

## TO BOYS COMMENCING BUSINESS.

**B**E on hand promptly in the morning at your place of business, and make it a point never to be late, and perform cheerfully every duty. Be respectful to your employers and to all in authority over you, and be polite to every one; politeness costs nothing, and it will help you wonderfully in getting along in the world. And above all, be honest and truthful. The boy who starts in life with a sound mind in a sound body, who falls into no bad habits, who is honest, truthful and industrious, who remembers with grateful love his father and mother, and who does not grow away from church and Sunday-school, has qualities of mind and heart that will ensure him success to a remarkable degree, even though he is endowed with only ordinary mental capacity; for honor, truth and industry are more than genius.

Don't be foppish in your dress, and don't buy anything before you have the money to pay for it. Shun billiard saloons, and be careful how you spend the evenings. Cultivate a taste for reading, and read only good books. With a love for reading, you will find in books friends ever true and full of cheer in time of gloom, and sweet companionship for lonely hours. Other friends may grow cold and forsake you, but books are always the same. And in closing, boys, I would say again, that with truth, honesty and industry, and a living faith in God, you will succeed.

Honor and shame from no condition rise;

Act well your part; there all the honor lies.—*Sel.*

## THE SINS OF ONE'S YOUTH.

**T**HERE is something very sad as well as instructive in David's prayer, "Remember not the sins of my youth." Zophar, in the Book of Job, says: "His bones are full of the sins of his youth." Not only can bodily diseases be traced to the indiscretions and disobedience of youth, but also confirmed habits and overmastering sins and hardened guilt.

It is a fateful truth that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Sow a thought and reap a desire; sow a desire and reap an act; sow an act and reap a habit; sow a habit and reap a life; sow a life and reap an eternity. The reaping must be the same in kind and manifold in degree.

These sins of youth will have their revenge in bodily ailments and mental associations and spiritual temptations. Grace does not affect them, nor can one grow out of them. The stains and sears and crooks remain through all the growth. God may have forgiven them, but one cannot forget them, nor cease to blush at their remembrance. Most of the sins of age are but the outbursts of the pent-up sins

of youth. It is found that the large majority of criminals become such before twenty-one years of age. At that age one becomes cautious and takes fewer risks. So also do the large majority of those who become Christians follow Christ in youth.

The only explanation of the sudden fall of some Christians, is that they were overcome by the accumulated force of the hidden sins of youth. The psalmist made God his portion from his youth, and became "a man after God's own heart." Yet the sins of youth overcame him at times of great temptation, and brought forth such bitter fruit in his sons, that the heart-broken cry was forced from him concerning Absalom:—"Is the young man safe?"

Nothing is more blessed than to be able to say of a young man, "He is safe," sound in growth. One does not care to ask so much, "Does he inherit wealth?" "Is he well educated?" "Is he smart?" as "Is he safe?" "Can he be trusted?" Trusted with himself and his future, as well as with property and confidence. A merchant could find any number of boys who were said to be smart, but only one who was faithful.

To be able to say that a young man is safe, he must have formed a character for manliness and godliness, which promises a fixed course of right thought and action and life with corresponding growth.

And nothing except the regenerating grace of God can so change and fix the character and life. No young man can save himself, nor can it be said of him that he is safe, until he is saved in Jesus Christ. The sins of youth will bring forth a harvest of sins in after life, unless the grace of God intervenes.—*New York Evangelist.*

## THE VALUE OF THE SABBATH.

**A** YOUNG man, write on your creed as with a diamond pen, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," and whenever you are tempted to swerve from the path it prescribes, repeat it with all the courage of a true man. How much easier to keep than to violate this great law! What stores of evidence does the Sabbath-breaker lay up for coming years! What a sterile old age awaits him, even if he survives his transgressions to that period, when the memory of his crimes will sicken his soul. What is the little self-denial that obedience costs contrasted with the sad recollections of a life all polluted with sin! Shall your life end in joyous hopes or black despair? "The way of the transgressor is hard," but his wages are sure.—*Christian Index.*

It is much better to be troubled for sin than by sin.