



An Appeal To Boys

"Your first duty in life is toward your afterself. So live that your afterself—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 cannot help himself.

What will you leave for him ?

Will it be a brain unspoiled by lust of dissipation, a mind trained to think and act, a nervous system true as a dial in its response to the truth about you? Will you, boy, let him come as a man among men in his time? 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, a 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 experiences, hallowed through your joys; building 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 this, we shall know what use the world can make of you."—David Starr Jordan.