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calendars of crime, that the reading of pernicious literature has prompted thousands upon thousands of honest, well-trained lads into the downward path that leads to ruin. Nothing can exceed the eagerness with which the lives and adventures of celebrated highway-men are read by lads, who, if they bestowed half the pains on some healthy intellectual study, would most surely rise, if not to distinction, at least to an honourable and respected position in life. The literary material of these periodicals is intensely stupid, to put it in the mildest form, and the adventures depicted have nothing whatever in common with the vicissitudes and struggles of an ordinary every-day life. The leading characters are always desperadoes or scapgraces, pirates, or rovers, whose history is interwoven with daring crimes and most improbable incidents. The boys are vagabonds; or rather fast young fellows, who not only set at defiance all social law and order, but all filial affection, duty, and love. The dialogue is interspersed with what is generally termed "slang," but which passes with the silly youths who are fascinated with it as "smartness." The school-life depicted even in the least objectional of them, consists simply of a continuity of vulgar practical jokes, some of which no doubt, used to be practised within the memory of living men; but which, in our day, have been effectually banished by the growing intelligence of the age, and the fact that the school-master is now really abroad. But, unfortunately, the good he is doing is sadly marred by the dissemination of the pernicious stuff which, under the sham name of literature, finds its way into the hands and heads of the rising generation. And it is with a blush that one has to record the startling fact, and we drew serious attention to it some time ago.

But "literature" of a still more demoralising character, so demoralising, indeed, that one can scarcely contemplate its effects without a shudder, still exists. Into the very boarding schools, where pure and innocent girls are being trained for the duties of home-life—girls destined to become the mothers of a coming generation—these books have by some subtle and fiendish agency found their way, contaminating by their foul touch the moral beauty of the young mind, and withering all the freshness and fairness of life's opening prospect. With the latter class of literature it is possible to deal, and a recent *expose* in America, as well as in this country, has drawn upon it the vigilant eye of the law. But with boy literature the difficulty is greater, so great, indeed, as at first sight to appear insuperable. But we are glad to hear that it is at last to become a subject for practical consideration at the next Social Science Congress, and we trust that the result will be such as at least to pave the way for an effectual remedy.