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LETTERS TO YOUNG MEN.

Continued from page 4.

in such a manner as to induce him to quit the premises.

You really ought to be ashamed of such behavior. A clean mouth, a sweet breath, unstained teeth and inoffensive clothing, are not these treasures worth preserving. Then throw away tobacco and all thoughts of it once and forever. Be a man. Be decent, and be thankful to me for talking so plainly to you. But there are other bad habits besides the use of tobacco.

There is the habit of using strong drink, not the habit of getting drunk, with most young men, but the habit of taking a drink occasionally in its milder forms, of playing with a small appetite that only needs sufficient playing with to make you a demon or a dolt. You think you are safe. I know you are not safe, if you drink at all, and when you get offended with the good friends who warn you of your danger you are a fool. I know that the graves wallows daily by scores, drunkards, every one of whom thought he was safe while he was forming his appetite. But this is old talk. A young man in this age who forms the habit of drinking or puts himself in danger of forming the habit, is usually so weak that it doesn't pay to save him.

I pass by profanity. This is too offensive and vulgar a habit for any man who reads a respectable book, to indulge in; I pass by this, I say, to come to a habit more destructive than any I have contemplated.

Young man - You who are so modest in the presence of women, so polite and amiable; you who are invited into families where there are pure and virtuous girls; you who go to church, and seem to be such a pattern young man; you who, very possibly, neither smoke nor chew, nor snuff, nor swear, nor drink - You have one habit ten times worse than all these put together. A habit that makes you a whitened sepulchre, fair without, but within full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. You have a habit of impure thought, that poisons the very springs of your life. It may lead you into lawless indulgences, or it may not. So far as your character is concerned, it makes little difference.

A young man who cherishes impure images, and indulges in impure conversations with his associates, is poisoned. There is rottenness in him. He is not to be trusted. Hundreds of thousands of men are living in unhappiness and degradation to-day, who owe their unhappy lives to an early habit of impure thought. To a young man who has be-

come poisoned in this way, women all appear to be vicious or weak; and when a young man loses his respect for the sex made sacred by the relations of mother and sister, he stands upon the crumbling edge of ruin.

His sensibilities are killed, and his moral nature almost beyond the reach of regeneration. I believe it to be true that a man who has lost his belief in woman has, as a general thing, lost his faith in God.

The only proper way to treat such a habit as this is to fly from it, discard it, expel it, fight it to the death. Impure thought is a moral drug quite as seductive and poisonous to the soul as tobacco is to the body. It prevents the tone of every fibre of the soul. One should have more respect for his body than to make it the abode of toads and lizards and unclean reptiles of all sorts. The whole matter resolves itself into this: A young man is not fit for life until he is clean, clean and healthy, body and soul, with no tobacco in his mouth; no liquor in his stomach, no oath on his tongue, no snuff in his nose, and no thought in his heart, which, if exposed, would send him sneaking into darkness from the presence of good women.

I know a man who believes that the regeneration of the world is to be brought about by a change of diet. If he will add the policy of utter cleanliness to his scheme, I will agree not to quarrel with him.

Yours truly,

TIMOTHY.

(To be continued)



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