

This settled the matter, and Phil gave in.

"So you want two tickets for one time?" said the agent.

"Yes, sir," said Kenneth, taking off his sailor hat to the great man—"one for me and one for Phil, you know."

"You do arithmetic by the Golden Rule down here, don't you?" asked the ticket-man.

"No sir, we use Ray's Practical," answered the boys; and they didn't know for a long time what that man meant by Golden Rule.

Never Out of Sight.

I know a little saying
That is altogether true;
My little boy, my little girl,
That saying is for you.
'Tis this, oh, blue and black eyes,
And gray, so deep and bright:
No child in all this careless world
Is ever out of sight.

No matter whether field or glen,
Or city's crowded way,
Or pleasure's laugh or labour's hum,
Entice your feet to stray;
Some one is always watching you,
And, whether wrong or right,
No child in all this busy world
Is ever out of sight.

Some one is always watching you
And marking what you do.
To see if all your childhood's acts
Are honest, brave and true;
And, watchful more than mortal kind,
God's angels pure and white,
In gladness or in sorrow,
Are keeping you in sight.

Oh, bear in mind, my little one,
And let your mark be high;
You do whatever thing you do
Beneath some seeing eye.
Oh, bear in mind, my little one,
And keep your good name bright;
No child upon the round, round earth
Is ever out of sight.

A Letter to Boys.

My Dear Boys—I have a word to you. I am a firm believer in the good qualities of boys. I doubt whether there ever lived a boy who under the right kind of influence would not develop some good traits. I do not agree with the lady who thought that boys should be shut away from the rest of the world from six years of age to twenty-one. Evidently she thought them a very useless and troublesome encumbrance. But I heartily believe in you, and so I wish to write a few words for you, and if I can do you any good and awaken any good impulses and earnest desires for right living, I shall feel amply repaid.

In the first place, how are you building your characters? Now is the time when the foundation stones are to be laid, and upon the laying of those depends the strength and beauty of the character you will build. O boys, "Begin well." As some good man has said: "Many people spend the latter half of their lives in correcting the errors of the earlier half, and by the time they are ready to live the end comes."

So many drift on the current, carried whithersoever it goes. Have you read the little pamphlet entitled "Young Men, Don't Drift?" It is an excellent little book and ought to have a wide circulation. Many boys lead passably correct lives when they are among those who are living right lives, but when temptation comes in the shape of evil companions, they unconsciously drift with them into wrong habits of thought and speech and living. Don't be slaves to wrong habits when you

could be masters. Reason with yourself in this way: "I was put into this world for some purpose; let me find out that purpose," and with God's help rise to a noble Christian manhood, or I should say a Christian boyhood. You need not give up any of your sports or your innocent amusements because you are a Christian. I think you will enter more heartily into all your games if you carry with you the thought that you have put on the armour of God. The consciousness of pleasing Him who has chosen you to be His soldier will help you to a keener enjoyment of all the good things of life. But it is just as useless to try to live a right life without God's help as to attempt swimming with a weight about your neck.

We all desire the good opinion of others—perhaps sometimes we strive for the good opinion of those whose opinion is worth nothing; but *deserve* the good opinion of others and you will have it. And don't try to please everybody at the risk of injuring your conscience. Don't be discouraged if your best efforts seem unappreciated. If you are doing your best, be sure that God approves of you, and isn't that the highest praise?

"The Master praises,
What are men!"

Above all, have a mind of your own about matters of right and wrong. If you *know* you are right, stick to it, though all your companions urge you to change your opinion. If they find you firm in your convictions every time, you will gain from them at length the highest respect, and may exert an influence upon them which you could never have had if they discovered that you were afraid to stand for the right because you stood *alone*.

And now, in closing, again I earnestly beg of you, "Begin well," and may God help you to build so that the structure may stand firm and beautiful for the coming years.

A Rule of Life.

1. Avoid occasions of sin.
2. Pray without ceasing.
3. Resist temptation at once.
4. Accustom yourself to meditation.
5. Use the sacraments.
6. Use pious practices.
7. Do works of mercy.
8. Never continue in mortal sin.
9. Mortify your appetites.
10. Strive after an interior life.

Truth.

Truth is beautiful as well as safe and mighty. In the incident related below, a boy twelve years old, with only truth as a weapon, conquered a smart and shrewd lawyer, who was fighting for a bad cause.

Walter was the important witness in a lawsuit. One of the lawyers, after cross-questioning him severely, said:

"Your father has been talking to you and telling you how to testify, hasn't he?"

"Yes," said the boy.

"Now," said the lawyer, "just tell us how your father told you to testify."

"Well," said the boy, modestly,

"father told me that the lawyers would try and tangle me in my testimony; but if I would just be careful and tell the truth, I could tell the same thing every time."

The lawyer didn't try to tangle up that boy any more.

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