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The University Journal


The Duty of Young Men.

What Society, in Its Best Sense, Expects From Young Men.

BY MRS. A. J. COOPER.

In our modern usage so varied are the meanings of the term society, that it becomes necessary at the outset to define clearly the present application of it.

Society here means the community in which the sum total of individuals, belonging to any given time and place, live, move, and have their being. It is the whole, of which individuals constitute fractional parts. Or rather it is the body of which we are the members; so that if one member suffers all the members suffer with it.

What ought Society to demand from young men, what are the sacred obligations to social order on the part of the thoughtful and earnest youth who asks "What wilt thou have me to do?" in order that he may find a way to do it.

First, I would answer it is your bounden duty to be producers in the body politic. A withered hand or a paralysed leg is worse than useless; it is a positive burden, an affliction, a disease threatening the life and happiness of the whole. Cut it off! is what the interest of the body directs. If a man works not, neither shall he eat, is the fiat of Holy writ. "Young men for strength" is the proverb. The world's work is to be done by them and a strenuous hustling world it is. There is no room for drones and shirkers, no quarter shown to inefficiency and laziness. Every young man is to find what he can do best and then do it "like Hercules" with all his might and main. A young man at 21 should consider himself indebted to society at the very lowest figure for the full amount of the cost of his development to manhood. Up to that time we may assume that his consumption of goods has been at a loss to society. He ought to be unwilling to die with the debt unpaid. And what shall we say of those persistent shirkers who are still boarding with a mother-in-law, or calling Saturday nights at the service place of some devoted girl for their week's allowance in spending change? Parasites they are on the body politic, like the tape worm or the tick, filching for their unprofitable bodies the nourishment that has been produced by the labor of others. Away with them cries society. No race or nation can make headway enfeebled and impoverished by such blood suckers. Produce more than you consume. Put a balance on the credit side of your account with the world. Strive to leave society a little richer, through your direct effort and energy, than you found it. Aim to have something more than your old shoes to leave your heirs at death. Rest not till you have met some need of your little world, satisfied a want over and above the narrow and immediate wants of your personal existence. Support yourself, of course; but let not self support bound and circumscribe your horizon. Produce a margin, a generous bounty to humanity. Give to make society a little abler, a little brighter or a little better for your having lived.

A second imperative demand upon young men from the social order is that they marry, make homes and rear families. This is necessary for the perpetuation of the species. Nothing can be more vital to society than the continuance of its own existence which is conditioned upon the reproduction of its components. It is an alarming sign, in fact it strikes the death knell to our hope for the future, when alleys and dens of vice swarm with children while young men with steady employment live in boarding houses in comfortable bachelordom. I hold that just as soon as a man has a steady job paying a reasonable wage and is capable by economy and thrift of supporting a wife and little ones, he should shoulder that responsibility. Society expects it. Right living demands it. To shirk it because of its obligations and exactions is perilous to the individual and perilous to society. God never had a hand in planning the artificial life of "bachelors' quarters" in our modern cities. He created the individual and instituted the family as man's proper setting and completion. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh." Here we have the God-appointed unit of human society—the family. The divine order is that the vigor of youth and strong manhood shall be employed to support this institution; work for it, fight for it, sacrifice for it, that in return the tottering steps of old age shall be cheered and strengthened by the buoyant hearts and hands of one's own. That when the last summons comes, or "ever the silver cord be loosed or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, when the sound of the grinding is low and those that look out of the windows are darkened, when the strong men shall bow themselves and the grinders cease because they are few," then that day comes and man goeth to his long home, it is the
right and natural order that a goodly offspring stand ready to pay the debt of their being and, gathering up the thread where he has dropped it, spin the web on for their own generation.

The last demand I have to advance for young men of society is a public spirited devotion to the interests of the whole. Society looks to you as her bulwark, her main prop and support. You are her strength in the present, her hope and promise in the time to come. When a certain noted General was about to invade Greece and came in sight of the Grecian army, a mere handful of young men in comparison with his own mighty hosts, he exclaimed contemptuously as he saw their exposed situation, "Where are the walls of Greece?"

"There they are, sire," said an envoy from the Greeks who stood near; "those men are its walls and every man of them is a brick.

Society has constituted you its walls, rather God and nature have so ordered it and Society expects every man of you to be a brick. A man's view must be wider than his individual wants, must be wider even than family and home. The man whose grace was "Lord, bless me and my wife, my son John and his wife" is but one step removed in selfishness from the one who goes in to root for number one alone. As said in the beginning we are but parts of an organic whole. Society is the whole, its advancement the end and aim and goal of all individual progress.

No man liveth to himself, no man dieth to himself. Each should see what function in the life of the whole is assigned to him according to his talent and capabilities. A ready loyalty and interest are demanded, an intelligent altruism is expected.

These then are the three demands I have to leave with you, sacred obligations which we cannot repudiate. They are not new to you. Nay they are the answer that your own conscience would invariably have given had I turned this paper into a question box lecture asking each "How much owest thou, my lord?" It is not in my power to say with the unjust steward "take thy bill, sit down quickly and write half the amount." You know that when He comes with "Give an account of thy stewardship" He will hold you strictly to account for the uttermost farthing. According as it hath been given unto thee, the talent must be put out to the exchangers. The inexorable law is upon us proportioned to our several abilities that Society, the law of God and Nature, expects from each his best as a producer, as a builder of home and family and as a promoter of the general weal.

Howard's Commercial Department.

One of the greatest needs of the colored youths of today is a commercial training—how to earn a dollar, how to spend it wisely, use it economically and invest it safely.

The Trustees of Howard recognizing this fact have established a Commercial Department. Young men who anticipate entering into business after finishing school especially should take a course in this department. This will enable them to know and understand the conditions which determine the success or failure of the extensive industries of the country.

Without a commercial knowledge, young men can hardly hope to be able to know how to accumulate property and handle it profitably.

We feel that it is a great deal more profitable for our students to have a thorough knowledge of Agriculture, Horticulture, Fishing and Mining, than for them to utilize their time in pursuing a course in what is known as "the dead languages" and a few other subjects which are now taught in our schools.

While we do not altogether decry these subjects we feel that students should be given their preference, and believe that the very large majority of them should pursue such subjects as would give them a knowledge of the great principles of business, manufacture, and commerce.

There are today in our institutions, many students who seem to be just drifting their way through school, following the line of least resistance, with no object whatever in view. So we feel that if the cause of this be removed, a great good will be accomplished. And one of the ways in bringing about this end, is as the Trustees have seen fit to do; that is, to establish this department and to give a course as practical as possible and thus instil in the students a determination to aim at something definite in life. And we may rest assured that with Prof. Geo. William Cook as Dean, this department will render a great and invaluable service to the University.

C. A. M.

Here and There.

In the wreck of the ship Henry B. Hyde a few days ago, the crew were able to save themselves, but could not save their Hyde.

We pronounce the Czar's country according to the way it is spelled, Russian, but the Japs pronounce it as if it were spelled Rush I er.

Some of the funny men hereabouts have convinced us that the season for gathering chestnuts is not confined to the Autumn.

"When the Professor of Chemistry asked the steps to be taken in explaining the volumetric composition of Ammonium, one brilliant student made the discovery that the first step would be to erase the board."

J. C. W.

Lawyer Geo. F. Collin, who was suddenly called home to St. Louis by the death of his father, is now back at his office, at 609 F St. N. W. Mr. Collin was recently appointed by Gov. Murphy Commissioner of Deeds in the District of Columbia for the State of New Jersey.
How We Dress.

Sometime ago a college president writing in the Saturday Evening Post declared that "the students upon returning in the Fall are neater in appearance and withal they seem much more prosperous in general than ever before." Now, this observation, together with our own observations on student life, leads us to say a word about the personal appearance of the students here at Howard.

Persons visiting Howard have been impressed by the unusual neatness of the students here. A gentleman who is a "post-grad" from a New England college and who has done much traveling among student bodies said recently, "students at Howard as a body dress better than any students I have ever seen." We believe that our pride in this fact is pardonable for many reasons. It may be that the college world begets a standard of dress which is peculiar to itself; if this be true, one thing is certain: that the portion of the college world typified by the Howard standard, is one of increasing refinement. We dress well—that much is admitted. In saying this we are fully familiar with many other standards, which, being compared with our own, do us no harm. For instance, one will not see here the costumes characteristic of circus day, nor the overdone style through which the boor is recognized even by a blind man, nor yet will one see the laughable outfits affected by the "Reggies" of the rialto or the typical New England freshman. "That dress does not make the man" is as old as the hills, yet, that dress does its own important work in molding personality, is a truth as constant as Time itself. Indeed, all things considered, visitors at Howard are readily convinced that our dress, taken with the other material results which they see, is one indication that we are turning out educated young gentlemen.

J. C. W.

The Base-Ball Season—Its Prospects.

Having just closed a triumphant season in football, the rapidly approaching baseball season promises to be none the less glorious from a lack of concentrated effort. While Howard has always boasted of a strong football eleven it has produced but few fast base ball nines, notwithstanding equally advantageous facilities. With the abundant material and splendid facilities there is no reason why it should not have turned out some teams of almost professional fame. Unlike other universities the end of the foot-ball season finds the athletic energy of the school exhausted, thereby weakening all other athletic endeavors.

Again, because the teams heretofore have been composed largely of academic students there has been a tendency on the part of professional men to feel that members of their departments have not been allowed an impartial show, but this a gross error when we know that both the Medical and Law departments have been largely represented on our foot-ball teams of 1901 and 1903. Base-ball is a college sport proper with a claim as ancient as that of foot-ball and should be given the same importance.

With ex-captain of the foot-ball team, W. H. Washington, as manager, whose devotion and long service to athletics have endeared him to the entire student body we may safely predict a successful season in base-ball. The manager being in receipt of many communications, it is hoped when Captain Bounds issues his call a hearty response will be made from all departments.

J. S. C.

Stormy Times in the Eureka Mock Congress.

When Representative Daggler's (rep. from Ind.) Prohibition bill was reported by the committee last Friday night everybody sat spell-bound. Evidently word had been given out that this bill would be reported, for the galleries contained an unusual number of strangers. This bill, prohibiting the making or selling of intoxicating liquors anywhere within a radius of two miles of any organized church, was then read by Mr. Revera, the clerk.

Mr. Daggler then arose, addressed the chair, and faced the democratic side of the house. By his characteristic oratory and cogent argument he almost convinced even these democratic members that the enactment of this bill was necessary to save the republic from certain ruin.

Hon. Vanloo (dem. from Maine) was next to obtain the floor. He spoke against the bill as infringing upon the rights of American citizens. His speech was loudly applauded on the democratic side of the house.

Representative Moore, (rep. from Utah), was next to speak. He arraigned the enemies of the bill with a wonderful address. He said: "Liquor not only shortens the life of the youth, but it weakens the nation at large."

It is not easy to understand how Mr. Moore obtained the floor, as there is a bill pending, charging him with polygamy.

The debate continued to wax still warmer, but at this juncture the chair arose and announced that the time had expired for the discussion of the bill.

The chair then called for a bill from the hands of a committee, which bill had never been in the hands of the committee. There was some lively discussion as to the correctness of this procedure. However, the chair was sustained in his ruling. At this time the report went to press.

M. M. M.

Miss Marie E. Hillman, Ped. '00, and Ph. B. '01, was appointed instructor of Arithmetic and Algebra in the M St. High School, in consequence of the resignation of Mr. J. W. Botts, A. B. '02, Ph. B. '03.
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Higher Education cum Industrial, NOT Higher Education versus Industrial.

While discussions are prevalent concerning higher and industrial education, and the importance of each, we deem it fitting to consider the necessity of each and the state of belligerency existing between them.

Judging from the trend of newspaper articles that have followed in the wake of Mr. Morris' "Shams," it is safe to say that the people of Washington, at least, have decided that industrial education is the greatest need of the race. To reach that conclusion they must base their argument on the Spencierian theory: that education is the preparation for complete living; which is the utilitarian idea.

No race can hope to succeed through a one-sided development. The great testaments to this fact are the Phoenicians, who gave themselves entirely to the cultivation of merchants whose chicanery and falsehood were germs of destruction in their civilization, and the Chinese whose education in parental reverence created a people, the exclusive family ideas of whom, precluded the possibility of their becoming potent factors in producing the present civilization. These are only a few of the total number of instances in which one-sided development has inhibited the production of lasting men and principles.

To prevent this evil let us seek the needs of the race and when these are located, determine what education is best adapted to them, that we can rest assured will be the best education, and no other will satisfy even the utilitarian idea whence we venture the assertion, so many have reached an erroneous conclusion.

It has often been cited that we are a poor people, in need of money which gives influence and power. That is quite right; an undeniable fact.

But on the other hand we are reminded of the contagious diseases among our people, the increasing criminality, the defective methods of teaching, the incapable ministry and that our love for music has been the salvation of the race. Whenever there is disease there is need for a physician. And physicians educated in practicing on a particular people are necessarily better fitted to handle the diseases of that people than one trained in caring for a people whose anatomical structure and physiological peculiarities are somewhat different.

The increasing criminality demands ministers who know the psychology of crime, and a legal fraternity capable and willing to secure the rights of the accused who are perhaps as often innocent as guilty. What is more demoralizing than to see a multitude of people who should know God through nature and reason, induced by an appeal to the emotions to impoverish themselves and follow one made conspicuous by his ignorance? If a strong people is to be developed ought not that development begin in the schools? Should not the candidate for the position of teacher be trained in the rudiments and art of teaching? If music is the salvation of a people, shall we close the door of hope to that people by sending those whose souls crave for melody and harmony to hew wood and draw water? The more we view the situation the more preposterous the idea appears.

In man there are the will, the intellect and the sensibility. And if we regard the body-politic, the social-whole from a psychological point of view, which is the accepted view, we must grant that in it these attributes are the springs of action. Therefore to produce a thorough, well-developed people, not only the sensibility, but also the intellect and the will must be developed. Show us a race whose farmers are as essential as its statesmen; whose laborers, as its physicians; whose merchants are as essential as its lawyers, and we will make them the leaders of civilization; but look for a race whose hands alone are trained intelligently, and you will find the servants of men, fit subjects for Slavery.

Even now we hear some complaining that they believe in education correlated with labor, and that this ought not to be said; for the Industrial Schools have this for their object. To them we say we appreciate the intention, but as the present tendency is to labor, not to learn, and since we hear such emphasis vocal, written, and financial placed on labor to the detriment of the only true education, we can not remain silent.
Let none construe this article to be an attempt to belittle the necessity of industrial education nor to deprive its representatives of the fame which they have acquired, but consider it an appeal for the discontinuance of a growing evil idea that Industrial should oppose Higher education. What must we conclude when such a school as Atlanta University, which has produced men of great worth, fit to grapple with menacing problems requiring not muscular sinews, but mental fibre, groaning beneath the burden of insufficiency of funds; when those who once gave to increase the enlightenment of an unfortunate people, now refuse to develop the mind that the hands may be prepared for manual labor; when governors before the law-making bodies of their states denounce the products of higher education, and advocate restrictions, which shall nullify the possibility of their success? When we see these conditions, the extreme views of a popular idea menacing the progress of the race it is time that we create a sentiment in favor of Industrial with Higher Education and not Industrial against Higher Education.

The Effect of Politics Upon Teachers in Maryland.

For a man to secure a position as a teacher of a public school in Maryland, it means that he is a well-wisher or a worker for the political party which is in power at the time he is employed. Indeed the state has so worshiped this idol, until it influences the appointment of women, as well as men. It has reached such a stage, that in some counties the daughters of the fathers who are allied to the political party that is in power alone get these positions during its administration. This has affected the methods of appointments until chance alone places a teacher in a school, who is fitted for the position. By this you can see what damaging effects policies have had upon the education of the state. In many cases it has put people in schools who were neither morally nor intellectually qualified. For this reason poor results have been accomplished. In many cases schools have been reduced in attendance, because the best thinking people have refused to send their children to have their lives influenced by the poor instruction and immoral character of the instructor. On the other hand, those who are entrusted to his care, are taught things which, through their whole lives, they desire to forget; because they are not correct. These things are so fixed in their person that they have become a second nature.

R. H. W. P.

Dr. and Mrs. Moore Entertain Young Ladies of the Teachers' College.

A reception was given by Dr. and Mrs. Moore on Friday evening, Jan. 22, in honor of the young ladies of the Teachers College. The spacious parlors were thrown open to them, and they felt perfectly at liberty to take full possession, which they did.


The Country School Teacher.

A fountain is a source from which many thirsty souls are supplied. If the demand is greater than the supply, either the source must be increased, the demand lessened, or the fountain will go dry. The teacher is the great source of knowledge, from which all draw, within the radius of three or four miles in many cases. Can you imagine the responsibility resting upon one individual, who is daily taxed with the regulating of conduct and the infusing of knowledge into the minds of fifty to a hundred children daily? Besides this he is called upon by the parents of his scholars, to give advice upon various topics, all of which must be at hand. Should he fail at any time to give the advice needed, his depth is measured, and an estimate is put upon his competency. Could you think of a fountain with a limited source furnishing water enough to supply such a great demand? A teacher with a small store-house of knowledge can no more supply such a community than a fountain with a limited source. Therefore it is just as wise for a teacher to go into a community, with what he terms just enough knowledge to control and instruct his school, as it is for a battle ship to sail to an island with a limited supply to protect the interests of its state, which is near some unfriendly power, where the island itself can furnish no supply. I say this for two reasons. First, there is no source on which he may draw. If it were, he would be considered insufficient, and this would destroy all possibility of his usefulness in the community. Since this is true, any amount of preparation is inadequate to fill a position where there are so many to be supplied.

R. H. W. P.

Announcement.

The following is the official list of patronesses for the Upper Classmen's Informal Reception to be held at Oddfellows' Hall, on Feb. 26th: Mrs. President Gordon, Mrs. L. B. Moore, Mrs. Geo. Will Cook, Mrs. Robt. A. Pelham, Mrs. Morgan Howser, Miss Elizabeth Cook, Mrs. Elizabeth Messer and Mrs. Kelly Miller.

Admission will be by card only, and cards may be obtained from Patronesses or by addressing "Invitation Committee, Upper Classmen, Howard Union."
Uncle Jasper on the Negro Question.

"Uncle Jasper, how does your corporosity seem to gashuate with the dinoxology?"

"Go ahead, Daniel Webster Knowall, you always comin' round tryin' ter spit out some ob yer hifalutin' frazes?"

"Say, Uncle Jasper, are you keepin' abreast with the times? Why, there was a great conference held at Washington, the other day, by the National Sociological Society, to see what might be done towards solving the 'Negro Problem.'"

"Yeah, I bin hear'n bout dem folks gittin up dere palarberin bout de Negro, but nah, tell me wut good is it gwine to do?"

"I confess, Uncle Jasper, none of us can tell what good shall result from so noble an undertaking, but I agree with Dr. Waller, that it is necessary to agitate the question."

"Um hoom! Well, mebbeso."

"Well, Uncle Jasper, what is your opinion on the subject?"

"I jis tell yer, yer can agertate, segregate or humiliate. None a dem'll do. Wy, wut der use ub talkin bout puttin all der cullud folks in two little states? Can't der white folks see dat der cullud man done got der spanson fever, and dat he now stends fum der gold gates ub California ter der ice fields ub Laska, fum der pine forests ub Maine ter der blud bought hills of Cuba? Wat der use talkin bout agertation, aint dey been discussing der subjec fum der time Abe Linkum drop der shackles an der hans fum der pol ole slabe till der presen moment?"

"Doan der white folks see der moh dey humiliate der Negro, der moh dey swing his body upun der sapplins ter stop der bullits dat fly fum der pistol an gun, der hier in der skale ub nolledge der Negro rises? Der whole matter is a misunderstanding. Dey see der effect, now iet em find der cause, ply der remedy an der whole thing's dun. Wat's der use tryin ter reasinn wid men? Dey got der hatrid fum deir mammies an daddies, an dat hatrid's bin growin all dese yeres. Go in der home an der school, tell der black chile, der white chile's his fren an tell der white chile doan call der black chile nigger. den dere'll be no moh race problem, no moh need for a gun, ter face a man fer karractic a southern lady in her, choosin words. Yeah, Daniel Webster Knowall, I hah some pet idyers ub mah own bout dis race question, dat doan call fer so much explanashin, an wen eberybody sees der thing in dat light der storm is ober."

"Well! Well! Uncle Jasper! if you had had the advantages of the youth of the present day you would have been a power."

"I kno it, I kno it, I tell em so all der time."

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