

AVOID POVERTY, BUT DON'T STRIVE TO GET RICH; THE MIDDLE COURSE IS THE ONE LEADING TO HAPPINESS

American Editor Tries to Solve Some of the Everyday Problems of This Age of Hurry and Extreme Wealth and Poverty--His Advice to Young Men.

(Arthur Brisbane in N. Y. American.)

Life's chief speculation, with nineteenth century human beings at least, resolves itself into the simple, apparently selfish question: "How can I be happy?"

Every human being has his moments of usefulness, of self-sacrifice and altruism. But, with exceptions that are indeed rare, the persistent struggle and thought among us is for individual happiness and contentment.

And this is not an unfortunate thing, it is not a bad thing for the individual or the race.

It is to the interest of us all that each should do the best work that he is capable of. And every one does his best when he is happy.

The healthy mind lives in the healthy body, the good work is done by the mind that is happy as well as healthy. Happiness is, in fact, an essential condition of real health.

Admitting that the important question of this age, and of all the ages, is the question, "How may happiness be secured?" what is the answer that the readers of this newspaper will give to the question?

We believe that it is given fairly well in this picture, which shows happiness shining far beyond poverty and wealth, and reached by a road that lies between the two.

There is much hypocritical and ignorant talk in the world about the blessings and the contented lot of the poor man. That is all both and nonsense.

Poverty is a dreadful curse, the worst that can befall a man--except, perhaps, absolute innate incapacity. And the exception is not important, since--except for accidents of birth and inherited wealth--incapacity and poverty always live together.

Poverty is the mother of drunkenness, ignorance and crime. Poverty is the mother of dirt--the miserably poor cannot be clean, for cleanliness means money and leisure.

Poverty is the mother of Vice--it is an altogether wretched condition, debasing to the mind and to the body.

A government is a good government in proportion as it frees men from the curse of poverty.

And this government, which started out hopefully a little more than a hundred years ago, may well fill with anxiety the thoughtful man who sees that our national life tends now to an abnormal accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few, replacing the intended and desirable distribution of wealth to the many.

Those who established this government intended that the many should control laws and their administration, and thus make the many prosperous.

In place of having "many" as our ruling power, we are rapidly getting money as the ruling power.

More and more, money, in the hands of a few, rules the country. The tendency toward government by money shall continue, the time is not far off when a new adjustment will be demanded, and the individuals that have monopolized the wealth which should make millions happy will be driven from power, as our foreign nations have been driven out of power by a hundred and thirty years ago.

Every young American beginning life, and every old American who still has his courage and his strength with him, will take good care to do that old hag on the left, who represents poverty and all its miseries. There is no reason for any great avoiding against poverty. Every man should be able to get on, and only the snags and fat ignorances, or hypocrites, give it its praise.

It is different with that other extreme--vast and aimless wealth.

Nearly all of America strives for it; and while it can be secured by but few, it is the cause of great bitterness, disappointment and aimless struggle to millions.

Happiness consists in developing the powers within ourselves, in doing the best that we are capable of doing.

A supply of money sufficient to free the mind from anxiety as to the future, to guarantee independence from the whims of others, is all that the sensible man needs or should want.

But in this age, more than any other, the craze is for the making of great fortune.

That vicious national gambling house which we call Wall street swallows up hundreds of thousands of fortunes, de-

stroy the comfortable independence of untold numbers, struggling foolishly, ignorantly, for what they do not need.

The man who gambles and even more harmful gambling dens--our public race tracks and gambling houses--represent also the frantic struggling for money that is not earned--that could give no happiness, even were it obtainable.

It sounds like a platitude, of course, to tell men to take the middle course in life. Many will say: "Yes, it is all very well to talk. But I shall try to attain great riches, and if I fail in that it will be time enough to take the middle course then."

But it will not then be time enough. It will be too late.

The man who once fails, who is once disappointed, has hard work to start again. The second and the third failure mean failure that is permanent.

The thing to do is to start out sensibly, map out a plan that you are capable of carrying to a successful issue, and follow it up to the end persistently.

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But the times are changing and a new period is approaching.

The people of America have serious questions before them, questions that may be settled violently, as in times past, unless the people shall devote their intellects to a peaceful adjustment worthy of rational human beings.

The country needs, and will need more every day, thoughtful, educated, earnest men--men that want to do something more important than the accumulation of useless money, that bring only worry or demoralizing self-indulgence to the nation.

If three or four million of American boys and young men would stop reading and thinking about how to get rich, and begin to think instead about how to amount to something mentally, the present government question of the United States would be solved, and solved peaceably.

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Dramatic Scene in Conference Room; Witte Declares Compromise a Sham.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

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Mr. Witte has frankly avowed that Russia regarded an ending of the war as necessary to her well being and her claim to remuneration for the money she had spent in prosecuting the Far Eastern conflict.

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