

the situation, they are alcoholized and ruined forever; as General Butler expressed it, "unfitted for all the business of life."

Of course they did not intend to become drunkards, but the hereditary tendency prevailed over their common sense and understanding.

The proper thing to do would have been to avoid alcoholic drinks, as a moral principle, just as we avoid any crime. It offends me to the heart to see food of any sort adulterated with wine or brandy. By such things children might learn to love liquor. Never in my life have I allowed it to be used in my food in my house, in any shape, not even as a medicine.

But this is not the only thing that I have learned to despise. This life has many heart-rending troubles and sorrows. One of the greatest is the bad influence of people who live near us and hate those that excel them in learning, wisdom or virtue. They will take every opportunity to corrupt the morals of our children and teach them disrespect for their parents, and for all the most precious principles of honor and usefulness. Such people are apt to be full of bad habits, such as using tobacco, betting, gossiping, uncivil behavior, illiterate discourse and superstition.

How to keep our children away from these influences is the most difficult problem of life, especially for poor people. Those who are in affluent circumstances can employ good teachers and governesses. They can send their children to schools where nearly all the surroundings are favorable to good instruction. But the poor have no such resources.

In looking back upon my life I see many bright spots and happy, glorious scenes. The childhood sports and plays, the visiting of kind, loving relations, and varied scenes of city and country life; the recurrence of holidays with their displays and gifts; the hopeful, intellectual school-days; the lively amusements of youth and the opening of the great book of science, literature and art, when we begin to realize what a vast, wonderful universe we inhabit; all these things have given me unalloyed happiness, and made me glad to have been born. There have fallen to my share some evidences of affection that was pure and unchanging.

As friends pass away, I look for social enjoyment in the books of the great and wise of all ages. *There* are solid comforts and I am never tired of reading such works.

In these times we ought to live on scientific principles. The day of superstition, experiment and faith without knowledge is past. We should now read and understand the great book of nature, and not rely wholly upon other people for our facts, beliefs and creeds. We should seek truth, wisdom and knowledge at the fountains of science and art, in the natural objects of the universe, the elements of the visible and invisible world and the stars of glory. Of course much training and instruction is required from