

News of the Day.

School Children go on Strike.

School children went on strike at Norristown, Pa., U.S.A., because the School-board ordered Bible-reading to cease. The directors decided that the Bible should be banished from the schools, and prayers should be discontinued at the sessions. The boys and girls rose in rebellion, declared a strike, and, backed in most instances by their parents, refused to attend school until the order was rescinded and the Bible restored. They paraded the town, carrying Bibles and banners, cheered for the one member of the Board who opposed the Bible-banishing order, waited on the County Superintendent and declared their intention of carrying the matter to the State House at Harrisburg, unless the prayers and Bible-readings were continued. The schools were deserted, and lawyers were at work, prompted by the parents of the children, looking up the law that permits or prohibits the action of the Board in ruling the Bible from the educational establishments.

Women Lawyers.

Mrs Mary E. Miller, of Chicago, has just earned a fee of 30,000 dollars by successfully prosecuting a suit on behalf of the grandchildren of the late William Bross for the immediate distribution of his 300,000,000 dollars estate.

Mrs Miller was admitted to the bar in Marshall, Mich., and has been practising 13 years. She is a suffragist, and has spoken in public on behalf of the full enfranchisement of women. She does not see anything very remarkable in her winning the big fee. "The fee won't make the slightest difference with me," said Mrs Miller, as she was hurrying away to another court to prosecute a case against the Chicago City Railway Company. "I shall just keep on with my work in the same way. There is nothing remarkable about the fact that a woman lawyer should win a big will case. Why shouldn't she? Women are good talkers and persuasive in argument."

Mrs Annie Hockfelder, who received the degree LL.B. at New York University this summer, will put out a sign which will declare that she will receive

only women clients. She is said to be the pioneer in New York in the "lawyer-for-women" class. Her husband is also a lawyer, and she took up the study because she wanted to be more in sympathy with his work.

Wine in the Cup.

Not long since the Bishop of Manchester stopped a communion service because he discovered that the wine was not fermented. He then sent to a public house and obtained a fermented wine. The probabilities are that, as we live in an age of adulteration, there was not one drop of grape juice in the wine thus obtained.

The same week Mr John Lewis, speaking at a meeting of the British Temperance League in Lees' Hall, said: "Reference had been made to a service being stopped until fermented wine was provided for the sacrament. It recalled a story related to him on the previous Thursday by a minister. His father was also a minister, and for many years thought it right and proper to have fermented wine at the Communion. One evening he was the means of preventing a young man from committing suicide. Kind words and practical sympathy led the young man to a better life. Drink had ruined him and robbed him of a situation worth £600 a year. Sobriety gave him a lift upward; he entered heart and soul into Sunday-school work, and at the end of two years thought himself fit for church membership. The minister who had rescued him from death saw with deep thankfulness the new member about to make his first Communion. He passed him the cup containing intoxicating wine, and pronounced a blessing, little dreaming that the sip of wine had awakened an old craving for drink in one of his best workers. The new member left the church to obtain more drink, and in four months was a dead man. Strong drink had conquered him, and found an entrance into his life where above all places in the world he should have been absolutely safe from attack. It was such a lesson to the minister that he banished fermented wine from the Communion, and neither he nor his son had ever used it since. Such an incident ought to stir up every Christian to rest not until all these services in the house of God were safe for everyone to take part in."

The strong man never fears care; but he flees from fret.

The Cocaine Habit.

During last July "The News," of Toronto, exposed an uncanny cocaine traffic in that city. To the reporters, who spent months in careful ingratiation into haunts, manners, and vernacular of cocaine fiends, two "pard" peddlars owned to having 360 customers. The cocaine peddlars, by some means, procure their stock in trade from unscrupulous druggists, and then go out to the corners and alleys and distribute the stuff to the cocaine victims. The common method of taking the drug is to inhale it as one would snuff. While cocaine produces a sensation of indescribable happiness, it takes away the appetites and the power to sleep. To get over this insomnia the cocaine user resorts to some other drug that will act as a narcotic. "The News" says: "An alarming feature of the investigation was the discovery that almost every well-known local criminal was addicted to the habit. When 'lit up' by the drug, these men become seized with fits of recklessness, during which their inclinations for evil seem to have full sway. Thus they become a danger. . . . The reporters had little trouble in finding girls who were addicted to the habit of taking cocaine. In a little Chinese restaurant on York street, near the corner of Queen street, they saw it for themselves."

It is needless to add that the use of cocaine leads to horrible results. One dying man told the reporters of his experience when he swore off for five days. He said: "It's no use swearing off though, once you hit it. I didn't live those five days. It was hell. . . . It looks as if this was the last. I haven't eaten anything for two weeks, except a little fruit. The fellows buy me some whisky and some truck (cocaine) that keeps me going."

When the people go to sleep it's the preacher who needs to be awakened.

You can no more measure a sin by its size than a tree by its seed.

We Christians must not sit by and let the fires of intemperance burn on; we must not permit poverty to shiver and squalor to send forth its stench and disease to fester in the heart of great populations. All this must be stopped, and we are the Christ-men and the Christ-women to stop it, or else we are pitiable dreamers and deluded professors of what we do not believe.—*Frances E. Willard.*