

# THE YOUNG MAN AND HIS PROBLEM.

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## SECRET SOURCES

Successful men have their own secret sources of supply. They do not live upon the surface. They do not follow a "hand to mouth existence." They do not permit circumstances to drive them. They work according to some well defined principle. They have, in store for themselves, well ordered moments of mental recuperation. They have planned for the necessary relief stations which are the spiritual guarantees of a strong and vigorous personality. They know the power of quiet communion with the infinite. They are not forever living in the limelight. Some of us are prone to forget the secret sources of power. It was for such that St. Chrysostom gave his famous counsel: "Depart from the highways and transplant thyself into some enclosed ground, for it is hard for a tree that stands by the wayside to keep its fruit till it be ripe."

## MAKE ALLOWANCES

Men differ. Children are sensitive. Women are quick to judge. Boys have a genius for inspection. Animals are cautious. Retail dealers are slow about large schemes. Boot-blacks are prone to study your feet. The hatter examines your headgear. The tailor inspects your garments. The jeweller has an eye upon your watch chain. The doctor diagnoses your complexion. The evangelist fixes his gaze on the blossom on your smelling apparatus. The "gents" furnishing goods clerk knows how much your tie cost. Every man looks at and judges the affairs of life from his own standpoint. So do not look for, or expect, that all men will agree. We remember the story of Sir Walter Raleigh, who, on hearing endless opposite accounts of an incident that occurred under his own windows, laughed at the idea of his writing a "History of the World."

## BE A CHURCHMAN

The church has a recognized place in the community. It is just as necessary as a piece of municipal furniture as the school, college, hotel, post office, city hall, fire department or the electrical power house. You could get along a good deal better without your police force than without your preacher or priest. Every man ought to support and attend the church whether he is a member or not. Church attendance is just as necessary to a full orbed character as exercise is indispensable to a proper circulation of the blood. Where else can we have our consciences quickened, our emotions stirred and our sacred memories revived? Dr. Bellows said: "I never knew one man or woman who steadily evaded the house of prayer and the public worship on the Lord's day, who habitually neglected it, and had a theory on which it was neglected, who did not come to grief and bring other people to grief."

## VISION HOURS

Your vision hour is a strange combination of mood and circumstance. It was just when you were in the mood that the doors of the spiritual world swung back for a moment and you were granted a vision, a dream, a sight, which will remain with you until the end of your earthly pilgrimage. Treasure the memory of the hour of your vision, for it was given to you for some particular purpose. Whether you knew it or not, in that hour, God was trying to reveal to you some special thought—some inspiring ideal—some grand revelation of truth. "I shall never forget," writes Bryant's oldest friend, Richard H. Dana, "with what feeling my friend Bryant, some years ago, described to me the effect produced upon him by his meeting for the first time with Wordsworth's ballads. He said that, upon opening the book, a thousand springs seemed to gush up at once in his heart, and the face of Nature, of a sudden, to change into a strange freshness and life. He had felt the sympathetic touch from an acceding mind, and you see how instantly his powers and affections shot over the earth and through his kind."

## DON'T DESPAIR

Don't despair! When close friends prove false, when health fails, when the crop is below the average, when money is tight, when all plans fail, when the weather is playing a new game of "hide and seek," when your business companions are acting strange, when your neighbors forget all about you in the hour of special social festivities, when circumstances seem to conspire to annoy, perplex and confuse. Remember you are not the only cobbler on the street to be struck by shinning hoof and ground by rolling wheels and swept by speeding tires—there are others. Read this from the pen of Tennyson: "Five hundred of my books are sold, according to Moxon's brother, I have made a sensation! I wish the woodworks would make a sensation! I expect they will," so wrote Tennyson to his brother-in-law

in September, 1842. The woodworks referred to an idea of wood-carving by machinery which had been conceived or adopted by Dr. Allen, a physician near Beachhill, and in which he persuaded Tennyson to invest all his capital. The bubble burst in 1844, leaving Tennyson penniless and his brothers and sisters impoverished. Hypochondria followed, and at one time his life was despaired of. "I have," he wrote, "drunk one of those most bitter draughts out of the cup of life, which go near to make men hate the world they move in." To his friends he was as inaccessible as ever. "I have written two notes to Alfred," writes FitzGerald, "to ask him just to notify his existence to me; but you know he is obstinate on that point."

## SERVANTS

Do not have too many servants. The king might have better health were he not served so well. But the preacher prays for him, the priest advises with him, the statesman thinks for him, the messenger walks for him, the man of genius writes for him, the social dictator plans for him, the coachman robs him of exercise and the cook shadows him with an over-abundance for diet and digestion. He is served too well. Man, serve yourself! Drive your own carriage, plant your own trees, carry your own burdens. Have a hand in the affairs of life. When Cyrus took one of his guests around his garden, the guest admired it greatly, and said he had much pleasure in it. "Ah," said Cyrus, "but you have not so much pleasure in this garden as I have, for I have planted every tree in it myself."

## THE RIGHT SIDE

Get on the right side—and stay there. For every question has a right side. And the man who is looking for the right side usually finds it. And, mark too, the man who gets into the habit of looking for and finding the right side of things turns toward it as by a divine instinct. From being right for a succession of times he becomes righteous in the very joints of his being. Not only can he find the right, easily, but the right finds him as by a law of natural selection. When a man is right, he is right for all time and when a man, dying, is in the wrong, he is in the wrong for all the future. "Literature will take care of itself," answered Mr. Pitt, when applied to for some help for Burns. "Yes," adds Mr. Southey, "it will take care of itself; and of you, too, if you do not look to it!"

## THE SILVER LINING

Be true—and even the adverse circumstances must bring you aid. The man who "writes you down" in the newspaper will make friends for you. The person who slanders your character will create advocates who will stand up and fight for you. The man who seeks to injure your business relationship will bring you purchasers and customers. "All things" have a strange way of "working together" in favor of the man who is right in his motive and upright in his life. Let nothing disturb you. Keep cool. Keep even. Keep sweet. When you are disturbed hide your feelings. When you are "snubbed"—laugh and wait. Wait for God to answer: Bernard Gilpin, accused of heresy before Bishop Bonner, set out for London for trial. His favorite maxim was, "All things are for the best." Upon his journey, he broke his leg. "Is all for the best now?" said a scornful companion. "I still believe so," he replied. So it proved; for before he was able to resume his journey, Queen Mary died, and instead of going to London to be burned, he returned home in triumph.

## A HAPPY MARRIAGE

Nothing will ever bring you so much of solid peace as a happy marriage. A happy marriage means a master motive for all high achievement, a secure refuge in the hour of storm, a divine partnership in all the joys, pleasures and serene satisfactions of life, a resting place amid the turmoil of life's confusion, a centre for social reconstruction and mental recapitulation—a "holy of holies" for the heart and soul. The biographer of Nathaniel Hawthorne remarks: Perhaps many love letters contain sentiments as sweet to the recipient as what Hawthorne wrote Sophia in 1840, but he who "always washed his hands before reading a letter from her" could say of a truth: "I never till now had a friend who could give me repose; all have disturbed me; and whether for pleasure or pain, it was still disturbance. But peace overflows from your heart to mine." In speaking of the years of gloom spent in childhood and youth at Salem, writing from Salem to Sophia, he says: "I had walked those many years in darkness, and might so have walked through life, with only a dreamy notion that there was any light in the universe if you had not kissed my eyelids and given me to see. You have always been positively happy. Not so I; I have only not been miserable."

## SIN'S SHADOW

Sin has a shadow. Sin results in a reaction. There is something which always comes back to us after we have sinned. You can express the fact in any language you see fit—but the fact is ever the same. Sin casts a shadow. Paul puts it in the following terse sentence: "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." The persecuting bishop who suggested to Louis XI. the torture of the iron cage and with diabolical ingenuity contrived it so that the victim could neither stand up in it nor lie down, himself was imprisoned in it and learned by painful experience what an instrument of misery he had devised. Our evil designs and intentions always come back to us.

## THE WHOLE MAN

Concentration is the secret of success. Concentration means that all the strength of one personality shall converge at one point. It means that the razorlike edge shall feel the compelling power of the heavy end of the wedge. It means that the banks of the river shall be near and high. It means that three great inland seas called "lakes" shall create a Niagara River and that the narrowing river shall leap, in a moment of vast strength, into whirlpool and rapids. It means that wandering winds shall be organized into whirlwinds and whirlwinds into tornadoes and cyclones. Concentration means the application of all the strength of one personality on one vital problem.

## BE KIND

Remember, all men are not as strong as you are. Some men have passions which burn fiercely. Some men have emotions as tempestuous as a rough sea. Some men have inherited appetites which are as uncertain as a March wind. Some men have less will power than a normal child of three years. Some men have been unfortunate in birth, environment, home life, education, circumstances and destiny. Never excuse yourself but toward all unfortunate ones—be kind! Julia Ward Howe once remarked: It is related of the famous Beau Brummel that a gentleman who called upon him one morning met a valet carrying away a tray of neckcloths, more or less disordered. "What are these?" asked the visitor; and the servant replied, "These are our failures." Even thus may society point to the criminals whom she dismisses from her presence. Of these men and women, whom she has failed to train in the ways of virtue and of industry, she may well say: "These are our failures."

## GRATITUDE

Certain people seem to be incapable of gratitude. We have lectured, free, for organizations which never said "Thank you!" We have surrendered a handsome and convenient "lower berth" on a railroad train, which we had secured after much labor and effort, to some frail specimen of humanity, who instead of expressing her appreciation of our generosity acted as if the favor we had bestowed upon her belonged to her by an inherent right. We have turned over every stone in the pathway of human circumstance in order to help a man onward in life and then become conscious of the fact that the man imagined that we were doing it all for some material gain which might come to us. Mrs. Thomas Carlyle once said concerning her husband: "I like," she said, "to give people presents anonymously that they may guess from whom they come; once I gave him an umbrella as a birthday gift, but he is so stupid that he used it for a whole year without knowing who was the giver."

## A POOR RETURN

It is a poor return for kindness when a boy who has been adopted into a wealthy and cultured home returns cruelty for kindness and acts in such a way as to pain his benefactors and bring dishonor on their good name. And yet this thing is happening again and again and the most outstanding illustration of it is to be found in the following sad paragraph: "Mr. John Morley, the author of the Life of Gladstone, and one of the most eminent statesmen commoners, in his declining years has taken on himself a heavy burden. A step-son, whom he educated and for whom he secured a partnership in a publishing house by paying a large sum, forged Mr. Morley's name to bills amounting to nearly \$100,000. He has been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. Mr. Morley has undertaken to make good the whole amount, using all he has saved and pledging a large annual payment for several years. To raise these payments he has accepted a membership in the House of Lords, for which he has strong repugnance, in order that he may remain a cabinet minister, the salary of that office being \$25,000."