

Mother Must Have Been Right

(Walter E. Isenhour, in Union Republican)

We have selected the following excellent article from the Church of Christ Advocate, published at Circleville, Ohio, written by A. S. London, which we hope will prove a great blessing to our readers throughout the land. Please read and pass it on to others:

My mother was not a highly educated woman in the scholastic sense, but she had a lot of good native ability, vision and common sense. She said that "birds of a feather will flock together," and if you rub up against a pot you will get black. Now that is common sense. She also said that you could tell what a boy or girl is by the kind of company they keep. There is a lot of sense in that statement.

My mother said she had rather I would marry a bad girl out of a good family, a Christian fam-

ily, than marry a good girl out of a bad family, or a family who were not Christians. I could not understand that for many years. She said that when a boy marries, he does not just marry the girl, but that he marries the father and mother, grandfather and grandmother; that one marries into a family of blood traits, rather than just an individual. She said, "Blood will tell."

Well, down through the years I have tried to keep my eyes and ears open, and beyond the shadow of a doubt my mother was right. She left an imprint on my life that will last as long as time lasts and eternity goes on.

The Bible has many illustrations to prove the statements my mother made. David sinned in one character. Twenty-five years later he saw his own seed-sowing come to a harvest in the lives of his own children, Absalom, Tamar and Amnon broke the heart of their father long after he had repented of his own wrong-doings. Yes, the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children to the third and fourth generations; and someone has said the reason they are not visited upon the fifth and sixth generations is perhaps that the blood relation runs out.

"Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." That is just as true as God lives. It is true in every walk of life, it is certainly true in the natural world, and just as true in the spiritual and moral realm. It is a crime for a young boy or girl to go wrong. Those unborn will

have to suffer as the result of waywardness in the lives of those who have sinned twenty years before.

Blood traits follow from one generation to another. Hannah was a good mother. She produced a good child, Samuel. Yes, a most wonderful child. Manasseh had his fling, sowed his wild oats, opened the doors of his court to all kinds of wickedness; and though he repented in later years, his own son came to the throne and started his reign in the same way his father did fifty years and more before. And the record says the kingdom of Jerusalem would be destroyed and wiped out "as a man wipeth a dish." This was a pretty bitter pill for a good man to have to swallow—but getting religion does not stop the harvest from the seed-sowing of years before.

I heard Gov. Dickinson, of Michigan, a few days ago. He is now past eighty years of age, and has the attention of the nation. He is bitterly opposed by the liquor interests, the tobacco trusts, and gambling groups. He is a Christian gentleman, and declares that no man has a right to use tobacco who is on Government relief, and no one has a God-given right to use it at all. He told a story I can never forget. It is the story that gave thought to the title of this article.

He said that many years ago a wild, reckless boy and girl were married—permit me to say this is a tragedy. A son was born to this union, and grew to young teenage manhood. One day he

walked into the place where his father was working and demanded that the father send him away to an institution, as he was socially diseased, and that if the father would not send him away, he would take his own life. The father sent him away. The lad stayed for about a year, returned home, and was soon married. He thought he was cured of his physical trouble, but, as usual he was not cured. In his blood stream was a disease that places the curse of God upon unclean living!

To the union of this son and his bride also came a son. At the time of his birth the mother gave up her life, and the father went and committed suicide. That left a boy that was half-damned before birth in a world that is mighty cold and hard on such a character.

The boy grew to manhood, and one day stood in a line a mile long in order to have the opportunity of shaking hands with the President of the United States. In one hand was a revolver, covered with a bandage. As he approached the place where he could shake the hand of the President, he shook with the hand that was not wrapped, and pulled the trigger of the revolver with the other, and took the life of the great William McKinley, one of the best, noblest Presidents the United States has ever had.

Czolgosz was a murderer. The law soon had him in hand, and he was executed. His father had committed suicide; his mother had died of an unnamable disease; his grandparents were wicked. What could be expected of this lad who took the life of a good man? Would one expect him to turn out to be an honest, upright citizen with such a background?

Seventy-five per cent. of our

forty-three million criminals are from broken homes, and broken homes are generally unchristian. The mills of the gods grind slowly, but surely. Chickens will come home to roost. And whatsoever one sows in his early life, he will reap in later years!

My mother must have been right. She taught exactly as Gov. Dickinson. Her teachings were in perfect harmony with the Bible. She guided my footsteps through the formative years; and through her influence, and an early conversion, I can look back and say by God's grace and the effect of the Sunday school, I have been kept clean from the day of my birth.

My mother must have been right. A grandmother attended our services. She was sixty-five years old. At one time her life had been very questionable. She was half-blind and half-idiotic. Ten years before she had been saved. This was unusual, as only one person in a million is saved after the age of forty-five. This woman was the mother of ten children.

I was anxious to know about her family. Four of her children were killed in a drunken brawl; two had gone to the insane asylum; two were incarcerated behind prison bars for murder; one had died a premature death; and one daughter, forty-five years of age, sat beside this mother in our meetings. She, too, was half-blind and half-idiotic, and known as a public outcast on the streets of the city where our meetings were held.

The fact that this grandmother had got saved ten years before had nothing to do with the seed-sowing of forty years before. The harvest was reaped in the lives of her children. The state had to bear the expense; taxpayers paid the bills. A lack of Christian education and Christian experience in the formative years is a costly experience. My mother must have been right.—A. S. London.

It pays to live right for the sake of future generations as well as for ourselves. Absolutely. If we live sinful, wicked, unclean lives it curses our offspring, even to the third and fourth generations. We can't poison ourselves without poisoning our children, for they are blood of our blood and bone of our bone. Therefore we ought to positively abstain from all nicotine, alcoholism, dopes and poisons of all kinds, and everything that would injure our health, and live physically, morally, socially and spiritually clean and upright before God and man. This is never regretted. It makes life noble and sublime. We bless our country and the world instead of cursing it. Why not so live? It is indeed worth while. No one ever regrets living upright before God and man. However, millions regret living in sin and wickedness, thus cursing themselves, their posterity and the world. Why not take the safe road in life and shun the road that leads wrong? If no one regrets traveling the right road, but millions and billions regret traveling the wrong road, then why go the way that multitudes regret? Better listen to God. Better heed the warning given by God's ministers, God's servants, and the people who warn you against the wrong.

Back of criminals, thieves, robbers, liars, murderers, depraved men and women, and those who miserably fall in life and curse the world in the meantime, is usually a background of wicked ancestors. And back of those who live noble lives of godliness, and bless the world, are generally good, noble, godly, righteous ancestors. Godly living pays above EVERYTHING ELSE.

WALTER E. ISENHOUR, Hiddenite, N. C.

Last Rites Held For Wint Sparks
Funeral services for Wint Sparks, 55, of Cycle, who died Wednesday, August 28, at his home following successive strokes of paralysis, were conducted Thursday afternoon at Oak Grove Baptist church of which he was a member, in Yadkin county. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Sparks was a member of the W. O. W. fraternity and had been a lifelong resident of the community.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Florence Swaim Sparks, several children, among whom are two sons and two daughters, Reece and Hugh, Misses Lucy and Winnie Sparks; also three grandchildren.

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