

A Friendly Talk to Boys.

"Your first duty in life is toward your afterlife. So live that your afterlife—that man you ought to be—may in his time be possible and actual.

Far away in the years he is waiting his turn. His body, his brain, his soul are in your boyish hands. He can not help himself.

What will you leave for him? Will it be a brain unsoiled by lust of dissipation, a mind trained to think and act, a nervous system true as a dial in its response to truth about you? Or will you throw away his inheritance before he has had the chance to touch it? Will you turn over to him a brain distorted, mind diseased? A will untrained to action? A spinal cord grown through and through with the devil grass of that vile harvest we call wild oats?

Will you let him come, taking your place, gaining through your experiences, hallowed through your joys; bidding on them his own?

Or will you fling his hope away, decreeing wanton-like that the man you might have been shall never be?

This is your problem in life; the problem of more importance to you than any or all others. How will you meet it, as a man or as a fool?

When you answer all of this, we shall know what use the world can make of you.—David Starr Jordan.

My Dear Boy:—That "Appeal to Boys," by Dr. David Starr Jordan, which Dr. Rankin is putting in the Bulletin this time, is one of the finest things I have come across lately, and the first thing I'd like for you to do is to read it. Then I'd like for us to have a little talk—a little friendly brotherly talk, for I haven't gotten over being a boy myself—about whether it pays to start "taking a drink."

Now, I am not going to lecture you, and I am not going to say a word about it being an "awful sin" or anything of the sort. We are just going to talk about it as a business matter and find out if it pays. That's all.

Now, my conviction from a good deal of observation and study is that it doesn't pay, and I am going to tell you the reason why. If your drink is merely a boyish prank I shouldn't have a thing to say about it, because I know that while you may play practical jokes and you may take dare-devil risks now and then, that's just the boy in you, and you are straight and square and honest at bottom and you are going to come out all right.

What I want to say about this drinking business, however, is that it is a very different matter from these pranks and feats and jokes in which a boy may naturally and healthily "let off steam." They may not have you any worse, but drinking and immorality will.

A great danger is that if you begin drinking at all you can't keep from drinking immoderately; you are young yet, but you have seen enough to know that. There are all kinds of chances that you will wind up as a dirty blundered, worthless drunkard—a sort of man as Uncle Remus says, who is "not fit to stop the gully wid."—but what I want you to remember is that even if you should only drink moderately will not live so long, you will not be so healthy, nor will you be so happy as you will be if you don't drink at all.

In other words, no matter whether you live a good clean life, and you drinking is a sin or not, you want want a healthy body, a steady nerve, and a clear brain, and you can't have these if you drink even moderately.

Take the matter of length of life. The insurance companies have been keeping careful records of thousands and thousands of men, beginning, as they did, years and years before you were born to find out just how drinking affects a man's health and length of life. It's their business you know. Well, they started out when they began these records with the idea that a man was actually helped by using some whiskey—that was the belief a long time ago—and it was on this theory in England 40 or 50 years ago when they tried to make a man named Robert Warren pay a higher price, a higher rate on life insurance because he was a teetotaler. So Warren started a society which has kept track of thousands and thousands of English insurance cases for over forty years; and what do you suppose the results show? They show that the death rate is over a third higher for moderate drinkers than for total abstainers.

In other words, in any given year four men die among the drinkers for every three who die among abstainers. Of every 100 drinkers the life insurance com-

panies count on as possible deaths. 94 of the 100 come to the scratch, and die—only six disappoint them by living on. But of every 100 expected deaths among people who do not drink at all only 71 actually die. Seventy-one deaths among abstainers to 94 among drinkers.

Again, it has been proved that of every 100 persons thirty years old who drink, 44 of the 100 will live to be seventy; but if you take 100 thirty-year-old persons who don't drink, 55 of the hundred will live to be seventy. Isn't it worth something to you, even if drinking paid in other ways, as it doesn't, to have a 25 per cent. better chance to live out our "three score years and ten"? And the records show that you do have this 25 per cent. better chance by not drinking.

These figures are based on the English experience but the figures for America tell the same story. In a recent address at the A. & M. College in Raleigh, I heard Capt. Richmond Pearson Hocobson, the famous Spanish War hero, give the farmer boys there the showing of the American statistics. Among other things he pointed out that without drinking the prospects of life when you are twenty years old is forty-four more years of living, but with drinking only thirty-one years—an average reduction of thirty years in length of life due to the drink habit.

Or take the evidence of Mr. Edward A. Wood, a practical insurance manager, of Pittsburg, Pa., who says furthermore that 40 per cent.—nearly half—of the men who have such diseased bodies, weakened nerves, etc., that they can't get life insurance at all "are for causes connected with alcohol."

Experiments which a distinguished group of scientists made with group of laboring men showed that even beer drinking decreased the output of labor 8 1-2 per cent. In other words it took ten men to do the work nine would have done if they had let ven beer alone; and in clerical and intellectual work the damage by drinking was even greater. In head work or muscular work or sport, it is all the same; whiskey keeps you from "making good." You know no drinking boy can stay on your college football team.

It is because the people understand these things that all classes are frowning on the man who drinks. If you want to get a job the boy who drinks is passed over; and the young fellow who doesn't is taken. That's one reason why the country boys so often beat the city boys in business: there is less drinking in the country. If you want to succeed in farm work or city work—as I hope you do—or if you want to marry the smartest or prettiest girl in the neighborhood (or the smartest and prettiest)—as I hope you do—'t's all the same story. The chances are against you if you drink.

Now there's no use for me to discuss this subject further with you, and I can only ask you to look up the facts further set forth in this Bulletin. The whole story is that I want you and every boy to live out a long, healthy, happy life; and I want you to be successful a farmer or a business man or a professional man, whichever you are and I know the chances are against you having if you drink. That's why I want all of our Southern boys to have nerve enough to let liquor alone. We want either a long life or a successful life to see the South the greatest section of the Union before you and I die, and in traveling about over the country it seems to me that one of the surest signs that we are going to be at the front is found in just one fact. And that one fact is that we seem likely to have in the South about the smallest proportion of whiskey-ruined boys, and therefore with greatest proportion of strong, sober, healthy, successful young men.

Of course it will take some time to keep you in this class some times. You may get caught in a fix now and then when other boys are drinking and it will take more genuine spunk for you to be a man enough to say "No" than it takes to ride a bucking horse or swim a river in freshet-time.

But if you will make up your mind dead sure that you are going to "stick to your stickums" and shake hands with me on this proposition I am sure I can trust you to show the spunk when it's needed.

Sincerely your friend,
—The Bulletin, CLARENCE POE.

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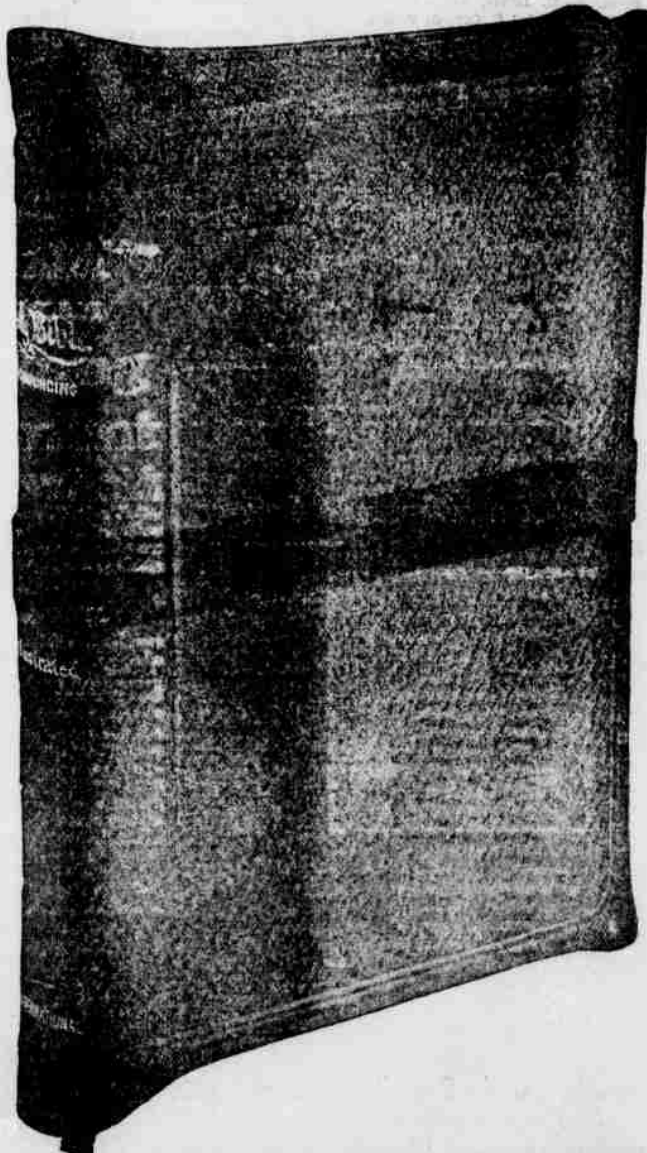
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No Commercial Disaster.
Over four months have elapsed since the American people decided to change the control of the government; and despite the predictions of the President and his supporters that commercial disaster would follow, business is expanding and the foreshadowing of disaster is not yet apparent.

The bank clearings only a week ago were 8.8 per cent. greater than in the corresponding week last year. For months they have been doing a large volume of business and their tendency is upward. The gross earnings of the railroads for the first week in November were 6.70 per cent. greater than a year ago. The Commercial and Financial Chronicle in giving the gross and net earnings compared with last year show a marked increase.

We frequently overlook the full significance of increases like this. Population hardly grows 2 per cent. a year. Wealth cannot increase over 3 per cent. at the outside, but bank clearings and gross earnings of the railroads are increasing 10 per cent. Many of the periods of retrograding business we encounter are caused by the inevitable reactions of trade that outrun wealth production darkens the growing prosperity of the nation.

Foreign trade is of great volume. The vast crops predicted are now assured. The demand for clothing of all kinds is greater than ever before, and mills can scarcely supply these increasing demands. In fact, business is such that we can safely say that it is increasing steadily, quietly and surely. No cloud of darkness darkens the growing prosperity of the nation.

According to final statement of contributions filed with the House of Representatives, it cost the Democratic national committee \$1,159,446 to elect Wilson and Marshall. This money came in \$9,854 separate contributions of which all but 1,625 were in amounts less than \$100.

When a young man is pushed ahead to a more responsible position the chances are a hundred to one that he knows how; and the how is usually business knowledge that can be learned by any one who is industrious enough and ambitious enough to make the effort.

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