

"Don't allow him to go into places of sin,
And then to your heart and homes take in
Saying, 'O for a boy there's nothing to fear,
And it don't matter much if he does drink beer,
He will stop by and by—it was always so,
All men and boys have wild oats to sow.'

"You tell them this, and they think it so,
Not foreseeing that sown those seeds will grow,
To them the harvest is hidden from view,
Until too late the sowing they rue ;
For at last their sorrow-stricken souls will see
What the outcome of sowing wild oats must be.

"Don't send my boy where your girl can't go—
For a boy or a girl sin is sin you know,
And my baby boy's hands are as clean and white
And his heart is as pure as your girl's to-night."

CORRUPT LITERATURE.

It has been said that "The pen is mightier than the sword," and how true it is, for the sword can only pierce and mutilate the body, while the pen, through the medium of corrupt literature, can destroy the soul. This evil reading can be divided into four heads or divisions :—

The first of which I shall speak, will be the "yellow-backed" novels. Of all the corrupt reading this form is the worst. They are written in a style that pleases the boys, and even the girls read them. It is a fact that the impressions made upon the mind of a boy or girl, when at the age of fifteen years, will last them through life; I know it to be so from my own experience. When I was about that age I got possession of one of the worst kind of "wild west" novels, and it has haunted me ever since, and it has left a black mark upon my memory that I would give a great deal to have obliterated, and I think I am safe in believing that many of you can testify to the same thing. There is only one good place for these novels, and that is in the fire, but how much easier it would be to stop the publication of them than to destroy them after they once get started,

To my mind the next worst form of reading is the *Police Gazette* and papers of that kind. They are all filled with an account of all the crimes and lawlessness that are committed in the land, and are illustrated with the vilest

of obscene pictures. Outside of the pictures they do not have the fascination for the boys that the yellow novels have, but their influence upon society is just as demoralizing. If it were not for this kind of papers, how long think you, would it be before the interest, now manifested by the people at large, in prize fights, ball games, horse trots and similiar modes of gambling, would decline? I think it would be less than one year. So let us all unite and not buy a single issue of the *Saturday Globe*, *Police Gazette*, or any paper of that description, for we can always get too much of such reading, for our own good, out of our regular daily and weekly newspapers.

Next comes the thousands of story papers that are sown broadcast upon our land, filled with stories, that if they ever had a moral it was lost in the writing, for you can read a hundred and ninety-nine, and all of them end the same way. The evils resulting from the reading of this kind of matter is not so marked as that of the two former kinds, yet these stories fill the mind with chips, so that there is no room for the wholesome food, and I can only say, do not subscribe for any of this kind of papers.

Now there is one other kind, wholly different from any of which I have spoken, the moral of which is not altogether bad, and yet after reading two or three hundred pages of some of them, it would puzzle you to find the moral. I refer to the fashionable novel of to-day. It is a question in my mind whether it is profitable to cover our shelves and tables with this kind of reading for our children to peruse; whether there is not a better way to get the little grain contained in them, than to swallow so much chaff. This question of proper literature for the young, as well as the old, is a question that every one will have to settle for himself, yet it will not harm us any to compare notes, exchange thoughts, and give to the world what light we have upon the subject.

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