the glad Christmas time is the utter sanctity of the child, and the great importance of the child-life. What a tremendous fact it is when rightly apprehended, that God entered into our human nature as a child. It pleased God in His inscrutable wisdom, to make Himself "manifest in the flesh" by this most simple method.

And, that fact being recognized, what higher work can possibly be than the training of this childhood, dignified by the fact that our Lord and Savior was once a little child?

Daniel Webster once said: "If we work upon marble, it will perish. If we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love for our fellow men, we engrave on these tablets something which will brighten for eternity."

The value of the babe to life is one of the indebtedness which child-life owes to the Babe of Bethlehem. In countries where the story of Bethlehem is not known, in periods of history where the teaching of the Christ-Child has not been felt the child has been quite often a small and indifferent element for considera-

tion. Witness the cruel and, to us, inhuman disposition of children in pagan countries, and witness again the change that is experienced and evidenced when men realize that God dignified all human nature and especially child-life when He adopted that as the specific way in which He would reveal Himself to men.



Oh, when the Church and the state awake to the full value of children as the men and women of the coming generation, it is quite within reason to believe that more, much more, attention will be given to their rightful training. Is there any truth in the oft repeated statement that the church is losing its grip on the general public? The answer will be found in a better and more careful provision for the child. Is wrong rampant, corruption more general, the family life less sacred than of yore, and lawlessness increasing? It is worth while to know that whatever other remedies may be proposed, none will be found more effective as a corrective than a painstaking at-

tempt to give right direction morally, physically, and religiously to the children of today. True, the process is slow, nothing of the "get-rich-quick" will prevail with them, but nowhere will labor and patience earn greater and better dividends. In the early French Revolution, the school boys of Bourges formed themselves into little military bands. They wore a uniform, they were taught drill, they marched, and counter-marched. On their holidays, their little flag was unfurled, displayed in shining letters the sentence — "TREM- BLEZ, TYRANS, NOUS GRAND IRONS." (Tremble, tyrants, we shall grow up!)

It does not require the vision of an old time prophet to see the throngs, and to hear the solid tramp of the myriads of the youth of this generation, trained in our Sabbath Schools, Endeavor Societies, and other institutions of like kind, the earnest and trained Christians of the future coming to the attack of vice entrenched in all its form.

It is a significant fact that politicians put forth much effort to secure an early vote. And that early vote has an effect upon subsequent voters all day long. It is the part of wisdom as well as of good morality for the church to "get out the

votes early" of these children and help them to emblazon on their banners, "Tremble, O enemy, we are growing up for God."

As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined. The large apple inside of a small bottle has puzzled many philosophers, old and young until its simple secret has been discovered. If these generations now growing are given the right "bent" now, the future love for God, respect and reverence for Home, and Patriotism for native land is assured. Men, women of today, may this beautiful vision of the Bethlehem Babe and the unspeakable benedictions He has brought to your babes, inspire you to ally yourself with some of the movement of the generation designed to appreciate the value of the child-life, and to direct that life into those channels of activity that will most honor God, and benefit society by hastening the day when the "peace from God, and good will toward men" will be universally known and enjoyed.

Come thou, dear Prince, oh, come to us, this holy Christmas time!  
Come to the busy marts of earth, the quiet homes, the noisy streets, the humble lanes.

Come to us all, and with Thy love touch every human heart,  
That we may know that love, and in its blessed peace  
Bear charity to all mankind.

—Eugene Field.

## TEMPERANCE NOTES

### DRINKING HABIT IN EUROPE

Munich Royal Brewery Is Powerful  
Temperance Sermon—Many Men  
and Women Squander Lives.

On the authority of a labor union report some time ago it was stated that one reason American skilled labor is superior to European, both in quality and quantity, is because Americans drink less. The following from a letter in the Emporia Gazette, by W. A. White, is along this line. The portion of the letter quoted below has reference to Munich and Bavaria:

The Munich royal brewery is really a great sight. It was a powerful temperance sermon. Imagine a great dark building nearly as large as the main building of the Kansas State Normal School; imagine it erected in the medieval style of architecture, with few windows, massive walls, low ceilings, great wide rooms, and stone floors. Put long rows of uncovered rough tables in the dark rooms. Put men and women at the tables. Bloat their faces. Puff out their bellies. Blur their eyes, let the animal look out of their countenances and put them to eating and drinking and gabbling in the dusk of the great room by the hundreds at 10 o'clock in the morning when they should be in work. Here and there in the throng put some old soak—man or woman—whose face has become besotted and whose soul has withered under the fire of years of over-eating and over-drinking, and then put around him scores who are gradually edging up to his estate. Then to know that this scene in the royal brewery is being duplicated in Munich in hundreds of similar places where men and women are squandering God's good, strong, clean bodies and souls, and fretting away useful lives, and one realizes the great loss that those miles and miles of hop vines in Bavaria bring to the Bavarian people. Everywhere, on the sidewalks, in the cafes, in the parks and gardens, in the restaurants, in the beer halls, all day and most of the night, men and women are at eating, drinking, loafing, wasting themselves for nothing in God's world but an artificial sputter of pleasure in the brain. It is hell—or if hell is worse, it is crueler than it should be.

Important changes have been made in the law regarding the liquor traffic in British Columbia, bringing that province more into conformity with the eastern provinces in the restriction applied to the liquor traffic. The measure is a much stricter one than any heretofore passed in the province. The changes are in the direction of more effective safeguards to the order, peace and good morals of the far-scattered settlements and camps, which are yearly coming into closer association with each other and with the larger centers of population. Under this act a hotel must be a genuine place of entertainment, with sleeping and table accommodation, and not a mere drinking place. The number of licenses in small communities is greatly reduced. Regulations are made as to the character and record and race of the licenseholder. There is local option to the extent that two-thirds of the residents must petition for the license, all adults, men and women alike, having a voice in this matter. The fees are increased in some cases by 50 per cent., in others still more. Large powers are given to the superintendent of police, and to inspectors in the withholding, superintending, or canceling of licenses. There are also wholesale and even drastic limitations on purchasers, and the use of the interdiction is greatly enlarged. Sunday sale of liquor to excursionists is suppressed, and the general effect of the legislation is towards an orderly observance of the day. Enforcement of the law is assisted by placing the burden of proof on persons found with liquor on the premises. Thus not only in respect to the unorganized districts, but throughout the provinces, the changes are in the direction of greater restriction and stricter regulation.

### RULES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Important Changes in Liquor Traffic  
Regulations Have Been Made—  
Measure Is Strict.

Drunkness Not Tolerated.  
The United Mine Workers, at their recent international convention, adopted a resolution that "if any international, district, sub-district or local union officer be seen in a state of public intoxication while on duty, he shall, upon conviction, be removed from said office at once by the officers or union having proper jurisdiction over the officer or officers." This discipline was extended to any organizer, agent, or appointee in the employ or working for any branch of the organization.

### Materialism.

Materialism as a philosophy of life is dead, but materialism as a habit of life was never more dangerous. Rich and poor alike both need to know the sources of spiritual wealth. —Rev. Caleb S. S. Dutton, Unitarian, Brooklyn.



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