

THE YOUNG MAN AND HIS PROBLEM

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"I ACCEPT THE UNIVERSE"

Nature's laws indicate the divine program. These laws are in operation in your body and brain. You would do well to study them, and know them. You cannot break the laws of nature, but they may break you. He who, by the neglect of the body, violates the laws of nature breaks his health—and shortens his life. And there are no exceptions. Nature is absolutely democratic. King and clown, prince and peasant, giant and pigmy, millionaire and beggar, all stand or fall as they obey or disobey the law. Nature has no favorites. "I'll accept the universe," is reported to have been a favorite utterance of the New England transcendentalist, Margaret Fuller; and when some one repeated this phrase to Thomas Carlyle, his sardonic comment is said to have been: "Gad! she'd better!"

THE TIME CLOCK

Punch the time clock early in life. An hour before you are forty is worth a day after you are in your fifth decade, albeit, when you are forty-five you will have no time to spare. When you are young be generous with your money, if you will, but let no man rob you of your time. You may find an infallible "hair restorer" (we have not), but time never comes back. The early year are of more importance than the later years, because, for some achievements, the brain is more flexible. Dr. Samuel Johnson, the English philosopher, said:—"John Wesley's conversation is good, but he is never at leisure. He is always obliged to go at a certain hour. This is very disagreeable to a man who loves to fold his legs and have out his talk, as I do."

OVER CONFIDENT

The best phrenological blend is large caution linked with large hope. The man who possesses this blend of mental qualities will probably be the possessor of a "square" head—broad in the width of the brow, broad in its background and broad between the ears. Mark the specifications: "Large Caution linked with Large Hope." Hope lead us forward. Caution lead us right. Alexander K. McClure says concerning General Hooker, who failed as a general through over confidence:—"He was a gay cavalier, alert and confident, overflowing with animal spirits, and as cheery as a boy. One of his most frequent expressions when talking with the President was, 'When I get to Richmond,' or 'After we have taken Richmond,' etc. The President, noting this, said to me confidently, and with a sigh: 'That is the most depressing thing about Hooker. It seems to me that he is over-confident.'"

PETER COOPER

Get through with chance, luck and fate. The "lucky" circumstance usually favors the man who is the master of events. "Get-rich-quick" schemes usually land the fools of finance in the ditch of dire poverty. The man who gets his money "easy" has no proper conception of its value. Easy come, easy go. In Lester's Life of Peter Cooper, we read: "In his seventeenth year, stirred with a higher ambition, the boy came to New York to start in life for himself. He had accumulated \$10 of his own money, and, thinking to augment it rapidly, he invested his capital in a lottery ticket. He lost it, of course, as millions of other fools have since. But he never regretted it, and he often recalled the fact with good-humor and thankfulness, for he said it was 'the cheapest piece of knowledge he ever bought.'"

REMORSE

There is a safe path in life. There are some things which always work out well. Sympathy creates love. Kindness wins tender regard. Careful consideration for others creates social respect. The years will tell. Humanity does not forget. The memory of some individual soul will enshrine thee. And, then, listen to thine own memory. What of that? Would you have your memory be kind to thee—then, be kind to thy memory. T. De Witt Talmage is using a classic illustration when he says: "Thomas Carlyle spent the last twenty years of his life in trying by his pen to atone for the fact that during his wife's life he never appreciated her influence on his career and destiny. Alas, that having taken her from a beautiful home and a brilliant career, he should have buried her in the home of a recluse and scolded her in such language as only a dyspeptic genius could use, until one day when in her invalidism riding in Hyde Park, her pet dog was run over, and under the excitement the coachman found her dead."

JOY

Get a little joy out of every day. A little laughter, a little rest, a little music, a little exercise, a little diversion and a little recreation. The great journey which you have planned for yourself may never materialize. That beautiful vacation which you dream of may never occur. The plans of life are apt to prove a disappointment. Joys, pleasures and mountain top experiences are prone to come into our lives as surprises. So watch the passing hour and make the most of to-day. "When I was a boy," said Thackeray, "I wanted some taffy. It was a shilling; I hadn't one. When I was a man I had a shilling, but I didn't want any taffy."

HONOR YOUR CO-LABORER

A big man always gathers big men around him, and he rejoices not only in his own success but in the equally successful achievements of those who are laboring with him. Andrew Carnegie had thirty partners who helped him to achieve his "three hundred million," and whom he never ceased to honor. Brave generals have, again and again, praised their subordinates, and screened themselves, modestly, from public applause, while the commander who has insisted upon having all the credit, has gone down in history with a questionable reputation. How generous was Admiral Nelson in lavishing praise—"If I were to make all my brave officers admirals I should have no captains or lieutenants left."

ARNOLD OF RUGBY

Every man of average success is a social superior to somebody. If you belong to the successful class somebody "looks up to you". Since you have been successful you ought to be kind—kind to everybody, because everybody has assisted you in your success. You are meeting people every day who regard you with awe, and therefore hesitate to approach you. You should know this, and walk in the garments of a noble simplicity. It will be well for you if you can create a reputation for "approachability". Here are two compliments paid to Arnold of Rugby: "I never knew such a humble man as the Doctor," said the parish clerk at Laleham, after he had revisited it from Rugby; "he comes and shakes us by the hand as if he was one of us." "He used to come into my house," said an old woman near his place in Westmoreland, "and talk to me as if I was a lady."

SIZE HIM UP

Study human nature. Everything about a man—his hair, complexion, garments, language and gestures—is an indication of character. Your first impression, even though you cannot analyze it, is apt to be correct. You can tell much from a man's conversation. Poor grammar indicates a lack of mental training. "Slang" would seem to suggest inferior associations. Vulgarities in manner bespeak poor breeding. You should be able to take humanity and scientifically sort, arrange and classify. Lord Chesterfield said to his son: "You must look into people, as well as at them. Almost all people are born with all the passions, to a certain degree; but almost every man has a prevailing one, to which the others are ordinate."

HOW MUCH IT COSTS

I have read scores of volumes to find something fit to quote and comment upon in the columns of The Western Home Monthly, for through the pages of this periodical I address a vast multitude, but in all my searchings I have seldom found anything sweeter than this closing paragraph and I pass it over without comments: "It was Ary Scheffer's mother whose beautiful features the painter so loved to reproduce in his pictures of Beatrice, St. Monica, and others of his works—that encouraged his study of art, and by great self-denial provided him with the means of pursuing it. While living at Dordrecht in Holland, she first sent him to Lille to study, and afterwards to Paris; and her letters to him, while absent, were always full of sound, motherly advice and affectionate womanly sympathy. 'If you could but see me,' she wrote on one occasion, 'kissing your picture, then, after a while, taking it up again, and, with a tear in my eye, calling you 'my beloved son,' you would comprehend what it costs me to use sometimes the stern language of authority, and to occasion to you moments of pain. . . . Work diligently—be, above all, modest and humble; and when you find yourself excelling others, then compare what you have done with Nature itself, or with the 'ideal' of your own mind, and you will be secured, by the contrast which will be apparent, against the effects of pride and presumption.'"

SHORT CUTS

This is the age of the short cut. Humanity is seated at the "quick lunch" counter. Our garments are repaired while we "wait." Our teeth are extracted "without pain." We read of a scientific religion to be learned in a course of twelve lessons, "French in Six Weeks," the "Science of Health" in three volumes, and "every man his own lawyer." In view of these things, it is interesting to con the words of a certain college professor who resides in the United States: "Nothing but steady and undivided attention can enable one to master a foreign language. All this 'Latin without a Master,' and 'Greek in Six Weeks,' is the merest catchpenny humbug. One must read and translate hundreds of pages from the foreign into the native, and from the native into the foreign tongue, before one can use either correctly. I know of only three Germans in the United States who have mastered English: I mean Mr. Carl Schurz, the late Professor Schem, and John B. Stallo of Ohio; and of only one American who has mastered German, Mr. Bayard Taylor. The rest are mere smatterers, who have learned just enough 'to get along,' and this is all they wanted to do."

HIGH LIVERS

The poor student needs little of our sympathy. He has a strange faculty for "getting there." He not only carries off the prizes in college, but he walks around his wealthier comrades after he gets out of college. Plain living and high thinking reside on the same street; and the student who marches to the silvery jingle of a full pocket has a strange way of gravitating toward the rear end of the class. The following will interest our student friends in Manitoba and elsewhere: "A dispatch from New Haven states that the Yale 'high livers' have got a bad blow in Dean Wright's report on scholarship. It appears that the wealthy students living in the expensive private dormitories are, in general, very poor scholars. What does the Dean imagine they go to college for, anyway? To become pale-faced grubbers in books? Well, hardly. And to offset all the doleful figures about poor standing, they have another set which is a complete vindication of their course. Of the eighty men recently taken into the junior fraternities, seventy came from the dormitories with Persian apparatus, and only eight from the poverty-stricken rooms on the campus. The sooner our college authorities find out that in social advantages all the honor lies, the sooner they will show that they understand their Philistia."

A SPLENDID EXCUSE

An excuse is an agreeable reason which a man presents when he refuses to do something which he does not care to do. Instead of coming out bluntly and affirming, positively, "I won't do it," he offers an "excuse." That is, he gives an agreeable reason for not doing that which his neighbor requests. And it is well to have an excuse. It very often seems to be a social necessity. It certainly adds a covering of velvet to the hard wood of life's equipment. A solid man presents a solid excuse. I cannot think of a better excuse, in a matter of a questionable amusement, than that a young man should be able to say: "I promised my mother—or my wife—or my fair friend—that I would not do this thing." Dr. J. M. Buckley writes: "Edward Payson Weston, who is in his line as much of a wonder as the Wright Brothers, will not walk as a show or for pay on Sunday. Thirty or forty years ago his mother asked him to promise that he would not exhibit himself or his walking in any way on Sunday, and he has never broken the promise."

BE POSITIVE

When you are ignorant, be silent. When you are informed—be positive. Positive, not so much in having your own way, as in expressing your own conviction. In many cases it is wise to act with men against your own judgment—but let your judgment be known. By and by, he "who headed for a hole," when he has reached the dismal spot will remember that you expressed a judgment which would have led him in a safer and saner direction. But have a mind of your own and, where your own destiny is involved, not only express your own views, but follow your own judgment. The partner of Abraham Lincoln said: "The question has never yet been answered. While he was never vain or boastful of his own signal strength, his innate ability to sway, his power to convince. 'It is absurd,' wrote John Hay, 'to call Lincoln a modest man. No really great man was ever modest. It was his intellectual arrogance and unconscious assumption of superiority that such men as Sewar, Chase, and Sumner could never forgive.'"