

# The Young Man and His Problem

By JAMES L. GORDON

## A CONQUERING RACE.

Englishmen, Scotchmen, Welshmen, Irishmen, Canadians, and Americans all belong to one race—the English-speaking race. Either by birth or by force of circumstances we are identified with the foremost race in the world. A book written in German is read by Germans. A book written in French is read by Frenchmen. A book written in Spanish is read by Spaniards, but a book written in English is read by the world. In the year 1700 there were 6,000,000 English-speaking people. In 1800 there were 20,000,000. In 1900 there were 130,000,000. Years ago Gladstone predicted that in the year 2,000 there would be 800,000,000 people speaking the English language. We move on the high tide of time. Let us be true to our origin, history and destiny.

## TIME AND I AGAINST ANY TWO.

"Time and I against any two" was the watchword and maxim of Cardinal Mazarin. "Time and I," what a splendid combination! The man of genius never spends his time mourning over reverses and defeats. He never groans over a defeat nor gloats over a victory. He simply plods on. His motto is "Time and I against any two." Think of James G. Blaine, the morning after his defeat as a presidential candidate (the great dream of his life blasted) calmly going to work on an entirely new enterprise, and writing the first pages of his great book: "Twenty Years in Congress," now a classic in the political literature of the United States. Plod on my friend. Time is a great factor in any splendid achievement.

## NOBODY OR SOMEBODY.

When an old Bishop of the Methodist Church was examining a group of candidates for the ministry, he asked them "Are you willing to be a nobody in Christ's service?" and every one of them piously exclaimed, "Yes!" "Then," said the old bishop, "You are a poor lot, I have no use for you!" The quality of ambition must enter into every successful life. "I mean to be somebody," said Lincoln. "I am determined to be famous," said Tennyson. "I will write a history which the world will be compelled to read," said Macaulay. Even in the sacred office of the ministry a man ought to be determined to preach the best possible sermon and command the largest possible hearing.

## THE STRENUOUS LIFE.

The year 1906 was one of the most successful years viewed from a commercial standpoint, and yet 10,000 people committed suicide in the United States. The fact is that life is becoming more and more intense. Take New York City for an example. Every minute an immigrant arrives. Every three minutes someone is arrested. Every six minutes a child is born. Every seven minutes some one is buried. Every forty-five minutes a building catches fire. Every hour a ship arrives. Every hour a train departs. Every seven hours some one fails in business. Every twenty-four hours somebody commits suicide. City life is intense, and for this intensity there is only one remedy—relaxation.

## WEALTH AND POVERTY.

On the continent of North America there are at the present moment 100,000 paupers, 100,000 criminals in prison, 20,000 youths in reformatories, and 100,000 women leading lives of shame. In contrast with such poverty, think of the massing of wealth in the Republic. There are over 5,000 millionaires in the United States, 68 millionaires in Cleveland, 75 in Cincinnati, 60 in Baltimore, 35 in St. Paul, 50 in Minneapolis, 200 in Detroit, 500 in New York State, and 1200 in New York City. In one of the finest parts of New York City there is a mile of residences, each one the home of a millionaire—a mile of millionaires. When men of wealth consecrate themselves to the needs of humanity, a new day will dawn.

## CONSCIENCE AND THE PREACHER.

Hugh Latimer was true to his conscience when, standing in the presence of King Henry VIII, he exclaimed in the midst of his sermon: "Latimer, Latimer, Latimer,

remember thou art in the presence of thy King! Heed well what thou sayest to him." And then pausing for a moment he added, "Latimer, Latimer, Latimer, remember that thou art in the presence of the King of Kings, heed well what thou sayest!" There are two kings—King Temporal and King Eternal. Conscience always speaks for the King Eternal. When conscience is attuned to the Eternal, there is peace in the soul.

## FORCE OF HABIT.

Strict economy is a fine thing—up to a given point. The man who takes care of the pennies will find that in due time the dollars will take care of him. But there is a species of economy which tends toward meanness. There is a family in New York whose wealth has rolled up into many millions. The founder of that vast estate was a man who would send back a package of tacks because they cost two cents more than he expected. The owner of twenty millions grew thoughtful over a package of tacks! The secret of his success was the curse of his success. He could not relax. At 70 years of age he must bow down to a package of tacks, and worry his soul about two cents.

## MONEY—BLINDNESS.

Rev. Robert Hall, when conversing with a clergyman who had obtained a lucrative position by a sacrifice of his religious convictions, pressed hard upon the mind of his selfish neighbour that a principle of fundamental importance had been sacrificed. "I can't see it—I can't see it at all!" said the dodging theologian. Then Dr. Hall took a letter out of his pocket and wrote on the back of it with his pencil, in small letters, the word "God." "Do you see that?" He answered, "Yes!" Then he covered the word God with a piece of gold. "Do you see it now?" "No!" "Good morning, sir," said Dr. Hall, and left him to his meditations.

## KINGLY MEN.

A young man, very unwisely, informed the superintendent of a railroad division that he would like to secure a position on the road "where the hours were short, the work light, the occupation clean and the compensation good." The president replied, "There is only one position of that sort on this road. I've got it! And I don't propose to resign." Railroad officials are not looking for men who are looking for easy places. Men who love hard work and can conquer difficulties are never long out of a position. Kingly men command the best. You remember what the Tudor King said to the Irishman, "If all Ireland cannot govern the Earl of Kildare, then let the Earl of Kildare govern Ireland."

## COURAGE!

There are seven kinds of courage. What the young beginner needs is the first kind. The young preacher facing his first congregation. The young lawyer facing his first jury. The young physician waiting for his first patient. The young teacher presiding over his first class. The young actor battling with his first season. The young merchant waiting upon his first customer. Beginnings are always difficult. The young soldier in his first battle is a fine illustration. Two soldiers were charging up a hill with a regiment, in a desperate attempt to capture a battery. When half-way up, one of them turned to the other and said, "Why you are pale as a sheet! You look like a ghost. I believe that you are afraid." "Yes, I am," was the answer. "And if you were half as much afraid as I am you would have run long ago."

## AN ARMY OF QUALITY.

Cromwell was forty-two when he was called from his farm at Huntingdon to organize an army and make history. His famous "Ironsides" was a regiment composed of one thousand men. A regiment which was never defeated though often facing an enemy stronger than they by two to one. His was an army built on quality. One thousand men, and every man a man of prayer,

every man a Bible student, every man a Puritan. One thousand men, and every man a man of conscience. No wonder that they were never defeated and that an enemy called the great leader "Ironsides."

## FRANCES E. WILLARD.

What a fine blending of mental gifts and moral traits was to be found in the life and character of Frances E. Willard. She possessed a body compact and strong, yet delicate as an Eolian harp. Her voice was as sweet as a flute, yet thousands could hear her speak. What a fine blending of rare common sense, and insight into human nature! Memory, reason, tact, sympathy, imagination, enthusiasm and courage—these all belonged to this little finely constructed woman. What success she achieved as a speaker, writer and organizer! Mental gifts in equal blending, and physical traits in perfect proportion—these we should covet. Ask not for a striking personality but rather that you may be even, all round and well proportioned.

## OLIVER CROMWELL.

The heart of humanity is hungry for heroes, and history has furnished an ample supply of great men and great women. A strong man is never an accident. God has a man for every emergency, and an emergency for every man. The hero's name is a name to conjure with. In it there is inspiration and life. Such a name is Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the English Commonwealth. "Nature's lion-hearted son." "A man for all the ages to admire." "The great Independent." "The most royal name in English history." "The maker of modern England." "The most English of Englishmen." These are some of the titles and appellations applied to him by Thomas Carlyle. He was the greatest statesman and the most successful general of his age. Under his reign England became a European power of the first rank.

## A CLEAR CONSCIENCE.

There is no music so sweet as the inward whisperings of a clear conscience. Men have died supremely happy amid the horrible tortures of martyrdom because of a strange inward peace. There is no peace for a man when his conscience is against him. There is no struggle too great when conscience keeps you company. George Whitefield's house was near the village inn. One night he was aroused from his slumbers by the loud voices of cursing, drunken gamblers. He arose, entered the inn and rebuked the gamblers and then returned to his couch, but the gambling continued and the voices of the jolly, sinful crew might be heard a block away. In the morning the friend who was his guest for the night twitted him on account of his unsuccessful effort to silence his gambling neighbors.—"What did you gain by it, anyhow?" inquired his friend. The great evangelist replied: "What did I gain by it? A clear conscience, a soft pillow, and a sound sleep!" Make a friend of your conscience. Listen to the still small voice within. There is music in the soul when conscience is your friend.

## HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH?

A strong personality is supposed to be usually found linked with large physical proportions. When we hear of a great man we naturally think of a large man. Bigness and greatness are supposed to be cousins. But some of the greatest thinkers, writers and speakers, not to mention other callings and professions, have been slender in form, light in weight and not unusual for height. The great thing necessary in building a strong personality is fineness of texture, balance, evenness and proportion. You may be strong without being heavy. You may be mighty without being weighty. There is a type of oratory which requires a strong physical basis—but I am not sure that it is the highest type.

Character is what you are. Reputation is what you are supposed to be. Success is achievement. Goodness is the quality. Greatness is the measure or proportion of the man compared with other men. Work, as a rule, Will not worry you, If you work at your work And worry it through. The gas jet which makes the most noise doesn't always afford the most light. The great forces of the world are the silent forces. The great orb of day, the sun, rises so quietly in the morning that some of us sleep on for hours after he has prepared his morning twilight, unconscious of his all-pervading presence.



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