

## Boys and Girls

### Boys.

When my dad talks to me 'n Gus,  
'Bout when he was small, like us,  
He was the best boy ever yet;  
'N never got his shoes all wet  
A-walking through 'most ev'ry pool,  
When, rainy days, he went to school.  
He never was as bad as us,—  
When daddy talks to me'n Gus.

He never scrapped with Uncle Jack,  
'N never, never put a tack  
In people's chairs; 'n not like me,  
Was prompt at dinner, breakfast,  
tea.

He never swiped a jar of jelly;  
N'r never called his stomach his  
"belly."

He never tried to smoke and cuss—  
When daddy talks to me'n Gus.

He never pinched his sister's cat,  
'N put black beetles in her hat.  
He never broke the baby's toys;  
N' when he played, he made no noise.  
But sometimes, Uncle Jack 'n he  
Smoke 'n rectect things, after tea,  
'N what they say, don't sound to us,  
Like when dad talks to me'n Gus.

### Employ Your Spare Time Profitably.

"Take twenty young workingmen," said a famous merchant, "ask each of them for a statement of his definite aims in the world—and what will happen? Ten of them will laugh and admit that their future has as yet not bothered them; eight will answer vaguely that they probably will work their way up some day in the firm they are now with; and there will be only two who, with faces aglow with enthusiasm, will earnestly discuss the whole plan of their life which they seriously have mapped out and considered. And it is the odd moments that the eighteen waste or let slip by in some foolish manner, and which the two industriously use, that marks the divergence in their careers five years later."

This merchant, who pays salaries to 100 men every week, ought to know how young men look at such an important subject, and his word is corroborated by nearly every prominent man who has ever given the matter any serious thought.

As an example we will take the careers of Tom Graham and Allen Smith. Tom is of the "eighteen"; Allen belongs to the "two." When they were 10 both boys were wealthy youngsters living in the same block. Tom would rather play ball than eat his meals, and often played truant in order to practice for a game. In the evening, together with a dozen other half-grown boys, he would loiter around the little candy store which adorns the centre of the block, and eagerly discuss and dissect every move in the professional ball games of the day. Allen took a hearty interest in baseball, but attended to his studies and cultivated a habit of reading on three or four evenings of the week. At the age of 15 both boys graduated from the public schools and started to look for a job. Tom wanted a position so that he could have the pleasure of spending \$4 or \$5 every week; Allen had already mapped out his whole future. He intended to get a position with an electrical supply house, where he could get a practical knowledge of electrical devices, while in the evening he wanted to go to some technical school and study electrical engineering. Allen and Tom both secured positions in the stockroom of an electrical supply house at \$5 per week, and both faithfully attended to their duties. Tom was just as earnest a worker as Allen in business hours, but there the resemblance ended.

In the evening Tom would stroll through the park with the "gang," or sit around the candy store, and on Sunday he would pitch a game of ball for a keg of beer. Allen went to

school four evenings a week and enjoyed himself on the other three.

When they were 21 Allen had acquired enough knowledge in his chosen line to get a position as assistant in the office of an electrical engineer, while Tom was still working in the supply house. He was getting \$10 per week, and now devoted his evenings to playing pool, in which he soon became an expert. On Sunday he would journey to some dancing pavilion and pass the day away in that manner.

One day, however, a change of policy was inaugurated in the supply house, and Tom, together with three other men, was dropped from the pay roll. He soon secured a position as trucker in a wholesale house, where he earns \$12 a week. He now devotes his evenings to parties, cheap dances, and pool, while Sunday finds him still roaming around with the boys. Allen also has his pleasures, but half of his evenings are devoted to study. He has a fine future before him, and has enjoyed himself just as much as Tom. The whole difference between them lies in Allen's cultivation of his spare time, which Tom wasted for lack of any definite object in life. And that is the millstone which the average young man carries around his neck. Tom was never drunk in his life, smokes no more than any other man, and never gambles. His only vice is that of wasting time.

Many a boy looks for work without any specific aims. A man does not have to be a drunkard or a gambler to be a failure in the world. Many boys who are honest, manly fellows in their way, are just time wasters.

### Things That Make Strong.

The amount of money spent on harmful things by the American people makes a startling showing when the figures are placed before us. On the other hand, the statistics show that Uncle Sam's children spend more money on the things that give strength than any other nation. The food bill of the average American for a year is seventy dollars, while the Frenchman spends for the same purpose forty-eight dollars, the German forty-five, the Spaniard thirty-three, the Italian twenty-four, and the Russian forty.

The American eats, on the average, 109 pounds of meat a year, the Frenchman eighty-seven pounds, the German sixty-four pounds, the Italian twenty-eight pounds, and the Russian fifty-one pounds. The American is distanced as a bread-eater by the Russian, the Frenchman and the Italian.

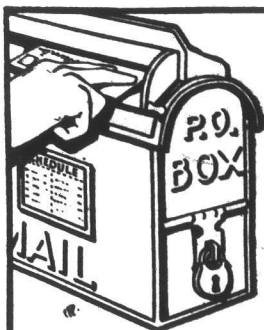
### The Road to Happiness.

The road to home happiness lies over small stepping-stones. Slight circumstances are the stumbling-blocks of families. The prick of a pin, says the proverb, is enough to make an empire insipid. The more tender the feelings, the more painful the wound.

A cold, unkind word checks and withers the blossom of the dearest love, as the most delicate rings of the vine are troubled by the faintest breeze. The misery of a life is born of a chance observation. If the true history of quarrels, public and private, were honestly written, it would be silenced with a roar of derision.

### Home a Centre of Joy.

Home-keeping means a study into things strange and complex, an inquiry into the greatest questions of life. Here under one roof clusters a little circle of wonderful beings—human beings. They are quite different one from another. Each has his queer little ways. Some even are thought to be most "peculiar," though, if the truth were known, some good cause lies underneath it all. And some are fond of this, and some of that. Yet here they must live, and live in harmony, just as colors must blend and contrast to give joy—for the home must be a centre of joy, else it is not really "home."



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