

with increasing years and thus leave no uncultivated ground for the enemy to sow tares in?

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Next, let me sound a few general warning notes for mothers in regard to growing girls, especially in country homes. Do teach your daughters to venerate and compel others to venerate their bodies. We need often to remember that the body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. To be specific, teach your girls that no strange hands must ever touch them in levity. Every girl should live in that fine rare atmosphere of aloofness and self-poise, that every man would feel it a desecration to think of touching even her hand except in earnest respect. Yet I have been in homes where romping, horse-play, tussling, wrestling and rough and tumble hilarity was the evening amusement of girls as well as boys. This would matter less if only relatives were present. Even then it makes a girl less quick to take alarm, when real danger threatens her honor. But, as in the West, where the household is often so mixed, where the hired men, for instance, come from the ends of the earth, is it wise or safe? I say, "No!" It is throwing down the walls of reserve and resistance that every girl needs, and especially the unsuspicious country girl thus brought into contact in the intimacy of the home with men who may be manly, earnest, energetic fellows, but again who may be libertines in thought and act. Will your cherished daughter be safe if opportunity occur, and she be overtrusting and too unreserved?

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Again, warning two, never leave your daughters unprotected in their isolated country home. Many parents are criminally careless in this way. Not only do they often leave the daughter or daughters alone in the home, but they, the girls, are often sent to the field or barn to work, such as milk, herd, or bring home cows, etc. If girls must do this work, they at least should be trained to so carry themselves that no familiarity will be used toward them. If not, if the girl is so used to the presence and even touch of strangers (from participating in rough games with them as referred to above) that she is not alert to the very beginning of danger, and so being ignorant of their meaning and tendency allows familiarities when alone and unprotected, that she had often permitted in a crowd, what then? I have known such a course to end in the girl's betrayal and the repetition of the story: "I was alone, I did not know what he meant till he had me in his power." "No eye to pity, no arm to save!" And so a girl's honor is torn from her, her innocent girlhood blasted, and all her after life scarred by the outrage. Another note of danger: When your daughters begin to receive attention from the opposite sex see to it that too much freedom is not allowed. They may receive every courtesy and attention, but there are some customs that are senseless and harmful. For instance, a young girl is receiving attention from some gentleman. As soon as "he" appears it is the custom in some places for the others to sheer off. If he makes a call in the evening, he and the girl have a monopoly of the parlor. Not only so, but (this may be nearly obsolete) another custom is to "sit up," "hang out," or "spark" till any old time that suits their pleasure. This is all wrong. A man is allowed privilege enough if he sees your daughter in the presence of her family and also is allowed her company for drives, places of amusement, etc. Even when engaged to be married no girl should be allowed to entertain a man alone after a reasonable hour.

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Lastly, train your daughters to spend the evenings at home, or in your company, or in that of those of whom you approve. Never, never allow them to feel that you do not care where and how their evenings are spent, and absolutely prohibit promiscuous street rambling. The street is a dangerous school, and street promenades bad exercise. Too often the apt street scholar graduates into the street-walker—the fitted slave of one who has lost both name

and fame. But girls will never wish to become frequenters of the streets, if their mother's interest and comradeship has led her to always exercise a proper oversight. Let me illustrate:

The tot says: "Mamma, may I go out to play with Mabel?"

"Is Mabel alone, dear?"

"No, mother."

"Who is with her?"

"Kate Jackson and her brother, Bud."

"I do not know Kate and Bud. Suppose you run out and bring them in here to play, and mother will play with you for a while."

The point and principle, of course, is plain. You should know from personal observation the temperament, habits and manner of conversation of your child's playmates—not as a spy, remember, but as one who is "a partner in the game." Then you can decide whether Kate and Bud are to be cultivated, tolerated, or tabooed. From the very fact that you are in a position to judge from personal knowledge, your child will accept your decision as just and binding. This applies from your daughter's first little companion, on up through all the years. No street friendships, but any number of home companions and friends that will pass muster with mother. Plenty of legitimate amusement, plenty of work and exercise with mother as aider and abettor of it all.

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If mothers thus do their duty, to instruct, warn, counsel, oversee, will they not have instilled such a knowledge as will prove a guardian-angel within the soul? Happy the daughter so equipped, and whose mother is her guide, philosopher and friend! How can she but grow up into "a thing of beauty and a joy forever!"

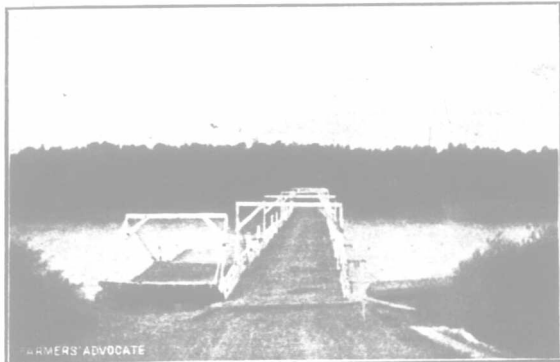
Lastly, when should mothers begin this instruction? As soon as the baby begins to notice its body. The facts about the care of the body, especially of the sexual organs, have to be taught very early. If the mother firmly establishes herself as the *only confidante*, the only one to do anything for the child, the greatest point will be gained.

If baby, through curiosity or irritation touches herself, very decidedly but kindly say: "No, no, baby mustn't touch! Baby will hurt herself! Mother will do it!" Then if there is any irritation, remove it and make her comfortable.

By constant repetition, constant care, baby learns the all-important lesson, that her body is to be kept clean and pure physically, and never touched except by mother. Later on lessons of modesty and reserve are gradually instilled, without interfering with fun and frolic and even boisterous play. "No one but mother must ever see the dear uncovered body. No one must ever touch you but mother, not even yourself. If you are uncomfortable tell mother, but never talk to anyone else or let them talk to you. God gave you to me and we will just have these dear secrets to ourselves. So whatever you want to know, mother will tell you."

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You see! Make yourself your baby girl's unfailing resource, so that every time a new thing is seen or heard, her first instinctive and habitual thought will be: "I'll ask mother. She will tell me, for she knows!" And as you value her soul's welfare tell her the truth *always*. Not necessarily all the truth, but all that you tell



PONTOON BRIDGE ACROSS THE RED, NEAR MORRIS, MAN.

her should be true. Never put her off with an evasive answer. No one is quicker than a child to detect "shystering"—and to lie to a child when it accepts the lie for the truth, is a crime. Never say, "Oh, you can't understand," and so leave the desire "to know" unsatisfied. Tell her something that is true so simply that she will understand and promise that you will tell her more some other time.

As she grows older her questions will increase in complexity, but you will have had warning enough to prepare yourself to answer wisely. If you are not fully informed yourself, or if you doubt your ability to teach her tactfully get help. That's what we have to do in every other perplexity of life. Read books along this line such as: "What a Mother Should Know," "What a Young Girl Should Know," etc. There are a number of helpful books along these lines. Isn't it worth while? Just think! At every period of your daughter's life you will have told her what she needs to know about herself. You will have impressed upon her that her body must be kept pure, fit to be the temple of God Himself; that anything that is filthy in thought or word or deed is dishonoring and should be allowed no place in her life; that "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report," she is to think on these things. If you can humbly but truly say: "The things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do," knowing that you have tried to walk humbly before God with this precious daughter, you will have the consolation of knowing that she is forever safe from sinning through ignorance and too self-reverent and pure-souled, to fall through passion or desire.

The Pipes in the Nativity

Raphael's famous painting of the Nativity contains a figure that has caused much comment and speculation. It is that of a shepherd who stands at the Virgin's door playing upon bagpipes. The comments are usually that Raphael was guilty of a strange blunder, that the bagpipes are strictly a Scottish instrument, and that the "pipes" of the shepherds were in reality a form of flute. But the bagpipes are not so exclusively a Scottish instrument after all, and the introduction of the playing shepherd into the painting was quite natural in view of an ancient custom that still prevails in Italy. In the latter days of the Advent, just before Christmas, Calabrian minstrels come down from the mountains into Naples and Rome. These men play upon pipes very similar both in appearance and sound to those of the Highlanders. Wandering through the streets, they pause to play before every shrine or picture of the virgin, the tradition being that the wild music will soothe her until the birth time of the Infant at Christmas. They also play before every carpenter shop, because Joseph was a carpenter by trade. It is thus quite clear where Raphael got his idea for the piper in his Nativity.

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The year 1909 was notable for containing the centenaries of many great men, Lincoln, Gladstone, Tennyson and many more. While the present year does not have so glorious a list, 1910 includes the centenaries of not a few persons whose names have a place secure in history. Among them are;

- Ole Bull, the Norwegian violinist.
- Elihu Burritt, "the Learned Blacksmith."
- Count Camillo Benso di Cavour, the Italian statesman.
- Fanny Elssler, the Austrian dancer.
- Margaret Fuller, the American author.
- Mrs. Elizabeth Gaskell, the English author.
- Asa Gray, the American botanist.
- Maurice de Guérin, the French poet.
- Pope Leo XIII.
- The Comte de Montalembert, the French historian.
- Alfred de Musset, the French poet.
- Robert Cornelis Napier, the English soldier.
- Robert Schumann, the German composer.
- Theodore Schumann, the scientist and originator of the cell theory.
- Constant Troyon, the French painter.
- Martin Farquhar Tupper, the English writer.