The dangers of depriving a boy.
The danger of depreciating a boy, illustrated

A gentleman was annoyed by a little boy who kept close beside him and asked him ques-
tions while he was making a trade. In
impatience he says to the boy: "You are al-
ways in the way - you hinder more than
you help. I can't tell for the life of me what
you are good for."

The child goes away in tears to carry the
sentiment the man has uttered in his mind
forever. It settles down upon his young heart like
this: "I am always in somebody's way. There is
no place for me! I hinder more than I help.
I seem to be good for nothing."
Boys do not often sink into despondency and gloom. They swerve the bitter pills that grow men and grown women forced upon them every day and run off to stave themselves with whatever pleasure comes first by way of relief.

The gentleman did not really mean what he said. The boy was not always in the way he was not really more of a hindrance than a help and sooner or later he will know what he is good for.

Another unintended depreciation of boys came under my observation. An earnest Christian man was referring to his own youth, and said with some bitterness...
and much sorrow in his recollection of the way he was used when a boy: There seem to be places for girls, they are useful in the house; they can make beds, wash the dishes, sweep the rooms and mind the baby but there is no place for a boy - he is always out of place always hungry while he is growing. After his mother is dead his relatives do not want him so he is turned loose to shift for himself.

The picture was a true one for one boy or a few boys - but I know he did not intend it even for most boys. He wanted to tell the people the danger of neglecting
boys and urge upon them the duty of seeing that a boy was of some account and he wished to show what dreadful consequences would follow if a boy should be treated in a mean and selfish way.

The mothers all around us said: “our boys are not so neglected—not so treated.”

This leads me to inquire, first: What a boy is good for?

I saw in the bulletin a child’s answer to this question, the other day. It is this: “They make men out of such as me.” Yes, the lamb will grow to become a sheep, the calf to become a horse, and a boy to become a free grown man. It is really the best
satisfy answer that can be made to the question for in a few short years the present farmers, mechanics, merchants, doctors, lawyers and ministers will be laid away in the graves that are waiting for them and their important places will be filled by these who are boys and young men today. Boys seem to realize this fact themselves. They are eager for the knowledge that men have; they love dearly to try their young hands at men's work; they are not satisfied with the spreading fork; they wish to rake and mow and pitch; they are not content with...
with opening and shutting and cleaning the store, they want to trade, they will not stop with being driven for they long to drive. I love to see the bright face of a courageous boy, filling his mind and his heart with the knowledge that will set him to fill the place of a man. I delight in the fearless energy of the young man who is ready to undergo any amount of toil and self-denial in order to succeed, according to his own conception of success! And I would not if I were to take from the boy of youth a single one of his bright hopes. It is, no doubt, a good help to healthy growth to hold back a little - to keep from the child the wearily
Care and anxiety of after years; the bright sky
the gentle breezes, the glad songs of the birds,
all, belong to his life. Long faces gloomy
looks and cross words can be omitted much
often than some of us seem to think.
And yet it is important my boy, it is vital
to a proper manhood that you have a proper
boyhood and youth?

How can you have a proper boyhood and youth?
The answer is short and simple: the words of
your Heavenly Father are: “My son, give me thine
heart and let thine eyes observe my ways.”

II II II, Reminiscences by the way.
Among the fascinating stories of the East is one which describes an enchanted hill whose summit conceals an object of incomparable worth. It was offered, as a prize, to him who should ascend the hill without looking behind him. But whoever ventured to secure this treasure was told that if he did look backwards, he should be instantly changed into a stone. Many a princely youth allured by the tempting prize had ventured up that fatal hill; and as many had been changed to stones. For the adjacent groves were filled with mosk melodious voices and with birds of sweeter song,
whose bewitching strains and enticements followed each youth as he ascended until he yielded his innate curiosity to control his hopes and fears—turned his head, and instantly became a stone. Hence the hill side was covered with stones."

This story is exemplified every day. For any really worthy object before a young man, for a time he bends his energies to overcome every intervening obstacle, but some sirens allures him to the right or left; he leaves the pathway and loses the object. It applies to virtue. The pursuit and fails. To the attainment of Know-
ledge. He begins well but dallies by
the way and loses his prize. To success
in any worthy life-pursuit, it takes a
clear eye and steady aim to reach the mark.

Vige is a monster of 20 frightful men,
That to be hated, but to be seen;

seen too oft familiar with her face,
The first enemy, then pity, then embraced.

A young man has just reached a position
of trust. He is genial in temper, kind
and courteous in manner, frank and
open-hearted; he is not by every body
with open arms. A pleasant flatterer
says: "just aid us in your leisure.
interesting

in some amateur performances on the stage.
Oh yes, there is no harm in that! He does so and is highly commended, but unwittingly he is thus bequelled into the society of men who for an strong drink and loose money for amusement. It is not very long before he is cLefted with williams and in a single night all his humble savings are swept away. He tries the fast bank, borrowing largely but fortune is against him and his borrowed money goes into other men's coffers. He flits from his creditors in the fear and folly.
of his passion he commits a breach of law and rends himself in the deepest of human misery. What was the matter? He listened to the bewitching voices and turned aside from the true road to success. Now the first Psalm would ring in his ears of his father or mother had taught it to him. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord. "The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away." Further has a good place in a store-just
enjoys a little for recreation—now and then treats a few friends at the bany. In a few days he has lost his place, lost the respect of good men; lost all his earnings and bankrupt in everything, flies to crime for relief. What is the matter? Why the enticements of appetite and passion led him into the society of those who lury long at the wine—‘that wine of which the wise man in the Bible wrot—‘at the last it biteth like a serpent and stighth like an adder.’
The bright boy who may come from a
drumordo home - the boy whose father is
a gambler, the boy who has always
been neglected and running wild in the
streets - What will you do with him?
The chews and smokes he uses profane
words with every breath, he has no more
sabbath than an unconverted savage;
falsehood on his lips is blatant and of
constant use; he worries the police and
puzzles judge and jury with his cunning
and thrustlessness; he keeps on growing in body
and in evil and will soon have the look
and proportions of a man. Of course it
is from boys of whom this is a type that
the jails and penitentiaries are mostly filled.
But it is not from these alone—for every day we find boys from respectable homes going into dens of dissipation and vice. They often confederate together in sin; saying and doing what they know to be wrong—what they know to be forbidden by their parents and by their God.

Profanity—(a).

The first sin is often profanity.icked men use profane words and they then try to justify it, saying: “I don’t think profane swearing hurts anybody” they say: “It is not wrong because no wrong is intended.”
If you draw the edge of a sythe across a stone it blunts and draws the sythe and it will not cut — so if carelessly break this one commandment of God you have taken the edge off from your conscience — that sharp edge which is intended to separate between right and wrong — you have blunted and dulled it. I cannot conceive how a boy can really love his mother and keep disobeying her — neither can he really love his Heavenly Father and keep disobeying him. A profane word once spoken cannot be recalled — Repeat it a few times and it becomes a habit hard to break.
Disobedience - (1)

Disobedience comes next - disobey your parents once and the next time it is not so hard to do. Repeat it a few times and this too has become a habit.

Pilchard - (e.)

Pilchard comes on in the same train. Tell a lie to cover a fault and the witched work has begun. Repeat the operation a few times and the heart is dark with its stains.

Theft - (d.)
Properity, disobedience of parents, falsehood, once established in a boy's heart and practiced is but a step to theft; then hatred is sure to follow and often murder. Take one step in wrong doing and you will probably take two. Take two steps in wrong doing and you will probably take three and more till you have broken all God's commandments.

Secret sins. (c)

It is not always wise to speak of secret sins, certainly not of some secret sins; a little self-maneuvering—just a little! I know one who began with that feeling who cannot now govern his associations. He says, and perhaps truly, "my associates of both sexes are not worse than I am."
He is enchained. He sees no way of escape from the burning degrading consequences of his secret sins. Who shall arise to deliver him?

The other side contrasted. But I will not enlarge upon these views. God's commandments are very sweet and precious to the young man who has and is keeping them diligently. He can say with David. "Oh how I love thy law, it is my meditation all the day. "How sweet are thy words unto my taste, yea sweeter than honey to my mouth. Through thy precepts I get understanding. Therefore I hate every false way."
But what a sad feeling comes into his heart if he has and is breaking them—these Commandments—I hear the lamentation every day. Oh that I could live my life over again! Under the pressure such thoughts many a heart becomes heavy and seeks relief; in reading, in writing, in travel, in pleasures of all kinds, now in solitude—now in society—restless, unstable, unhappy—poor heart it cannot do rid itself of its load.

Restlessness from an old work of system.
I have noticed similar restlessness in younger
"They declare
lives. — there is so very much of law. As
much "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not"!
I know when I first went to West Point
I was irritated by many regulations. It
seemed as if I could not walk or talk or
turn my head without being reported. I
am a boy! Come hungry to the table. I
must wait! I must be patient. There
are so many rules! I am thirty there
are so many rules about my drinking;
I am always eager to hear and to see
what is to be seen and heard. Yet I
am always repressed! Oh is, Charlie you must not look at that, you will cut it, or it will burn your eyes. You must not listen to such stories, they will spoil your mind. Rules, rules, rules. For everything from the time I open my eyes in the morning till I think them at night I am to be sure, honest, truthful, careful, economical; I am to have faith, virtue, knowledge, a good name and a good character. I must have politeness, kindness, courage, industry, responsibility etc. etc. Oh it is too much! I have tried to be good and keep all my father's and mother's rules, but I do get fretful, impatient and angry.
and discouraged, and I know I dis-heartened my parents - but it is of no use I believe the bad is in me? I think often I will now begin again and try to please my parents and friends but still it is up hill business. They never seem satisfied and I am very unhappy.

The Remedy

Thanks be to our Heavenly Father, He has provided a complete effectual remedy. Ring it out in speaking, in praying and in singing! It lies in creeping over the whole heap of difficulties, perplexities
and trials into the arms of the Blessed
saviour. If he is allowed to fold you in
his arms he will breath contentment
into your heart. A contented heart will
show itself in a contented face and a
contented life.

"I've cast my deadly doing down
"Down at Jesus feet:
"I stand in him- in him alone,
"Glorious and complete.
"How to Jesus work I'll cling
"By a simple faith,
"Doing was a deadly thing
"It would have been my death.
"Now my life shall all be given
To my risen Lord,
"Doing all the way to Heaven"
"something in his word.

The Bible says with the heart man believes unto righteousness. It means that when your heart has been cleaned out filled with God's Holy Spirit every thing that I have named, love, faith, virtue, knowledge, goodness and such like will spring out like water from the fountain—will seem to grow in it like the fruit on the tree.

Dispair and discomagement are all gone. And further, your new loving heart will lead you
to do think, talk and act as to lead other boys and young men to the same fountain of cleansing.

I knew a young man in Chicago, who with a heart made big with the love of Christ, drew together hundreds of boys like the work I have described and taught them the way. I knew another in New Jersey who made up a whole school of such and succeeded in quenching them from Satan's power and making of them real Christians.

The continuance in this life.

A lady speaking of a boy twelve years of age who had just united with the Church. said to me: "Do you not think
he is too young to join the church? I made
answer that I thought a boy who could
love his mother intelligently could love his
Heavenly Father? But I understand her
fear— it is this: "that he will run wild for
a season but by and by when he gets absorbed
in the world's business he will begin to
lag by the way and perhaps like many
others fall out of the ranks of active Chris-
tians." Then he and his friends will be sorry
that he ever took upon himself the title
of a Christian. Boys this fear is all

It is keeping back young people old and old from beginning plain duty. The first duty, I have indicated it, is from the Father in Christ: "My son, give me thy heart: mind you it does not say when you are old enough, when you have read the Bible through - when you have memorized the Catechism, but the Command is positive and always. The remainder of the Command is "and let thine eyes observe my ways." It is not look at my ways and then look away but observe them, continue to look at them. The fact is when the heart is really given to Christ it becomes a real pleasure to observe his ways.
though a new country is eager for a good map. He studies every river and branch, every road and pathway, every mountain and hill, every city and village laid down upon it. He studies it until he is perfectly familiar with it. He shows it to other officers and gives them copies to study. The success of his campaign hinges in great measure upon that map.

Now, if the boy starts in earnest into this new way he will be eager to study his map. I mean the Bible. He will ask for the lamp of God's Holy Spirit to
guides him every day through its pages of solid truth.

If you observe the children at the table, you would not dream of their eating enough at one meal for a whole week. They would not become very strong. So the boy who only looked at his Bible and prayed once a week would not be likely to be spiritually very strong, it is not in eating an enormous amount at a time that a boy is made to grow and keep in strength — it is not to cram the mind with whole chapters at a time, but feed carelessly and regularly upon God's words.

Begin every day with prayer and reading. The sweet words of your Blessed Saviour...
are better than mine; he says: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you."

Then boys and young men, be sure to gather up and store away in your memory, every day, some of those wonderful words.

The continuance after this life.

I hardly need to speak to you of the life beyond the grave. For I assure every boy that hears me and every young man that he has the promise of the life to come as sure as the rocks, as true as the sunlight, if he will begin and continue to be a loving child of God: "Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid. +++. Thee that believeth (beginneth and continueth to believe) on the Son of God hath everlasting life."
As we have been running over the boy-life and its exposures as we have considered the dangers, thoughts and pitfalls in its way, the trials and discouragements to which grown-up people often subject it have we not resolved and resolved to help these children more than we have been accustomed to do?

If a jewel is very costly, is of great intrinsic value, how careful we are to keep it safe.
If a dress is very delicate of texture and of great fineness and beauty how painstaking we are to keep it spotless. Oh, how much more costly, of how much more intrinsic value and fineness of texture, the bodies and souls of our sons committed to our keeping.

Let us tread carefully here, so as not to injure or kill the rootlets of life, life pure, happy and eternal.

The Lord enable us by example and by precept to preserve
these germ of hope, joy and heaven.

But to care properly for our own, we cannot leave swagery to the streets. Wildness, roughness, filthiness, blasphemy from young street life will contaminate and in time destroy the home-life. There is no time or place for lazy or indifferent christianity. The weeds grow rapidly if they are not kept down. The garden becomes wild and useless if good.
seed be not downland wasted and protected.

Then my Christian friends we must look after these outside boys as well as our own and see to it that no stone is unturned to engraft them early with those principles which will never cease to bear good fruit.

To this end may the Holy Spirit give us the supreme aid.