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God Wants the Boys

God wants the happy-hearted boys,
The stirring boys, the best of boys,

The worst of boys!

He wants them soldiers of His cross,
Brave to defend His righteous cause,
And so uphold His sacred laws;

That good and true

The world may be

Redeemed from sin

And misery.

God wants the boys!

Boys Should be Kind.—Horace Mann's advice to boys is excellent: "You were made to be kind, boys—generous, magnanimous. If there is a boy in school who has a club foot, don't let him know you ever saw it. If there is a boy with ragged clothes, don't talk about rags in his hearing. If there is a lame boy, assign him some part of the game that does not require running. If there is a hungry one, give him some part of your dinner. If there is a dull one, help him to get his lessons. If there is a bright boy, be not envious of him, for if one boy is proud of his talents, and another is envious of him, there are two great wrongs, and no more talent than before."

That Boy.—In his characteristic way Bishop Berry tells what he thinks of the boy: "What an institution he is! What possibilities of good or evil are wrapped up in him! What a bundle of ambitions, purposes, impulses, tendencies, forces and contradictions! If once aroused and properly guided what may be not become! If you should carry a dozen sticks of dynamite into your room, attach them to a fuse, and fire the fuse, you know what would happen. But you can never know what will happen when you touch off a boy. I would like to see a course on 'boyology' in all our theological seminaries!"

A "Good" Example.—During his last visit to America, Rev. Charles Wagner, the noted French preacher, was asked to address an assembly of boys. He began his lecture by saying: "I have hesitation in coming before you, boys, for I know I set you a bad example of speaking English, and one ought never to set bad examples of using languages before others. But a year or two ago I could not speak one word of English and now I can speak it so as to make you understand. When I decided to come to America, I resolved I would learn English and I did teach myself and succeed. So if I set you a bad example, I will turn

it and make it a good example of what one can do who is resolved." That was enough introduction to the boys. The English was not so fluent as theirs, but it was finer English than many of them spoke, and they all admired his energy and purpose.

Imitate Sir Galahad.—Mr. Edward Markham has a most interesting article in the *Christian Advocate* on his experiences with boys in which he says: "I recall one incident of a boy with fine quality in him who once hesitated to make amends by apologizing to some school fellow for an act of discourtesy. I spoke to him in a quiet, friendly way, 'What would Sir Galahad have done in your case? Can't you afford to do what he would have done? The effect was instantaneous. 'I'll do it, Mr. Markham,' he said. I was touched by this spectacle of self conquest. I put my arms around him and we were friends forever."

Boys Worth Taking Care of.—Mr. J. J. Kelso, who has done so much for neglected children in Canada, says: "Boys are the most valuable asset in the Province of Ontario to-day. Without them there would be no possibility of developing the country or even carrying on the industries that already exist. At a low commercial estimate the value of a boy would be one thousand dollars, and every boy who is allowed through neglect to grow up without moral training or habits of industry is not only a direct loss, but is likely to become a burden and a tax on the community. A little timely effort and outlay would save many young lads to good citizenship who are now neglected."

Boys Should Sleep Much.—James Rowland Angell, Professor of Psychology in the University of Chicago, has an excellent article in *The World To-Day*, on "Facts and Problems of Adolescence," in which he presents many valuable facts and suggestions in regard to the training of children. He thinks that the three most important hygienic considerations are, sleep food and exercise. He says: "Probably sleep is the desideratum most regularly abused by the children of the modern town and city parents. Parties, calls and social engagements of many kinds are allowed to invade the hours of rest which the growing organism absolutely requires if it is to attain its highest possibilities. Not only are boys and girls of fourteen and fifteen allowed occasionally to remain out until long after midnight, attending parties, but from day to day the hour at which they go to

bed, is permitted to vary almost as they may desire. It demands no prolonged experience to prove that even a person of mature years can not practise indefinite irregularity in the amount of sleep gained daily without paying the penalty in the form of depleted vitality and sooner or later, if the habit be carried to an extreme, in the form of nervous breakdown. How much more necessary, therefore, must adequate sleep be in the case of the growing body!"

Home Life.—The pastor of one of our city churches enters a mild protest against pastors and a few other people being burdened with responsibilities that parents ought to assume. He goes on to say: "The minister, the school teacher, the Sunday-school teacher, the editor, the legislator should all assist the parent, but he should be made to understand that he is responsible to God and to society for the character of his boy." We believe our brother is quite right in his position. Nothing can take the place of the home as a religious and educational agency, but at the same time there are auxiliary influences, such as boys' classes, boys' clubs, which have great value.

Three Rules.—The following three rules are said to have been given by an old Quaker to Senator Scott, of West Virginia, when he was a young man. In following them the Senator claims to have made his success in life: "Not what thee eats, but what thee digests, will make thee healthy." "Not what thee earns, but what thee saves, will make thee wealthy." "Not what thee reads, but what thee remembers, will make thee wise." These three rules leave out a good many things, including all reference to religion and benevolence, but as far as they go, they are full of wisdom and sense. It is possible to read so much that we injure ourselves, to eat so much that we weaken our minds, and to earn so much that we get extravagant and self-indulgent. The above rules followed will help us when we are old. The man who has a good stomach, a good memory, and a bank account needs only a good conscience and a high purpose to make life worth living.

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