

moment the boy should be free to choose for himself.

The social instinct of boys is very strongly developed in the years of adolescence. The choice of companions at this time is a matter in which parents may have a guiding hand, provided they use it quietly and unostentatiously, for bad company has caused the downfall of many a good boy. By making the home the centre of his social life, by making his friends welcome, by knowing those with whom he associates, a protection can be given which means much at this time of life.

Interest in his personal appearance develops in the boy now. Careless habits are superseded by well-brushed hair, clean hands and face, a desire to have well-pressed clothes. Ties and hosiery assume an importance never before accorded to them. Girls, for whom he has had but little use, now begin to interest him. The greatest injury is done by grown-ups who speak flippantly and lightly of these boy-and-girl fancies and who, by their tactless remarks, inject self-consciousness into what would otherwise be natural friendship.

Now is the time when mother and father may save much future unhappiness by placing before the boy the ideal of true marriage, with all it involves to make the relation happy for both. It should be held before him as something which gives the greatest happiness when entered into with true affection, an unselfish desire to be real, helpmates, and the same standard of morality for both. The failure of parents to give any instruction in regard to this, and the tendency to speak lightly of it, if at all, should give place to the definite implanting of pure standards of thinking and living and a true conception of all that it means to found a new home.

Indeed, it is quite as much the duty of parents to prepare children to meet the duties involved in these vital relations of life as to prepare them for business or profession. The temptations that are placed in the way of boys are many. To resist them, every boy should be protected by high ideals and standards set before him by his parents. Distaste and disgust will then prevent his yielding to the lures that are set in his way. The day is past when the world recognizes one code of law for boys and another for girls. Hereafter, they will stand or fall together.

Happy homes and happy marriages depend as much on the disposition of the husbands as of the wives. Parents should therefore cultivate under the home roof the qualities which are essential to comfortable relations with other people. Thoughtfulness of others, courtesy, and regard for others' wishes are the oils which make many hard places smooth and lessen opportunity for friction. Unhappiness in marriage often has its beginning in little thoughtless acts and words. The courtesies of life are not arbitrary conventions of society, but have come with reason in the development of civilization based on Christianity. Boys may ridicule them as foolish, but when they go out into the world they will surely be at a disadvantage unless they are drilled in the forms and language of well-bred people by the every-day use of them in their own homes.

Mothers render a most important service to their sons in requiring of them the observance of all the habits of refined society. The good son makes the good husband, and the mother trains the son to be a good husband by constant requirement of the manners and deeds which she herself recognizes as necessary in making home life happy. Self-made men who rise above the conditions of their early life deserve all credit, but, unless it were better for youth to have the teaching and guidance of parents in shaping character, the Creator would not have so planned the universe.

The mother who educates her son to respect and reverence womanhood, to feel that he should treat all women with the courtesy and respect he would desire for his own mother or sisters, has done much to ensure his future happiness and true nobility of character.

There are other lessons for boys to learn before passing from youth into the responsibilities of manhood, and these the home should give. Intelligent citizenship, animated by the principle of regard for the general good, rather

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