

National Temperance Study Course

MRS POBBLEJOY AND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

(Junior Lesson)

Once upon a time there was a woman called Selma Pobblejoy. She was not very young, nor yet very old, and she would have been quite pretty if her nose had been a little paler, and her eyes a little clearer. She had a husband called Tom, and four children called Alexander, Maud, Joseph, Henry and little Sam—a very tiny family indeed, if their faces had been a little cleaner and their clothes a little neater. They all lived at number fifty-nine Buttermarket Street—a pleasant little house if the kitchen had been a little tidier, and the curtains had been hung a little straighter, and the brass knocker had been polished a little often.

Mr. Pobblejoy went to work every day except Sunday, and on Friday he brought home his wages. Then Mrs. Pobblejoy put something on one side for the rent and the gas, and she bought bread and sugar and cabbages and things like that, and every evening she gave Alexander money and sent him for a bottle of stout for her supper; and by the time Friday came round again there was no money left.

Well, it was Christmas-time. The shops were full of all sorts of toys and delightful things labelled "Suitable for Christmas Gifts," and people went about with bits of mistletoe in their button holes.

"I say, Ma!" cried Alexander Pobblejoy. "Jimmy Billings is going to have a pair of roller skates for Christmas, may I have some?"

"And, oh, Ma!" cried Maud, "Emily and Gerlie Brown are going to have a Christmas tree just covered with crackers and presents! May we have one?"

"Going to hang my stocking up for Santa Claus," said Joseph Henry.

"Goo-gug!" cried little Sam, and kicked off his woolly socks.

"Roller skates! Christmas-trees! cried Mrs. Pobblejoy. "Where's the money to come from, I'd like to know? We're not millionaires!"

"Boo-hoo!" cried little Sam, and threw himself on his back and kicked.

"We might manage something," suggested Mr. Pobblejoy.

"That we might," snapped his wife, and slapped little Sam, and set him up again. "There's never a penny over at the end of the week."

That night Mrs. Pobblejoy had a dream. She found herself in a forest of Christmas-trees, and coming to meet her was an old gentleman with a long white beard, and dressed in a red gown and hood.

"Good evening, Mrs. Pobblejoy," said he politely. "Soon be time for cutting the Christmas-tree now! We've a very fine crop this year."

"Why, it's Santa Claus!" cried Mrs. Pobblejoy.

"At your service, ma'am," said the old gentleman, bowing. "May I have the pleasure of showing you round? This tree, now, is one of which we're particularly proud; grown by a widow with seven children. She's been working at it all the year, a penny here, and a penny there, and it has grown remarkably well. Toys on it, you see, and apples and sweets and seven pairs of new shoes. And this tree, too, will interest you, Mrs. Pobblejoy; it has been grown by your neighbours for their children, Emily and Gerlie—there

and went softly downstairs and lit the kitchen gas, but the only thing on the table was the stout bottle she had emptied.

Mrs. Pobblejoy opened the window and flung the bottle outside as far as she could. Then she crept back to bed with very cold toes and a number of queer feelings inside.

"What's the matter?" asked Mr. Pobblejoy, sleepily.

"I'm just beginning to get ready for next Christmas," said his wife. And though Alexander and Maud and Joseph Henry and little Sam had no Christmas-tree that year, when Christmas came round again they had such a fine one that they never stopped talking about it for a month.

QUESTIONS

- 1) What had the pile of empty liquor bottles taken away from Mrs. Pobblejoy? Value, 10 marks.
- 2) What kind of a Christmas tree did Mrs. Pobblejoy have the second year? Value, 10 marks.

SOCIAL PRESSURES TOWARDS DRINKING

(Intermediate)

Bill was just past his middle teens, and the son of a clergyman in a Canadian city. On one occasion he and a couple of his pals came to a party where the problem that was bothering them. They phrased the problem like this: "We are frequently invited to parties. At some of these parties there is only one beverage offered to us, and we know it contains alcohol. What should we do? Should we drink against our own good judgement and the temperance teaching we have received, or should we refuse, and be considered a 'wet blanket'?"

There are many reasons why people drink, but among younger drinkers the top reason is probably social pressure such as Bill and his friends faced. We may think it unfair that young folk should be placed in positions where they are expected to drink liquor, and are made to feel uncomfortable if they refuse. Thoughtful people feel that genuine hospitality on the part of a host or hostess would be shown by providing a choice of beverages so that it would be as easy to choose a non-alcoholic drink instead of liquor as to choose coffee instead of tea. But the fact remains that in many homes and in many social groups such a consideration of the non-drinker is not shown. The pressures are in the direction of drinking.

The desire for sociability, to be considered one of the crowd or gang, is one of the strongest urges or drives in human nature. One doesn't like to be looked upon as a killjoy or a fanatic. These facts account for a large percentage of initial drinking. Not many young people enjoy their first drinking occasion. They are embarrassed and uncomfortable. But the social impulse is so strong that some people will smother their conscience in order to go along with the crowd.

The social pressure operates in two ways. Some groups, older folk and younger folk as well, approve and encourage drinking. "Come on and be sociable," these people say. "Don't be a gain wet blanket." Now, we all like to gain social approval. One of the highest satisfactions we can experience is the approval of our fellows. The liquor advertisers know that well, and play upon it with all the skill they possess. They stress the idea of prestige, adventure and sociability connected with drinking. Of course they make no mention of the "sociability" of the psychiatric ward nor the jail. They never carry the story that far in their advertisements. Nor is it the notorious loss of one's job, nor having one's home broken up that they draw attention to. But these are part of the total social pattern when alcohol is woven into it.

The other aspect of the social pressure to drink takes the form of something approaching scorn on the part of drinkers towards those who do not drink. Some users of alcohol seem to resent a person refusing to drink with them. Perhaps it causes them to have a sense of guilt. They may feel uncomfortable drinking in the presence of someone who is not drinking. At least, they exert considerable pressure to get non-drinkers to conform to their practice. "Oh, come on, what's the matter with you?" is the usual reply if one declines an invitation to drink. It seems inconsistent for those who demand their freedom to drink to try by strong social pressures to take away that freedom from the person who doesn't want to drink.

Realizing that the fear that declining an invitation to drink will make them socially unpopular is the cause which leads many young people to start drinking, one is forced to ask whether such fear is justified, or whether there is an inoffensive way of saying "no, thanks."

It has been the experience of many that standing by one's principles has had the effect of improving one's social standing rather than the reverse. People have a deep-seated admiration for the person who stands by his convictions. In a previous lesson mention was made of Daniel, one of the heroes of the Old Testament. He was admired as a hero because he stood by his convictions. One

of our well-known hymns, "Dare to be a Daniel," voices a challenge to us to show the same moral courage. It is moral courage that will enable a young man to say politely, but firmly, when invited to drink, "No, thank you. I don't drink."

"Enter ye in at the strait gate... for strait is the gate and narrow the way that leadeth unto life." In these words the Bible suggests the importance of the disciplined life—the life lived under the power of high ideals and lofty motives. Daring to live by such ideals and such motives is one of the best tests of character. There is an animal called the chameleon which changes colour according to the colour of objects on which it may be placed. There are chameleon-like people who compromise their standards, to conform to the group in which they may find themselves. Such a character is basically defective, lacking the strength of which human character at its best is capable. Someone has said that "the ultimate splendour of the human spirit is the determination to do right always and everywhere regardless of cost or consequences." There are many who think that the right course as far as alcohol is concerned is to leave it alone. A growing number of people are coming to feel that, since the effects of alcohol and the consequences of drinking are what they are, the problem of whether or not to drink is a moral problem. The way to meet a moral problem is with moral conviction and moral courage.

There is a kind of popularity that can be attained by going with the crowd. It is a cheap kind, and doesn't represent man at his best. There is another type of popularity, which, though not sought after, comes as a consequence of developing a sterling character. And such a character comes through taking an uncompromising position on social and moral problems, and by cultivating discipline with Him Who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

There is a passage in the book

of Isaiah (54:2) which is suggestive for those of us who are facing the social pressures and the temptations of life. Speaking figuratively, the prophet wrote, "Lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes." The reference obviously is to a tent held in position by ropes and stakes. Now, anyone with much experience of camping knows that short ropes and flimsy tent-pegs will not hold a tent secure against wind and rain. But the writer of Isaiah was apparently thinking of character. As we grow older, the limitations, restrictions and sheltered protection of childhood are insufficient to meet the strains of adult life. We shall only be able to deal effectively with the alcohol problem, if at the same time our "stakes" have been strengthened, and our "cords" lengthened, through the deepening of moral purpose, an enriching Christian fellowship, and an increasingly vital religious faith.

QUESTIONS

1. Why do many young people find it harder to refuse a glass of wine or cocktail than, say, an onion sandwich at a party? How would you meet the situation? Value, 10 marks.
2. When you decide not to drink, in what ways can the Christian faith help you to stand by that decision? Value, 10 marks.

Directions For Those Entering The Women's Christian Temperance Union Contest

Pupils entering the W.C.T.U. contest, please note.

Pupils 9 years and under—Answer the first question of the Junior Lessons.

Pupils 10, 11, 12—Answer both questions of the Junior Lessons.

Pupils 13, 14, 15—Answer first question of Intermediate-Senior Lessons.

Pupils 16-19—Answer both questions of Intermediate-Senior Lessons.

All work must be pupils own and in own words. Each page of answers must have name, age, at Oct. 1, address and school on each

I don't let winter get ME down.



I'm a regular user of

WAMPOLE'S Extract of Cod Liver

\$1.25 The all-round tonic with Sunshine Vitamin D

IT'S EFFECTIVE IT'S EASY TO TAKE NO FISHY OILY TASTE

Why buy "TICK TOCKS"

This quiet G-E ELECTRIC ALARM costs only \$4.95

NO WINDING! NO REGULATING!

The quiet accurate motor in the G-E Lullaby not only lets you sleep in peace, it measures the time, day and night, twenty-four hours a day... never needs winding or annoying fast-slow adjustments. Yet the G-E Lullaby costs less than many spring-wound clocks—only \$4.95—and it's styled in a handsome egg-shell plastic case to blend with all furnishings. Your G-E Lullaby is waiting for you at your dealer's today... let it wake you up tomorrow!

GENERAL ELECTRIC CLOCKS

CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED

There are 4 basic types of defrosting ...

Only FRIGIDAIRE offers you all 4!

- ★ SELF-DEFROSTING
- ★ AUTOMATIC
- ★ RE-SET
- ★ MANUAL

DEFROSTING is not the most important thing to look for when you buy a refrigerator—not by any means!

But the way Frigidaire meets all your defrosting requirements shows what you can expect in full value at your Frigidaire dealer's.

You can buy your new refrigerator at your Frigidaire dealer's knowing that you not only get such tried and proven dependability advantages as Frigidaire's famous Meter-Miser mechanism. You get all the other benefits of General Motors leadership, which mean the latest, most complete selection in beautiful cabinet design and every practical, useful convenience feature.

Visit your Frigidaire dealer's and see for yourself!

ONLY Frigidaire has Cyclo-matic Self-Defrosting!

No controls to set. No jars or pans to empty. Defrost water is evaporated automatically! Gets rid of frost before it even collects—without heaters, timers, buttons. Has a separate food freezer where frozen foods never thaw... rust-proof aluminum shelves that roll out all the way. Cyclo-matic Model DS-106 shown has 10.6 cu. ft. food space. Also 9 cu. ft. size.

Conventional Automatic Defrosting

Refrigerator defrosts every 24 hours, defrost water evaporates, automatically! Never needs attention. You get it in the outstanding, medium-priced Frigidaire 9 cu. ft. Master Model MS-90 (shown here) with full-width Freezer Chest, Roll-to-You Shelf.

Automatic Re-Set Defrosting

Lets you defrost lightning-fast any time you like! Just touch the button. Mechanism shuts again automatically when defrosting is complete on this Frigidaire 8.6 Master Model MS-86, with full-width Freezer Chest, big Hydrator.

Manual Defrosting

The defrosting you set yourself. While defrosting, refrigerator stays cold to protect food, yet lets excess frost melt away. It's in three Standard Models: 8.8 cu. ft. SS-88 shown.

A Great Family of Household Appliances now bear the famous trade-mark 'Frigidaire'

- Refrigerators
- Electric Ranges
- Food Freezers
- Automatic Washers
- Electric Clothes Dryers
- Electric Water Heaters
- Dehumidifiers
- Room Air Conditioners
- Deleo-Heat

Folks sure favor a **MAGIC** cake!

SELF-ICED SPICE CAKE

Mix and sift 3 times, 2 1/2 c. once-sifted pastry flour (or 2 c. once-sifted hard-wheat flour), 2 1/2 tps. Magic Baking Powder, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1 1/2 tps. ground cinnamon, 1/4 tsp. each of ground cloves, ginger, allspice, nutmeg and mace; mix in 3/4 c. washed and dried seedless raisins and 1/4 c. chopped walnuts. Cream 1/2 c. butter or margarine and blend in 1 1/4 c. lightly packed brown sugar; beat in 3 well-beaten egg yolks and 1/2 tsp. vanilla. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture alternately with 3/4 c. milk and spread batter in 9" square pan, which has been greased and the bottom lined with greased paper. Beat stiff, not dry, 3 egg whites and a few grains salt; gradually beat in 1 c. lightly-packed brown sugar and spread over cake; sprinkle with 1/4 c. chopped walnuts and bake in a rather slow oven, 325°, 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 hours; cover lightly with brown paper for last half hour.

SO AUTOMATIC IT THINKS FOR ITSELF!

NEW 1953 PHILCO "AUTOMATIC"

At last, complete protection of both fresh and frozen foods! Protects fresh foods at ideal 38° to 42° temperature... controls humidity... stores frozen foods at 0°... and quick freezes at 20° below zero. YOU'VE GOT TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!

No Defrosting • No Dials • No Boiler

Douglas Bros. and Jones Ltd.

155 Kent St. Charlottetown Dial 6565

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION AND ANALYSIS

G. F. HUTCHESON & SON

Optometrists

53 Grafton Street

VISIT YOUR NEAREST FRIGIDAIRE DEALER FOR A COMPLETE DEMONSTRATION! ASK ABOUT EASY PAYMENT TERMS!

SIMPSONS - SEARS

129 KENT ST., CHARLOTTETOWN

R. T. HOLMAN LTD.

SUMMERSIDE and CHARLOTTETOWN