

of thought the easier it will be to have pure thoughts and right actions. The man whose mind is full of wicked thoughts cannot prevent the influence of the mind from exercising a power, not for good.

It is said that every man has his hobby, and that a man without a hobby is weak and exercises but little influence over others. It is the mind that makes the hobby, and the thought upon it, that makes the man an enthusiast. We are all more or less given to hobbies, and no one can ever convince us that we are wrong in riding it. Unless we ride the hobby, the hobby will certainly ride us, and when it does we will find our fellowmen looking sideways at us, and making grimaces at our crankiness. We must therefore hold a tight rein and direct our thoughts so that whatever we engage in may be followed along a straight line, and produce beneficial results.

The books we read influence our thoughts and that mind stored with the trashy literature that floods the whole face of the earth, will be imbecile, and its hobby will be degrading. How often have we read during the past few years, of boys, ten, twelve and fifteen years old, running away from home, and starting out to "fight Indians"; and others who imagine they are called to be a Jack Shepard, or Gentleman George, or some other noted criminal? These boys were allowed to store their minds with such vile stories and their only thoughts were of such things. It would be interesting to know just what proportion of crime is traceable directly to this source.

On the other hand, the books of an elevated character, high moral standard, —and there are really more of them than we at first glance suppose—exercise an influence over every one who reads them and treasures them in his mind. The brain is a great storehouse, almost unlimited in its capacity, but it can be crowded and weakened by an undue mixture of good and bad, until the man becomes vacillating, and almost a nonentity, exercising no power

for good, and nauseating to the really wicked. If we fill the chambers of the brain with only good thoughts, so that there will not be any room for evil, we will become strong and there will be decision of character that will be sure to leave its good traces along the roadway of life.

If we learn well the lessons of Masonry we will store the mind with good thoughts and avoid harboring those things that weaken our moral nature. As surely as the foulness of the source will be seen in the stream that flows from it, so certainly will evil thoughts make themselves plain in our actions, and in our conversation. Out of the fulness of the heart the mouth speaketh. It is therefore one of the most important elements of happiness to have pure thoughts bubbling up and manifesting themselves in pure words.—*N. Y. Dispatch.*

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#### COUNTRY BROTHER AND CITY BROTHER.

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My brother, did you ever note the difference between the country and the city brother? If not, make it a point to do so, and mark the difference carefully. You will find that the country brother, those "old mossbacks," "hay-seeds," "one-gallus," "copperas breeches fellows," as they are frequently called, in pleasantry, of course, by the city dude, has more good, sound Masonry to the square inch than a band wagon full of the exquisitely dressed, kid-gloved brothers of the city Lodges.

The country brother is made of that kind of material which actuates men to join Masonry for the good there in it. They have the staying qualities and powers of endurance which you seldom find in the city brother. They are always present at their Lodge meetings, many of them riding fifteen and twenty miles, while others walk one fourth the distance. They bring their baskets filled with edibles, and when the Lodge closes partake of a personally prepared banquet, and together