

Winter's Saturday afternoons so pleasant ; those to whose exertions we owe our Midsummer Games Day, those ladies—of St. Peter's Church to again—whose own hands made so many garments for our boys ; those who gave for games, for prizes for Christmas, and those to whose kindly words we owe the generous vote of the Citizens in August—to all of them on behalf of my boys I tender our warmest thanks.

*Our Boys.*—Let me answer questions often asked. Are they mischievous? Delightfully so. Sharp? Try them. Hot-tempered? Sometimes ; but when a boy learns to keep his hands off the football or go "out," he also learns to keep his hands off other boys when he is angry. Not once a month does it come to blows. Disobedient? Certainly—if you don't expect obedience. Self-willed? The boy who is not will make a "mouse of a man." Selfish? Watch them when the baskets come on "Visiting Day." See the boy who has a mother (and therefore a basket) "divvy" with the boy who has neither. Sulky? Almost never. I have never known a boy punished one day refuse me a smile the next. Deceitful? Oftener than I could wish, but when we remember the "schemes" of our own school-days we can forgive them. Liars? By no means. They may give a false color to the truth, but a "straight" lie is rare indeed. I never before knew boys so ready to "own up." Thieves? Not at all. They have stolen, doubtless, but which of has not? Ask our mother's sugar-bowls and our father's apple-trees of the good old days. To call a boy a thief because he has stolen is much more logical than charitable. Every boy is born a communist. He believes by instinct in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and by instinct he likewise believes that all is his that he can reach. Only by good training can the child be brought to understand it wrong to consider "all things common," and good training most of our boys have none till they come here. Hopelessly bad through hereditary tendencies? In very few cases. Our boys have all their fair share of "Original Sin" ; some have more ; a very few are physically, mentally and morally incapable of conversion into really useful citizens. But a bad man's son (not the descendant of evil generations) well-trained, will in most cases do better than a good man's son ill-trained. I am