

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4-12

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SOME THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

(By H. S. D.)

The lips of a fool will swallow up himself.
Ecl. 10-12.

Most young people are likely to judge another by external appearances; by what they see and hear: and very often if one is a fluent talker, and is able to entertain by much use of the tongue, that one will be much in demand by his, or her associates. My mother used to say a still tongue means a wise head.

Many years ago this writer went to a place to work where there was a large number of men engaged, and in that company we met two brothers, one they called Abe and the other Jake. Abe was a quiet kind of a fellow, not very easy to get acquainted with. And I remember we did not like him very well at first for that reason. Jake was different. He was a talker, very sociable, and easy to get acquainted with. All the boys seemed to like Jake very much, he was so friendly. But as time went on, and we became better acquainted with the brothers, we found ourselves thinking less of Jake, and more of the quiet brother, Abe. We could not understand the change in our attitude then, for we had no trouble of any kind with Jake, only we did not care so much for him as we did at first. We have had similar experiences with several persons since that time. Some folks we liked better the first time that we saw them than we ever did after. And with many other people our experience has been just the reverse. They seemed a little hard to get acquainted with, but the better we knew them the more we liked them. We found that although they were not the best entertainers, and perhaps at times they might seem to be rather dull company, especially for one who was inclined to be quiet-like themselves; yet we found in them sincerity of soul, and a depth of character, which was firm and steadfast, and did not change with the wind and tide. And we have learned that when you have made a friend of one of this class, you have a friend indeed—a friendship that will stand the wear and strain of everyday life, and that will not fail you, or break in great trials of adversity. As the scripture says: A friend that loveth at all times. Now going back to our friend Jake again: We found his popularity decreased with the passing of the months, and some of the men said he had too much mouth. He got into trouble and quarrelled with some of the men and finally got a blow from another fellow's fist; that left him with a black eye, which he took home with him. Now as I look back across the years, the most outstanding thing that I can remember about Jake was his mouth. That seemed to be about all there was left of him to remember. To use the words of our text: His lips or mouth had swallowed him up.

We also remember very well a young lady who belonged to a very good family and after she had reached a marriageable age she was keeping company with a young man who also came from good people, and was a good character, industrious, and a promising young man, although he was rather quiet and not so good looking. He evidently thought

a great deal of his young lady friend, who was pretty, and attractive, as well as good. But one day there came another young man to that community. He was handsome, clever, a great talker. He could tell more funny stories, and make more "wise cracks" than any other young man in the community—a great entertainer. It was soon seen that he was attracted to this vivacious young lady of whom we speak, and had his heart set on winning her from the other fellow, which thing he did, for she soon became so enamored with his glib tongue, and nice appearance, that he induced her to break off her engagement with suitor number one. So she sent back his ring which caused him bitter tears, and nearly broke his heart. And she married young man number two. But as the poet has said, "all that glitters is not gold," and the young woman of whom I am writing lived to find that true by sad experience, for she found that her attractive husband who was rich in promises lacked the basic principles of true manhood. She in turn has shed many bitter tears, and has suffered greatly because of her blind folly and blind choice, for she realized when it was too late, the truth of our text, namely, that a person can consist mostly of mouth, talk, promises. And that in her case the fool's lips not only swallowed up himself, but also swallowed her up. There is an old saying that "empty vessels make the most noise." So young people, beware of external attractions when you are choosing your friends and associates. Look deeper than the surface and see if there is sincerity and strength of character there, which will stand the wear and strain of everyday life, which will endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. For this with the grace of God is what every young couple will need for a foundation upon which to build a home. Flattering words, fair speeches, pretty hair, handsome faces, nice clothes, painted cheeks, lips and finger nails, will all fade, or change with the passing of the years—for all these things are merely earthly, and with other earthly things will perish with the using. As the poet has said:

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Await alike the inevitable hour,
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

It is difficult for any person to keep spiritual and talk too much. The wise man said: In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise. They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars, for ever and ever.—Daniel.

An unknown writer has left us a little poem, setting forth the folly of not taking time for God.

"No time for God?"

What fools we are to clutter up
Our lives with common things,
And leave without heart's gate
The Lord of Life, and life itself—
Our God.

"No time for God?
As soon to say, 'No time
To eat or sleep or love or die.'
Take time for God,
Or you shall dwarf your soul;
And when the angel Death
Comes knocking at your door,
A poor, misshapen thing you'll be
To step into eternity.

"No time for God?
That day when sickness comes
Or trouble finds you out,
And you cry out for God,
Will He have time for you?"

"No time for God?
Some day you'll lay aside
This mortal self, and make your way
To worlds unknown;
And when you meet Him face to face
Will He—should He
Have time for you?"

EVERY DAY

Let—

The reading of your book,
The singing of your song,
The support of your church,
The making of your decision,
The preaching of your sermon,
The taking of your recreation,
The radiation of your influence,
The nature of your conversation:
Be as you would want it to be if this day
were your last day.—Sel.

THEY KEPT ON

Socrates, white-headed, learned to play musical instruments, Cato at eighty studied Greek, and Plutarch at eighty studied Latin. Theophrastus at ninety published his greatest work. In old age Chaucer wrote his "Canterbury Tales." Arnauld translated Josephus in his eightieth year. Hobbes published his translation of the Odyssey at eighty-seven and his translation of "Illiad" at eighty-eight.

No one is old enough to retire or give up effort in the Kingdom of God until obliged to do so. We shall have an eternity in which to rest.—Selected.

HANDCUFFED

An officer, with a prisoner handcuffed to him, was killed in a railroad wreck. The prisoner could have escaped but for the dead man on his wrist.

So a man often blames the times or the family, or "his luck," for his poverty and the fact that he never gets on in the world. All the time he is chained to a cigarette, a glass of beer, a card table or evil companions. If he could get the "body of death," made up of his own habits, out of his life he could get away to prosperity and a life of usefulness. Why blame others?—Sel.

According to Mr. Geoffrey Crowther, editor of the Economist, the cost of the war to Britain may rise to as high as \$20,000,000,000 a year, or half the present national income.—Signs of the Times.