

suddenness and force of a typhoon. Ancient custom, wise precepts, and time-honored restraints, are torn to pieces and flung aside, and the youth rushes headlong in a mad career of dissipation and vice. No check or stop he knows, until the gale of passion has spent itself and the youth lies stranded on the rocks of disease and poverty. In others, the awakening is as gentle and as beautiful as the opening of the rosebud.

THE VIOLENCE OF THE PASSIONS of youth has led many to regard youth as the age of vice and crime. Corré asserted that "out of 26,000 evil-doers arrested in Paris in one year, 16,000 were less than twenty years of age." Morrison says, "Most of the recruits of the criminal population are to be found among lads of between sixteen and twenty-one." (Crime p. 169.) Another has said, "Inebriation is the characteristic vice of youth."

While it is true that the youth in the first days of his freedom is apt to emphasize his liberty by going to excess, there is another side of his nature that makes him more amenable than before to the claims of others. The social instinct blossoms out in youth. This is the time when vows are made, pledges are given, and obligations are entered into with willingness, although they may entail great sacrifices.

In youth, too, fear of the law is supplanted by

DEVOTION TO AN IDEAL

The ideal may be embodied in a hero whom the youth worships, or it may appear as some Holy Grail. In whatever form it appears, it reveals the youth becoming less selfish and more altruistic. The boy's life is centered in self. He may not be effusively selfish, but he is the centre of his little world. The youth becomes acutely conscious of the antitheses between self and others, and to the unthinking may appear more selfish; but he is also more susceptible to the appeals of others, and is capable of abandoning self and devoting all his powers to the service of others. We must, however, reserve for another article the social characteristics of the youth.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S.

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