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HOW TO ESCAPE THEM.

like couch-grass, and luxuriant stalks and leaves, as sure as there is a sun in heaven—a crop which it turns one's heart cold to think of. The devil, too, whose special crop they are, will see that they thrive, and you, and nobody else, will have to reap them; and no common reaping will get them out of the soil, which must be dug down deep again and again. Well for you if with all your care you can make the ground sweet again by your dying day. 'Boys will be boys' is not much better, but that has a true side to it. But this encouragement to the sowing of wild oats is simply devilish, for it means that a young man is to give way to the temptations, and follow the lusts, of his age."

No, you may not be able to stop when the evil is done. Let me beseech you to take five minutes to consider whither the *beginning* of a wrong companionship leads. The first step may mean an unseen path with an ending of degradation and misery. It *does* mean this in countless cases. I assure you the bitter end I have witnessed in men after an earlier course of wrong-going makes me look on a youth who is stepping on an evil way and choosing an evil companionship with feelings of the keenest anguish. Surely he is only a fool who steps upon a course and will not ask himself what is the probable termination of that course.

But it is not merely the open temptation that is