

The Tobacco Problem.

There is passing over our country a destroying wave more to be dreaded than war, for while the horrors of war are decreasing, the victims of tobacco are increasing at an enormous ratio.

It is only of late years that physicians and scholars have begun to realize the fearful consequences of this poisonous weed. Statistics from many colleges show that the young men who use tobacco are not, as a rule, as tall and broad-shouldered, and have not the same lung capacity nor the ability to endure active exercise of body and mind as those who do not use it. They also state that it is very hard for them to concentrate their minds upon their work. Therefore they never receive the honors as those who do not use the weed. One has only to look around him in our cities, towns, and rural districts to see how the development of our boys into manhood is greatly prevented by this habit. Physicians tell us that many diseases, such as cancer of the mouth and throat, and heart failure and stomach disorders are frequently caused by its use. It so weakens the entire system that the user is more liable to be attacked by any prevailing disease.

After one becomes addicted to the tobacco habit it is very hard to give it up. I know this by personal experience. I used it nearly eight years. During this time I put forth many efforts to liberate myself from the filthy habit. Finally I decided by God's help I would never use it any form again.

Often our boys and girls, ignorant of the dangers of this habit, begin to use it while they are young. Many boys think it is a manly quality to "strut" about with a quid of tobacco or cigarette in their mouths.

Many are influenced to use it by their minister, teacher, mother and father and other influential people of their community.

May God speed the time when men of influence will rise in defiance of this evil and set an example that the younger ones may safely follow.

Cigarette smoking is the most dangerous way tobacco may be used. The cigarette contains the second most deadly poison known to chemistry. The habit soon conquers the boy and renders him a physical wreck. It renders the energetic indolent, the honest, dishonest, the thoughtful, thoughtless; and the strong, weak.

Boys, God made you for a nobler purpose. He does not desire you to become slaves to any habit. He desires you to be free. If this habit has you within its grasp, may Jesus, the great Liberator, make you free and you will be free indeed.—*Christian Sun.*

HOW THE WOODPECKER GOT HIS NAME.

Long, long ago, when King Elephant ruled the animal kingdom, Sir Squirrel, who held at court the high office of Purveyor of peanuts to His Royal Highness, was found by his king dining upon some choice nuts which the king had intended to eat. For this offense the king banished Sir Squirrel.

King Elephant however, soon missed Sir Squirrel, for none of his subjects filled the office of Purveyor to his liking; so at last he decided to place him again in office. Then the king's heralds went forth to bear to Sir Squirrel this news, but they could not find him.

Sir Fox, the king's sly counselor, then approached his king.

"Sire," he advised, let His Highness Whale, King of Fish, search under his waters for Sir Squirrel."

"This good advice!" cried King Elephant, and he at once asked King Whale to do this. But Sir Squirrel was not found.

Sir Fox again came forward.

"Sire, let Her Highness Owl, Queen of Birds, search the air," he now advised. Again the king praised him and did what he said. Queen Owl was as willing to help as King Whale had been, and sent her subjects to seek Sir Squirrel, but none found him.

At this moment a bird, Bigbeak by name, flew toward them: "I saw Sir Squirrel a league from here, peeping from his hole in a hollow tree." So all the animals and birds set out, with King Elephant carrying Queen Owl upon one tusk and Bigbeak upon the other, in the lead.

The king at last reached Sir Squirrel's tree, and Bigbeak, jealous of his honors, flew from his perch and poked his head through the hole in which he had seen Sir Squirrel. He kept his beak in the hole so long a time that Queen Owl grew worried, fearing that Sir Squirrel had bitten it off. At last she seized Bigbeak by his tail feathers and pulled him from the hole. Poor Bigbeak, upon this confessed that Sir Squirrel was not in the hole, and that he must have made a mistake. He had not, however. Sir

Squirrel had spied the king coming, and, thinking that he meant to slay him, fled.

A great uproar followed. King Elephant loudly trumpeted his sorrow, while his subjects roared and howled their grief. Queen Owl and her subjects, now angry at Bigbeak, for bringing shame upon their tribe, flew at him, and left him almost bare of feathers. To add to his trouble, as he flew from them, Bigbeak heard his queen hooting after him. "Not until you have found Sir Squirrel can you return to my court!"

Men in after years saw a bird pecking at trees, and named him woodpecker; but that bird was none other than Bigbeak. Unto this day he is pecking on trees which seem likely to be the hiding place of Sir Squirrel, making this appeal:

"Sir Squirrel, listen pray, to me! No longer exile need you be. Your lonely life, pray live no more; Your king your office would restore. And no happiness I'll know. Till to your king with me you'll go. If you are in this tree, pray speak, Make glad the heart of poor Bigbeak."

But Sir Squirrel does not understand Bigbeak's appeal, and remains quiet, for he thinks that the king's jailer is knocking at his door; so it seems likely that Bigbeak will be a woodpecker forever.—*S. S. Times.*

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