

President McKinley's Words to the Boys of America.

(By Henry S. Pritchett, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in the 'Youth's Companion.')

Our country is one in which there is entire freedom of speech. The newspapers discuss not only the public actions of our officials, but picture their private life and their individual failings with a completeness of detail known in no other land. In the main this newspaper criticism is doubtless a wholesome influence in our political life. But at times so much has been said of the shortcomings of our public men that many readers lose sight of their faithful service, and come to suspect the motives of all men in office.

When I resigned my government post under Mr. McKinley, the President, as he said a word of good-by to me, spoke of his interest in the boys of the United States, and of his wish that they might have a high appreciation of a life spent in their country's service.

'Some years ago,' he remarked, 'I had an experience with a boy of eighteen which made a deep impression upon me. I was in Congress at the time, and under the operation of the law an appointment to the Naval Academy at Annapolis was at my disposal. I was anxious to send a good representative, and looked about the district for a bright, capable boy, ambitious for a naval career.'

'None of the candidates seemed promising, and I finally decided to submit the choice of a cadet to a competitive examination. A day or two after this announcement had been made and a date had been set for the examination I received a visit from a boy who desired the appointment.'

'He was an alert, active, fine-looking fellow, who at once won my heart; and as he seemed most eager for the appointment and excellently qualified for the life, I sincerely regretted that I had not met him earlier, so that I might have given him the appointment outright. As it was, I urged him to enter the examination, and felt sure that with his fine preparation he would have no difficulty in winning the place.'

'A few days later I received a letter from the young man, stating that he felt he would be most unhappy if he failed of the appointment, and requesting me to withdraw the announcement of the public examination and appoint him without competition. Enclosed in the letter was a cheque for several thousand dollars, drawn on a New York bank to my order.'

'Never,' said the President, 'in all my public life have I suffered a moment of such humiliation as the reading of this letter cost me.'

'When I felt that I could speak calmly, I sent for the boy, gave back to him his letter and his cheque, and explained that my relations with him were at an end.'

'"And, now," said I, "let me ask you one question: What have you known of my life, public or private, and what have you known of other men in office, which could make you, at your age, imagine that a Congressman of the United States would accept a bribe?"

'I was profoundly moved myself, and the boy was deeply affected, perhaps more by my manner than by my question. Amid his sobs he explained that he had desired a place in the navy beyond all other things; that he had read in some paper that all Congressmen accepted money for such appointments, and that he had consulted a politician in the neighboring village, who assured

him that the payment of such a sum as he had tendered would secure the appointment he sought.

'I sent the boy away,' said the President, 'with such words as I thought might minister to his self-respect, and might give him correct ideas of his relations with honest men. But the experience has ever since left a sore spot in my heart. I had never before realized how a bad man and a careless newspaper could pervert the ideals of a boy's mind.'

'God knows there is enough of selfishness and of greed in public life, as in all our human relations, but I wish there were some way in which boys in their school-days might be shown that these qualities are stumbling-blocks, not stepping-stones, in the way to political success. I would have our boys taught that to serve the government faithfully is one of the noblest of callings; I would like to see them led to some better appreciation of the service of good men in public life, and I would keep before their minds the fact that dishonesty and trickery work out the same consequences in political life, upon those who use them, which their practice brings in any other calling. I would have the boys of this country know that its public men are honest men, and that they have high ideals and noble ends in view.'

The man who spoke these words will never speak again. In his death he has drawn to him, in larger measure than any other American of his generation, the love and the confidence of his fellow countrymen. It would be fortunate indeed for our future if these words of his to the boys of America might be heard by them and received in the spirit of him who spoke them.

Diamonds Pay for Bible Translation.

Some time since I was sitting at breakfast in the house of a well-to-do friend in the South. After breakfast the letters were brought in, and I noticed my hostess appeared to be almost overcome with excitement and emotion at one packet which she had just received. In a moment or two she came up to me and said: 'I feel quite excited this morning, and, at the same time, overcome with joy; and I want to tell you about it, as it especially concerns you.'

I was naturally, of course, interested, and my curiosity was greatly aroused as to how any packet of books which she had received could in any way concern me.

She said, 'Do you remember, over a year ago, sitting opposite to me at the luncheon table, after the morning meeting at—?' (a certain convention which we had both attended).

I said, 'Yes, I remember it very well.'

'Well, it relates to that time. As you sat opposite to me on that occasion I noticed that you were particularly observing the many rings I had on my fingers. They were very costly, and set with large and valuable diamonds. I thought I saw such a look of grief upon your face when you saw my rings, and I had so felt the power of the appeal you had previously been making in the convention for the definite consecration of ourselves and all we had to the Lord that, although you never mentioned them to me, I felt so miserable about wearing them that I determined at once to give them up for the Lord's work. I accordingly sold them, and realized a good sum of money for them. This money I have laid out in engaging a certain man, a well-known scholar, to translate this book, the Bible, for the use of the Jews. During the whole of last year in his spare moments he has devoted himself to

this task, and I have been most prayerfully supplicating God to help him in this difficult but blessed work. And now for some little time I have been expecting to receive the first copies of this work. This morning's post has brought them. Here they are. Look at them, and, as you look at them, remember that this edition, both in the translation and in the printing, has all been paid for by the sale of the jewellery which was given up to God as my act of consecration since that time when you sat opposite to me at luncheon, and I saw the look of grief, as I believed, on your face at the sight of my diamond rings.'

You may naturally imagine how very astonished I was. Certainly I had noticed the rings, but I was not aware that any exceptional or peculiar expression had appeared on my face at the time that I noticed them. Possibly, or probably, God had then given me some expression which I was not personally conscious of, but which He had used to do a work that He wanted to do. Certainly there was no particular credit due to me. I praised God for the way in which He had led His dear servant to consecrate herself and I could not but recognize how wonderfully His Holy Spirit can use a look or a word to work out a wonderful purpose when there is a right heart which lends itself to the leading of His Holy Spirit.—'The Life of Faith.'

News.

News! news of a great disaster!
The fall of a favored race:
Mental, man, and master
Fallen in dire disgrace.

News! news of an awful famine,
And myriads down in death:
A plague that has blasted nations,
And stifled man's vital breath.

News! news of a mighty battle!
The Prince of the world of Light
Slaying the hosts of darkness,
And wounding the Prince of Night.

News! news of a coronation!
A kingdom of love and peace:
The King of a world's salvation,
A reign that will never cease.

News! news of a Royal Pardon
For rebels condemned to die!
Whom terrors and fears but harden:
For all who in faith reply.

News! news of a golden fortune!
A rich and a free estate:
A right to a Royal portion,
Above all that earth calls great.

News! news of the coming glory!
The King in His Royal car.
He cometh! tell out the story.
Go, publish the news afar!

News! news of a birth! Beloved,
Say, is it thy birth? Behold!
The angels of God will publish
Such news through the Streets of Gold.
—William Luff, in 'British Messenger.'

The Find-the-Place Almanac

TEXTS IN PROVERBS.

Nov. 10, Sun.—The path of the just is as the shining light.

Nov. 11, Mon.—Keep thy heart with all diligence.

Nov. 12, Tues.—The ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord.

Nov. 13, Wed.—My mouth shall speak truth.

Nov. 14, Thur.—Wisdom is better than rubies.

Nov. 15, Fri.—I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Nov. 16, Sat.—Be wise.