



DISCOVERY

Edited by
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An Ancient Bugle With A Modern Sound

It is heartening to know how many people help me to write this section of *Methodist History*. I was reading about Wesley's attitude toward Queen Elizabeth I of England (of which I shall write at a future date) when a good friend, George Allen, a bookdealer and the President of the Philobiblon Club of Philadelphia, phoned me to tell me he had just received a song book that might interest me. It was a book of songs entitled *Bugle Notes for the Temperance Army*. It was published by the National Temperance Society and Publication House at 58 Reade Street in New York City. The publication date was 1871.

Since we Methodists have always been concerned about temperance, I immediately told him I was very interested, and I later purchased the book. It is complete, rectangular in shape, and its full title is *Bugle Notes for the Temperance Army, a Collection of Songs, Quartettes, and Gleees, adapted for the use of all Temperance Gatherings, Glee Clubs Etc., Together with the Odes of the Orders of the Sons of Temperance and Good Templars*. It was edited by W. F. Sherwin and J. N. Stearns. The book contains both words and music.

I do not know how many university libraries have a copy of this work, nor was I aware of the extent of the publications of the Temperance Society. Here is another field that could be researched. The Preface states that the National Temperance Society and Publication House was established in 1866 for the purpose of "preparing and circulating a sound literature upon every phase of the temperance question. . . ." By the time *Bugle Notes* was published in 1871, the Preface continues, the Society had published over 200 different books and pamphlets and had "attempted . . . to supply pure and elevating music to meet the demand in this direction

of Temperance work." In addition, 60,000 copies of *The Temperance Chimes* had been published and had apparently enjoyed a ready sale, since further copies were being demanded. *The Temperance Hymn Book* for use in temperance prayer meetings was also in wide use. *Bugle Notes* was published "to meet the urgent and repeated demands for a higher class of music than has heretofore been published. . . ."

The words of the songs, and quartettes, etc. would hardly be classed as a "higher type of music" by either the Wesleys or contemporary Methodists. But the words are not as bad as what is offered at times on television. I was somewhat amused by the temperance songs, but I shudder at what I hear being belted out as "great music" by some contemporaries. Here is a sample of a Temperance song from *Bugle Notes*:

The Water Drinker

I am a drinker of water clear,
 And never take spirit, or wine, or beer;
 My eye sparkles bright, 'Tis not swollen or red,
 And my step is steady, my path to tread;
 My hands are not shaking, like those who oft sip,
 And my nose does not look all red at the tip;
 When morning returning bids sleeper awake,
 My brain is quite cool, and my head does not ache.

The whole work of the Temperance Publication House is worthy of further research. It was a phase of Methodist, religious, and American history.

In 1912 the Methodist Episcopal Church established the Board of Temperance which worked closely with the Anti-Saloon League in a successful campaign to secure National Prohibition. Following the repeal of the 18th Amendment, Methodists continued their emphasis on total abstinence, although in recent years, the emphasis has been more on research, on alcohol-related problems, education, and the use of legal controls. Unfortunately, the annual "Temperance Sermon" in our Methodist churches is largely a thing of the past, and we no longer urge our youth to "take the pledge."

I have no particular use for this little song book, and I should like to deposit it in some University, college or seminary library. I would be glad to hear from librarians who might possibly be interested.