

"WHERE IS MY WANDERING BOY TO-NIGHT?"

A sadder question was never evoked from the anxious heart of father or mother than the above. The song is familiar to all of us, and the tragic cause which made it possible for such a song to be written is also known. It describes the crucial anxiety wringing the heart of the parents of a wild boy who is killing them by inches by his prodigality and wildness. Hard indeed it is for any but a mother or father to enter into the full agony of such a cry.

There is a fact to which we wish to call attention. While it is difficult to reform a boy who has gone far enough in the ways of wrong to wring this bitter cry from the mother's heart, there is a way of prevention which is better even than attempted cure after the boy has gone wrong. If the question, "Where is my boy tonight?" were more insistently asked, and efforts corresponding to this intensity were more diligently made to always know where the boy was at night up to his fifteenth year, there would be less occasion for the further and bitterer question to be asked which heads this editorial. It is shocking how many parents do not make it a point to know, and let their boys understand that they must know exactly where they are at night until and after they enter their teens.

The man makes it his business to always know where his horses and cattle are at night and in the daytime, too. He makes it his business to know that they are all fenced in in safe pastures and are well fed and cared for for the night. He feels that he can not afford to risk their loss or injury by any other course. But the boys, and even sometimes the girls? Well, they just do not know where they are. And yet the parents are alone responsible for the children, and everybody but lunatics knows and admits this. So if any damage comes to the children the father and mother alone are responsible and will be so held in the sight of God and man.

Notwithstanding these facts, there are children, often little children of six or seven years of age, roaming the streets at night and their parents know not where they are, and make no special effort to know. These children are unattended save by the vicious and the wild and the wicked of the street, who are as sure to lead them astray as that water runs down hill or gravitation attracts. While these children are being thus trained in the devil's school for the penitentiary and the jail and the electric chair, the parents are at home by the fire comfortably smoking or talking about their fine stock, their Jersey cows, and their blooded hogs, all of which are so carefully housed or safely penned for the night.

We want to ask if such mothers and fathers are sane or if they have lost their reason. If they are sane they are guilty of the grossest recklessness and the most unnatural cruelty and neglect of their children of which they could be guilty. To murder them outright might be considered worse by some, but we hesitate to think so. For by their murder in their days of innocent childhood they would be saved the awful fate awaiting them

with absolute certainty by the gross neglect being visited upon them. If the parents are demented the state should step in and protect the children from their unnatural cruelty and neglect, by sending the children to orphanages and sending their parents to asylums for the insane.

Let this be made absolutely plain to all such mothers and fathers as are guilty, and let them be made to change by a storm of vigorous protest which they would not dare to ignore. This is an atrocious wrong practised upon the innocent and unprotected children of millions of homes in this land of ours. If it is the duty of the state to punish the criminals guilty of capital offenses, then surely it is the duty and the province of the state to step in this yawning chasm of parental crime and put a stop to it, as far as is in its power by such laws as will lessen the wrong. Neglected children should be taken from neglecting parents and put where they will be safe, while their unnatural parents should be punished in some way suited to their crimes against their own offspring for whom God and nature and the state hold them responsible.—Herald of Holiness.

IT COULDN'T BE DONE.

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,

But he, with a chuckle, replied  
That "maybe it couldn't" but he would be one

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in, with the trace of a grin

On his face. If he worried, he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "O, you'll never do that,

At least no one ever has done it."  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,

And the first thing we knew he'd begun it;

With the lift of his chin, and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubling or quibbling;  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,

There are thousands to prophesy failure;

There are thousands to point out to us, one by one,

The dangers that wait to assail you;  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Then take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "cannot be done" and you'll do it.

—Selected.

Norway voted on the liquor question on the 6th instant and adopted the prohibition of whiskey, brandy and other strong liquors. The vote was 528,455 for prohibition and 284,137 against it. The measure does not affect wines and beers. They will strike them later without doubt.

"No one can be made a slave to evil without his or her consent at some stage of the proceeding."

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Highway:

As I have not written for your column for some time, I thought that it was about time that I reported myself. After Riverside Camp Meeting I came to Fredericton to get our household effects ready to ship here, when I was taken suddenly ill, and after being in bed a few days, I was ordered by the physician to take a few weeks rest before taking up my work, as I was much run down through over work.

We then went to Beulah Camp Ground as I know of no better place to rest than there. We left Beulah feeling much better and came here to take charge of the work on this circuit.

It seemed indeed a great undertaking for one in the condition of health that I was in to undertake the care of these five churches. But I did this trusting that the Lord would give me the needed health and strength, and He has, for I have not only been busy moving and settling, but have preached three times nearly every Sunday, and driven on an average over twenty miles to do so.

This is not a new field to us, as wife and I moved here just twenty years ago this summer. We find many changes here since that time, many of the older ones having gone to their reward, but we are pleased to find so many of the younger ones taking the places of those who have gone. Since we were here before the people of the circuit have erected a snug parsonage, which makes a nice home for the pastor and his family. We found the house needing some repairs, which when suggested to the people of the different churches found a ready response, and although too late to do much to the outside this fall, we have been papering and painting inside, and expect in the spring to complete the repairs outside. The people here are very kind and thoughtful, and certainly have a way of making their pastor feel at home among them. We wish to say that we are improving in health, for which we praise the Lord, but most for the blessing of full salvation. We expect not only to sow the good seed of the Kingdom here, but also to reap the harvest from the seed sown by the faithful pastors who have labored in the past on this field. Brethren, pray for us.

Yours in the work,

H. C. ARCHER.

Millville, Oct. 27th, 1919.

ELDERLY MEN GREATEST ASSETS.

Progress in surgery and medicotherapeutics since the Civil War have added 15 years to the average human life. Dr. William Mayo, of Rochester, Minn., told the annual American Congress of Surgeons at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. With continued progress, he added, and aided by the elimination of liquors and other wines, 15 years more would be added.

Elderly men are the nation's greatest assets, said Dr. Mayo, because they possess mature judgment, "have something to lose," and are less affected by agitators than younger men. He deplored the increase in smoking, both by men and women, asserting that it had caused an increase in cancer.