

Another breach of good manners is the defacing of song-books in the chapel. A lover of books abhors the sight of meaningless scrawls marring their pages, and even more is disgusted to read the contemptible puerilities that some persons in the superlativeness of inanity have written there. Thoughtlessness utterly fails to excuse here. There is something deeper in character that issues in this that has been, not extravagantly, termed vandalism.

Not to be divorced from the category of manifest unmannerliness, is the practice of whispering and laughing in public service, especially church, to the annoyance of one's neighbors. The basal principle of good manners is regardfulness of others. Here are the feelings both of him who speaks from the platform and of those who wish to hearken to his words openly violated by one who not only constitutes himself a public nuisance but also stirs questions in the minds of those disturbed as to his mental rectitude. He has forgotten his good manners.

Yet these explicit cases by no means exhaust the list. Nor do they include types whose cause is deepest seated. Harsh words, cruel jibes and sarcasm, always betokening a too narrow mind, profanity obscenity, coarse allusions, lack of deference for woman, these persistently indulged in index a lack more serious than is shown by those who disturb church services, disfigure books and block entrances to public places. That the life at school on some sides has the tendency to call out and accentuate these expressions of character may not be disputed. The very freedom of intercourse among college men so delightful when under right restraint, when uncontrolled easily degenerates into that familiarity which is the parent of contempt and a means to coarseness of soul texture. Then, too, appear during college days the early movements of that mighty mental activity that will ultimately contribute something to the world's thought, but which is now eminently destructive operating as nonchalantly to dissect men's characters as their creeds. But by whatsoever cause induced there is present some coarseness in word and deed, more than should be, more than will be as the better conceptions of life get hold upon the college men.

That the college is intended and fit to correct these things gives it an excuse for prolonged existence. Primarily it seeks to produce gentlemen, men of noble character, using whatever is best suited to this end. Thus writes Dr. Edward Everett Hale in the "Boston Christian Register."

"The whole discussion of manners, if it is to be of any use, will bring us back to the central truth—that these colleges and these schools exist for education, and not simply for the petty details of instruction. To make of them mere information bureaus is to degrade them. We have no use for them unless they can make men out of boys and women out of girls. This means character. It means that, first of all, boys and girls, young men and young women, shall know who they are, why they are, and what they are to live for.