

Effects of Bad Company.

How important is it that young people should realize the bad effect that evil companions will have on the character, while they are undecided as to what position they are best suited to occupy through life. There is, truly, a vast difference in people, which is even manifested by little children while attending school. Some will pick up all the slang phrases that they chance to hear used, and learn all that is low and despicable, while in others who are exposed to the same example and associations, the habit will not be noticed half so quickly. But there is none of us, I think, to whom refined and honorable company is not more beneficial than companions who are well versed in the vice and wickedness of the world; for we cannot help, in time, imitating to some extent the ways and manners of our associates, and most surely it would be wiser to seek company amongst those whose influence is ennobling, and whose society lifts us up to a higher and better life than those who drag us down, down, to the lowest grade.

I once knew two young men who had always lived in the same neighborhood, attended the same school, and been associates from earliest boyhood. They were both smart and intelligent, and as their teacher declared, they were both smart enough to make very bad men, or very good ones. They left school, each bearing away a sought-for prize. One entered a seminary, and the other, traveling for pleasure and instructions, sought the far West, joined a company of gold diggers, and soon so far conquered his conscientious principles, that he could enjoy his beer and tobacco, and use bad language, with the best of them.

Two years pass by and they return. They are both much changed, but oh, how different! One, by two years of faithful study has fitted himself for any vocation that may be pointed out to him, —has prepared himself for usefulness that he may act his part in the drama of life and perform it well! The other has changed also; but as they stand together now on the old playground, one seems a creature to honor, the other to loathe. The frank, open face of the one contrasts strangely with the low, cunning look of the other. But two years ago they left school together, both full of bright hopes and anticipations for the future; but those two short years had wrought a wondrous change. They had given to the happy, hopeful youth a blighted character and a wicked heart. They had taught him to abandon the pursuit of that knowledge that was once so dear to him, and to become a slave to vice, to wickedness, and to ruin! There is nothing now too low and degraded for his attention, and yet he had some noble traits, and he might have been a noble man! How much has the world lost by his taking the first step into bad company, and going down step by step to the modes and customs of his associates, and ceasing at last to think or care of what is right.

We see such examples around us every day and strive to lend a helping hand, but in vain! Pride is in the way. We see the wealthiest citizens yielding little by little to the temptations placed before them, and what will be the result? What is to be done to prevent the sorrow that we can plainly see is awaiting some of our people? There is no way but to establish characters of our own. We must have our own ideas of right and wrong fixed and never permit them to be shaken; and now is the time to begin. Let us resolve to shun those that are rough and unprincipled and whose influence must be injurious and full of evil. And though we are often laughed at and slighted by our old associates, yet we are constantly gaining in the respect of those who are worthy; and what is better, we are laying a true and solid foundation on which we build in future years, which will never fall. We are also forming a character which the jeers of others cannot destroy, but which will shine forever. And if we shun bad company, and choose only what is virtuous and good, we will be lifted higher and higher, in our moral life, until we reach the throne of the Most High! M. M.

The best part of human qualities is the tenderness and delicacy of feeling in little matters, the desire to soothe and please others—*minutiae* of the social virtues. Some ridicule these feminine attributes, which are left out of many men's natures; but the brave, the intellectual, the eloquent have been known to possess these qualities; the braggart, the weak, never! Benevolence and feeling ennoble the most trifling actions.

In all worldly things that a man pursues with the greatest eagerness imaginable, he finds not half the pleasure in the actual possession that he proposed to himself in the expectation of them.

"Mother's Fool."

"'Tis plain to me," said the farmer's wife
"These boys will make their mark in life;
"They never were made to handle a hoe,
And at once to college they ought to go.
Yes, John and Henry, 'tis clear to me,
Great men in this world are sure to be;
But Tom, he's little above a fool—
So John and Henry must go to school."

"Now, really, wife," quoth Farmer Brown,
As he sets his mug of cider down,
"Tom does more work in a day for me
Than both of his brothers do in three.
Book learnin' will never plant beans or corn,
Nor hoe potatoes, sure as you're born—
Nor mend a rod of broken fence;
For my part give me common sense."

But his wife the roost was bound to rule,
And so the "boys" were sent to school;
While Tom, of course, was left behind,
For his mother said he had no mind.
Five years at school the students spent,
Then each one into business went.
John learned to play the flute and fiddle,
And parted his hair (of course, in the middle;

Though his brother looked rather higher than he
And hung out his shingle—"H. Brown, M. D."
Meanwhile, at home, their brother Tom
Had taken a "notion" into his head,
Though he said not a word, but trimmed his trees,
And hoed his corn and sowed his peas;
But somehow, either by "hook or crook,"
He managed to read full many a book.

Well, the war broke out, and "Captain Tom,"
To battle a hundred soldiers led;
And when the enemy's flag went down,
Came marching home as "General Brown."

But he went to work on the farm again,
Planting his corn and sowing his grain,
Repaired the house and broken fence,
And people said he had "common sense."
Now common sense was rather rare,
And the State House needed a portion there;
So our "family dunce" moved into town,
And the people called him "Governor Brown;"
And his brothers, that went to the city to school,
Came home to live with "mother's fool."

Advice to Boys.

Whatever you are, be brave, boys!
The liar's a coward and slave, boys;
Though clever at ruses
And sharp at excuses,
He's a sneaking and pitiful knave, boys.

Whatever you are, be frank, boys!
'Tis better than money and rank, boys;
Still cleave to the right,
Be lovers of light,
Be open, above board and frank, boys!

Whatever you are, be kind, boys!
Be gentle in manner and mind, boys;
The man gentle in mien,
Words and temper, I ween,
Is the gentleman truly refined, boys!

But whatever you are, be true, boys!
Be visible through and through, boys;
Leave to others the shamming,
The "greening" and "cramming,"
In fun and in earnest, be true, boys!

A clergyman, being much pressed by a lady of his acquaintance to preach a sermon the first Sunday after her marriage, complied, and chose the following passage in the Psalms as his text: "And there shall be abundance of peace—while the moon endureth."

Quite recently a short-sighted husband saw a large bouquet of flowers on a chair, and, wishing to preserve them from fading, placed them in a basin of water. When his wife saw the "bouquet" half an hour afterwards, she gave one piercing scream, and fainted on the spot. Her defective-visioned husband had mistaken her new summer bonnet, with its abundance of flowers, for a freshly culled bouquet.

Candid Husband: "I tell you what, Rose, it was well I didn't meet that superb creature before our marriage." Wife (with equal candor): "It was, for you."

Benefit of Being Knocked About.

It is a good thing for a young man to be "knocked about in the world," although his soft-hearted parents may not think so. All youths, or if not all, certainly nineteen-twentieths of the sum total, enter life with a surplussage of self-conceit. The sooner they are relieved the better. If, in measuring themselves with wiser and older men than themselves, they discover that it is unwarranted, and get rid of it gracefully and of their own accord, well and good; if not, it is desirable for their own sake that it should be taken out of them. A boy who is sent to a large school soon finds his level. His will may have been paramount at home; but school boys are democratic in their ideas, and if arrogant, he is sure to be thrashed into a recognition of the golden rule. The world is a great public school, and it soon teaches a new pupil his proper place. If he has the attributes that belong to a leader, he will be installed into the position of the leader; if not, whatever his opinion of his abilities, he will be compelled to fall back into the rank and file. If not destined to greatness, the next best thing to which he can aspire is respectability; but no man can be truly great or truly respectable who is vain, pompous and overbearing. By the time the novice has found his legitimate social position, be the same high or low, the probability is the same disagreeable traits of character will be softened down and worn away. Most likely the process of abrasion will be rough, but when it is all over and he begins to see himself as others see him, and not as seen in the mirror of self-conceit, he will be thankful that he has run the gauntlet and arrived through by a rough road of knowledge.

Commercial.

London Markets.

FARMERS' ADVOCATE OFFICE,
London, Mar. 1, 1878.

The markets have fluctuated considerably during the past month; wheat has at times tended to slight advance then receded to its nominal quotations. Barley has been firmer. Peas and oats have raised but slightly. Clover is low, and we see no prospects of its advancing this season. Much will be held by farmers and speculators. The crop is so large that a great proportion of this year's crop will not be wanted this year. Whether it will pay to hold or not will depend greatly on next year's crop. There is one thing to be considered who can hold it cheapest? British capitalists can command money at four per cent. Money is worth 6 per cent., and often more, to farmers. Farmers cannot keep it near as well as speculators. Dealers know when and how to keep it with the least loss. The average loss in our farmers' hands is five times greater than when in the hands of dealers. This may appear strange, but estimate the damage of rats to bags or bins. The losses by fire, theft and waste and shrinkage, and the prospects for next year's supply are all closer estimated and guarded against by speculators than by farmers. The farmer should be in a good position and well posted before he takes the place of merchant or speculator. The prospects for a good price for early cheese is very good, also first-class butter will be remunerative—second and third qualities will not pay as well as they have done. There is a good demand in England for good beef, and good horses, and good sheep. They have paid well and will pay better; but there is not one in ten, if any, consider stock fit to send to that market.

Dehl wheat.....	\$2 00 to	\$ 2 05
Treadwell.....	1 90 to	2 00
Red.....	1 85 to	1 90
Spring.....	1 50 to	1 75
Barley.....	80 to	1 14
Peas.....	90 to	1 05
Oats.....	90 to	93
Rye.....	— to	—
Buckwheat.....	1 25 to	90
Corn.....	90 to	1 37
Beans.....	1 60 to	15
Peas, per dozen.....	10 to	20
Roll Butter, fresh.....	15 to	18
Roll Butter.....	3 00 to	3 50
Clover seed.....	3 50 to	4 00
Cordwood.....	28 to	30
Wool.....	11 to	12 1/2
Cheese, per lb.....	10 00 to	12 00
Hay, per ton.....	2 00 to	4 25
Straw, per load.....	25 to	25
Turnips.....	25 to	30
Carrots.....	55 to	60
Potatoes.....	60 to	70
Onions.....	— to	—

Liverpool Markets.

Liverpool, Mar. 1, 1878.

Flour, 24s 6d to 27s; Spring Wheat, 9s 9d to 10s 10d; Red Winter, 10s 10d to 11s 6d; White, 11s 8d to 12s 1d; Club 11s 9d to 12s 8d; Corn, new, 26s 9d to 27s; Oats, 3s 6d to 5s, Peas, 30s 6d; Barley, 3s 11d; Pork, 54s; Cheese 60s; Beef, 55s.