

# WHAT SHALL A YOUNG MAN DO WITH HIS EVENINGS?

BY REV. W. M'MULLEN, B.A.

THE young man's *days* are usually occupied. He works, and he must work. His *evenings* are his own, to waste or to use. The recoil from the business of the day carries him naturally to



ITALIAN WOMAN IN NATIVE COSTUME.

ward amusement, and in the absence of a definite purpose, may rob him of the gain the evening hour should bring. And yet, in the spending of those hours may lie success or failure, strength or weakness, commanding intellectuality or despised mediocrity, full-orbed manhood or eternal childhood. What shall he do with his evenings?

1. He must have recreation. The body needs exercise, the lungs demand fresh air, the brain cries out for varied activity. Neglect of the body is a crime which nature never forgives. Fools dig their own graves. Keep your body strong. Rowing, swimming, running, football, baseball, etc., are all useful in their place. Use them; but remember, they are not all of life. A man may be, at the same time, an athlete and a ninny. Recreation, in its right place, will help you; let it be master, and it will spoil you.

Let music have some place in your life. If possible learn to sing, and also to play some instrument. Music's charm is subtle, but sweet, and of marvellous power.

2. There should be time for the social duties. There is a definite gain in social intercourse. Deprive a young man of his male companions, and you spoil him. Deprive him of female society and you spoil himself. Don't be afraid of social gathering, for, if you learn nothing else, you may at least learn to forget your hands

and feet, and to conduct yourself as a gentleman should. But society, like recreation, has its place, and must stay there. Even in love-making, if it should come, you must remember your life-work. Never forget your future.

3. There must be time for reading. Not of the light kind, but of the kind that men call solid, and *shun*. You may not shun it, for in it lies your hope. Mental development is the reward of mental wrestling. Intellectual muscle cannot be bought or begged; it must be won. You will find in the few *greatest* books (and they are but few) the thoughts that thrilled men long ago, and that thrill them equally to-day; the ideas, that are now mightier than empires, brighter than gold, more lasting than time. Make these your own. Do not seek many books so much as *great* and *good* ones. Time is the great avenger of ill-done work. As a rule, the works that live are those that ought to live. Time buries her rubbish. Read slowly. Do not count pages, but ideas. Strike always at the heart of the book; and do not forget to review your work. In youth one's work is largely foundation work, and cannot be hurried, and must not be slighted.

4. The life work should be kept in view. Don't waste time in shooting at nothing. Get ready for something. Read about your work. Talk about it with wise men. Get the broadest possible view of it. Don't be afraid to spend money on books, or teachers, or tools, for every dollar will bear fruit. Even what you throw away will teach you something you had to learn.

Aim high. Too much ambition may wreck a man, but too little will strand him.

There is something in you; be sure of that. You yourself must bring it out; be surer still of that.

5. Don't neglect the House of God. The hour of prayer in mid-week is a necessity. It will help to preserve your manhood from unworthy absorption in the earthly struggle for supremacy. Religion does not destroy ambition, but she tempers it.

Don't serve the Lord by accident, but place the prayer-meeting in the plan of your life.

Some will object that these things mean isolation. They do, the isolation of soaring eagle or of lofty mountain peak. Height always means isolation.

You say you have no help but abundant hindrance. So it has always been. Your help must be found in your God, and in your own indomitable will.

God has a place for you in this world, but you cannot be pitchedforked into it by a wealthy father or by powerful relations. Your own hand must grip, and grip hard, the rungs of the ladder by which you climb upward. It is hard work, but hard work makes strong men. The men whom

nature crowns are the men of granite and steel, the Titans who, weary or unwearied, still bear earth's burden.

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## VULGARITY.

BY REV. J. B. PATTERSON.

IT is not a matter of base ancestry; a man may be the "son of a hundred kings" and commit vulgarity. It is not a matter of low social standing; a person may move in the best society and commit vulgarity. It is not a matter of uncouth manners; a person may have the polished grace of a Chesterfield and commit vulgarity. It is not a matter of ignorance; a person may be a walking encyclopedia and commit vulgarity. It is not a matter of poverty; a person may own the diamonds of Kimberly and commit vulgarity. Vulgarity is a base quality of soul, which for the moment, the day or the life dominates one's conduct. It shows itself in a thousand forms. We select just four for illustration. Not infrequently it takes the form of brutal disregard of the feelings and rights of others.

Arthur H. Smith, in his book on Chinese characteristics, comments on the unkind frankness of the Chinaman. "Great elder brother with the peckmarks," says an attendant in a dispensary to a patient, "from what village do you come?" Such a spirit shown in a heathen is charitably ascribed to the influence of his education and environment. But a similar spirit shown in a Christian country properly stamps the man who shows it as a vulgar fellow.



THE GRAND CANAL, VENICE.

Yet such a spirit is daily shown in the conduct of both men and women. The boy who mocks his stuttering playmate, the simpering city girl who giggles at the solecism in manners committed by her