An Attempt to Fix the Responsibility for the American Dude.

A Student of Social Topics Exonerates Fathers and Mothers and Ventures to Hurl a Terrible Accusation at the Glddy Girls of the Period.

In the whole galaxy of mortal perplexi-ties there is none more perplexing than that of fixing the responsibility for the

dude, says Munsey's Weekly.

The creature exists in every land, with the possible exception of England, where those who would be dudes if they were per-mitted to, go into the army. There is no such leisure class in England as there is in this country. To be sure, there are Dukes and Marquises and Barons and Lords, but these men are not dudes, because they have du-ties to perform, which I admit the Ameri-can dude has not. They represent an idea, which the American dude does not. They are part of a system—the American dude is a part of a disorder, he represents chaos in its completest form, he is a confused conglomeration of trousers, flesh, cravats, blood, bone and shirt collar; purposeless, incapable of thought, his life one hopeless round of tailors' bills, cocktails and cig-

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Who is responsible for him? I have heard it said that his father is responsible for him, but it has always seemed to me that this is not a just assertion. Primarily responsible for him, no doubt, is the father of the dude, yet in these days when the struggle for existence is so fierce a fight, when eyen death itself entails an ex-pense so great that it deters the man of moderate means from committing suicide, when the cost of living seems overwhelm ing, what opportunity is there for the father to direct his son in the proper path toward the goal of mediocrity which must now be regarded as the limit of the dude's capacity? How can the father in these days; when decent poverty is the lot of him who but ten years ago would have been accounted wealthy, spare a moment of his time to see that his boy is cast in the mold of manhood! Is it not too much for the parent to devote time to the education of his son when time is so valuable a com-modity-does not the father, indeed, do all that can be expected of him when he allows the boy \$10,000 a year on which to bring himself up!

the dude. If he does not give his personal attention, he gives him its cash equivalent and his conscience is clear.

Others say the mother is responsible for the dude.

ty—does not the latner, indeed, do all can be expected of him when he althe boy \$10,000 a year on which to g himself up?

The father must not be blamed for ude. If he does not give his personal nition, he gives him its cash equivalent his conscience is clear. Hers say the mother is responsible for ude.

The father must not be blamed for ude and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi river for a distance of \$50 miles, amidst seenery that cannot be surpassed; or, if you go via the Oregon Short Line or Southern Pacific, and your ticket reads via The Burlington Route from Chevenne or Deniude.

The father must not be blamed for additional the desired part of the Corollary or although the castern shore of the Mississippi coving the castern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi coving the castern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi and Chicago, or St. Louts, will carry you along the eastern shore of the Mississippi a I am loath to believe this. The shoulders of the mother must not be overburdened by sogreat a responsibility as knows the ways of the mother of the dude reach so absurd a conclusion? Is it not clear to all men of experience that the dude's mother is quite as busy, and as hopelessly busy, too, as the dude's father? When we sider the ceaseless round of social duties that devolve upon this beautiful matron, when we think of all the calls to be made, the receptions to be given and attended, the teas, the cotillions, the theater parties to be engineered, the parties of young people to be chaperoned the balls to be patronized, the amateur theatricals to be supervised, the number of establishments, town house, country house, mountain lodge, shooting box, not to mention the yachts and house boats to be looked after, how can we, I say, when we consider all these things, add to the weight upon the maternal shoulders by making her responsible for the idiosyncrasies of her son! Her horses must be exercised in the afternoon, her opera box must be occupied at night, her dress-maker must be seen in the early morn-surely the

Again the theorists are fallible. The mother, no more than the father, is responsible for this curious freak of nature. This leaves but two possibly responsible persons to be considered—the dude's nurse, or the girl of the period. The nurse is quickly disposed of, because, after attaining his majority, the average dude has no use for a nurse. He breaks away from her, hires a valet, on whom no responsibility de-volves further than that of keeping the dust out of his master's wardrobe and see-

mother has not a moment to devote to the

adolescent dude, and how can she be held

responsible for him when she has nothing

to do with him!

ing that his shoes are removed when he goes to bed in the early morning. The nurse must be absolved of responsibility.

So we come to the proper solution of the problem. The girl of the period is responsible. sible for the dude. This conclusion may not be disputed, for it can not be denied that if the girl of the period were to insist upon something better than small talk, were to discountenance the cigarette school of philosophy upon which are based so many of Mr. Edgar Saltus' alleged studies of society, were to insist upon a higher idea of life than that which holds as its aim the running up of tailors' bills and the sucking of cane handles in club windows, if indeed the modern girl, whom we all love in spite of her faults, were to discourage the dude in his chaotic inanity and refuse to uphold nim longer, deserting him for the man of true ideals, of lofty ambition, of brains, the dude would no longer exist, for the instinct of self preservation would lead him to kill himself off.

This is no doubt paradoxical. It is none the less true.

TOLD BY SENATORS.

Two Stories Illustrating Prairie Morals
Where Lumber Is Concerned.

Old Philetus Sawyer, the genial Senator from Wisconsin, who can tell a good story as well as any of them, amused his colleagues and the New York Tribune correspondent in the committee room of pensions the other day by referring to the smartness. the other day by referring to the smartness of a local preacher near his home, who, he says, is as sharp and shrewd at a bargain as he is prompt to attend to the spiritual re-quirements of those in affliction. This preacher was called upon once to attend a funeral, and on returning home remarked, with no small satisfaction, that he had "im-proved the time by making fifteen dollars in wood trade while the mourners were view-

ing the corpse."
This little lumber story reminded one of the Nebraska Senators of one of the most powerful and effective revivals that ever oc-curred in the West at a little town in his State not a thousand miles from Omaha, where every male inhabitant, with a single where every male inhabitant, with a single exception, was converted. The inhabitants of the town were, as a rule, wretchedly poor. The president of the railroad company on the line of which the town was situated, touched with sympatny for their condition, approached one of the principal men and inquired if they ever had any preaching out in that section.

"Presching!" said the person addressed. "Oh, yes; we had a great revival here last winter, and all got converted but one man, who said he could not join the church until he had stolen timber enough from the railroad company to fence his farm."

I suppose that these two stories, as illustrating prairie morals where lumber is concerned, are unique, if I may be permitted to

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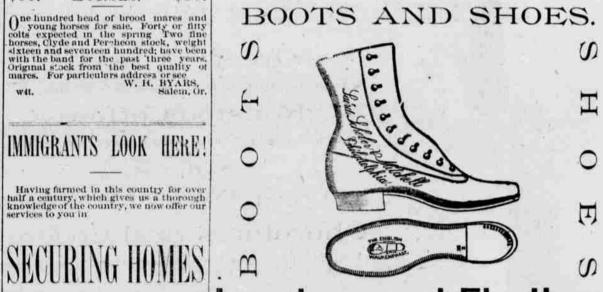
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