

THE FAMILY.

A WORD TO THE BOYS.

In a few years more our boys of to-day will be men, and we would like to impress them with the thought that now is the time for them to make their resolves for the future and to pave the way to success in life. We cannot do better than endorse the following article by a writer in the *Christian World* of Ohio. Read it carefully boys. He says:

Every boy of noble heart and honest purpose seeks to make life a success. What success is, may be difficult for any boy in the formative period of life to understand, and not until he begins to bear the responsibilities of active service is he able to define what constitutes a man successful. The first thought of every ambitious boy is success. He dreams of vast fortunes and large commercial pursuits, he fancies if he could walk in the royal road to success, in any point of view, he would gladly deny himself of many pleasures to realize his fondest hopes and achieve the coveted boon. Success in life is, however, not always so readily and easily attained, and what may seem to him the possession of an easy life is but the product of constant, persevering toil and strict economy. Success is not in wealth, not in the enjoyment of the vanities of the millionaire. It is not to live in the abundance of the good things of this life, but success is more than all these combined. Its aims are higher, and its aspirations more lofty; inasmuch as to be truly successful we must be pre-eminently honest and industrious, as well as scrupulously economical and sincerely benevolent. The boy has many imaginary views of the future, and looks upon certain men of mature experience as models of success, and yet has no conception of the trials and hardships they pass to attain this distinction. Hence, much comes by experience, and much by favorable circumstances. One man may rise to eminence and distinction with comparative ease, and very little personal exertion, whilst another comes to the same position only by the severest trials and numberless disappointments.

Favorable or unfavorable circumstances and environments constitute some men a success and others a failure. The successful man is he who is gratified to fill his respective position and calling in life with credit and honor to himself, his friends, and his God. When he fails of this his life is a blank, and his name a disgrace. There are three qualities which ensure success in any walk in life, namely, ability, integrity, and industry.

Ability is the power of doing a thing well. When we do well our part in life, in whatever sphere it may be, we evince ability of the highest type. Hence, it is not essential that a man must be a philosopher, or scientist, or poet, artist, or of royal blood, to make life a success. Many great intellectual men made life a failure. Yet we would not have you imagine that a good education is of no service. Ability, which is the result of a finished education, is of the highest form. What we here intend to show is that men fill all the stations of life, and 'tis better far to be a successful shoemaker than a fraud of a cobbler. It is of far more credit to a man to be a successful blacksmith than not. An artist is far more happy to know of his high standing, than to feel that others have left him forsaken, yet not forgotten. It should be our highest ambition to fill our calling well, though it be that of a rag-picker or a soap-maker. It is better to be a respectable, honest and pious day-laborer than a dishonest, irreligious, and profane millionaire. He, who shows his ability to live well and nobly in the common walks of life has achieved success. He who is contented with what he has by honest industry and economy, has travelled over the roughest crags and most dangerous precipices of a successful life.

A boy should learn early that he cannot have ability in everything; that is, few boys have a great deal of general ability. Hence, much depends on finding our respective spheres of labor, and having decided this, our next ambition should be that "whatever is worth doing is worth doing well." A boy who does his best in whatever he undertakes will soon find in what direction his efforts meet with most marked success; and having discovered that, let him concentrate all his energies to be first in that particular branch of study or work. Another has said, "better be a first-class carpenter than a fourth-rate lawyer; a good machinist than a poor doctor."

But let no young man sail out upon the sea of life without a good supply of integrity. This is his ballast which balances the frail canoe amid the storms and tempests of life. This is his master-wheel which plows through the greatest billows, and this is his iron clad which braves the conflict in the heat of battle. Into this crowd all the noble faculties of his soul, for no man can be truly honest and upright before God without being religious. Integrity is more than truthfulness, it is whole-heartedness and piety. The true man has firmness, and yet elasticity enough to accommodate himself to circumstances. A boy of integrity is like a stout, staunch ship sailing through the ocean, the waves may sway her from side to side, but she remains whole and firm. Let the boy make up his mind to be true. If you have deceived and proven dishonest, say so to yourself, and pray God to help you stop short off. Say to yourself, "I must earn an honorable name, and I will, and whatever cost to myself, I will be true." Let no temptation spring a leak in your heart.

We must not forget another leading element in success, and that is industry. Every boy that is fast coming to the age of maturity should know that the most successful men have also been the most industrious. It is easy to point out some rich man and say, "He began as a poor boy." This is true of most men of wealth, yet it was application to business, and steady toil which secured this. So in any calling labor and industry crown life with worldly success; but be not industrious only to be rich. Aim higher than riches. Aim to elevate your calling and life whatever it may be. Aim to make others happy, and live not only for self, but humanity. Let others enjoy the benefits of your success, that when you die it may be as a benefactor. Be given to honest industry and a faithful discharge of duty in the light of Christian truth, and you will have attained the highest distinction. Store your mind with useful knowledge, and glean precious thoughts from the best authors. Cultivate a taste for the true, the beautiful, and good, and reach out after the highest attainment, intellectually, morally, and spiritually. Riches are not to be despised; but it is only when they are united with learning and religion that they are to be envied. Temper the whole life with religious conviction, and your future will be all that you can wish for. Make life a success by diligent application, by earnest research, by honest toil, and by untiring devotion to duty. To aim to live well is to die happy.

WHY HE DROPPED HIS SUNDAY PAPER.

He was an upright business man. In his heart he believed the religion of Christ to be true. But he was very busy, and when Sunday came he was thoroughly tired. He had become interested, too, in his Sunday paper; so he gradually dropped off going to church. His wife went regularly, and sometimes the children. One morning, just after his wife had set out, he was comfortably seated reading the money article, when he heard his boys talking in the next room. Said eight-year-old Willie, "When you grow up shall you go to church as mother does, or stay at home like father?" "I shall do neither," said the older one decidedly. "When I'm a man I shall have my horses, and be on the road Sundays, and enjoy myself." The newspaper suddenly lost its attraction. Between the father and it there came a picture of his boys associating with loose men, and drifting into a godless, reckless life; and of himself looking on it in his old age as the fruit of his self-indulgence. Five minutes after he was walking rapidly towards the church. When the service was over, his wife, coming down the

aisle, saw him waiting at the door. There was a questioning, glad surprise in her eyes; but he only remarked that he had taken a walk, and thought he would join her on the way home. Next Sunday, however, the whole family were in their pew, and all the rest of the day there was a kind of peace about the house that reminded him of his boyhood's days in his father's home. And who will say he was the less fitted for another week of business life by this share in the service of God's house instead of "staying at home all Sunday to rest?"—*S. S. Times*.

CULTIVATE HOME AFFECTIONS.

Home enjoyments, home affections, home courtesies, cannot be too carefully or steadily cultivated. They form the sunshine of the heart; they bless and sanctify our private circle; they become a source of calm delight to the man of business after a day of toil—they teach the merchant, the trader, the working man, that there is something purer, more precious even, than the gains of industry. They twine themselves around the heart, call forth its best and purest emotions and resources, enable us to be more virtuous, more upright, more Christian, in all our relations of life. We see in the little beings around us the elements of gentleness, of truth, and the beauty of fidelity and religion. A day of toil is robbed of many of its cares by the thought that in the evening we may return home and mingle with the family household. There, at least, our experience teaches us, we may find confiding and loving bosoms—those who look up to and lean upon us, and those also to whom we may look for counsel and encouragement. We say to our friends, one and all, cultivate the home virtues, the household beauties of existence. Endeavor to make the little circle of domestic life a cheerful and intelligent, a kind and happy one. Whatever may go wrong in the world of trade, however arduous may be the struggle for fortune or fame, let nothing mar the beauty of reciprocal love, or throw into its harmonious existence the apple of discord. The winter evenings afford many hours for reading, for conversation, the communion of hearts and of spirits, and such hours should be devoted as much as possible, not only to mental and moral improvement, but to the cultivation of what may emphatically be termed the *home virtues*.—*Apostolic Times*.

HEALTH ALPHABET.

The Ladies' Sanitary Association, of London, gives the following simple rules for keeping health, which we find copied in the *Sanitarian*:

- A—s soon as you are up shake blanket and sheet;
- B—etter be without shoes than sit with wet feet;
- C—hildren, if healthy, are active, not still;
- D—amp beds and damp clothes will both make you ill;
- E—at slowly and always chew your food well;
- F—reshen the air in the house where you dwell;
- G—arments must never be made too tight;
- H—omes should be healthy, airy and light;
- I—f you wish to be well, as you do I've no doubt,
- J—ust open the windows before you go out;
- K—eep the rooms always tidy and clean;
- L—et dust on the furniture never be seen;
- M—uch illness is caused by the want of pure air,
- N—ow to open the windows be ever your care;
- O—ld rags and old rubbish should never be kept;
- P—eople should see that their floor are well swept;
- Q—uick movements in children are healthy and right;
- R—emember the young cannot thrive without light;
- S—ee that the cistern is clean to the brim;
- T—ake care that your dress is all-tidy and trim;
- U—se your nose to find if there is a bad drain;
- V—ery sad are the fevers that come in its train;
- W—alk as well as you can without feeling fatigue;
- X—erxes could walk full many a league.
- Y—our health is your wealth, which your wisdom must keep;
- Z—eal will help a good cause, and the good you will reap.