

Short Cuts to Happiness.

Is there a royal road to happiness? In order to have and to enjoy those things which contribute to happiness, certain conditions must be met. One cannot rest who is not weary, nor can one have wealth without production, or its equivalent rendered, either by himself or others. The effort to obtain happiness without conforming to the necessary conditions in these and other respects, is treated as follows by Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford, Jr., University:

"IDLENESS.—This is the attempt to secure the pleasures of rest without the effort which justifies rest and makes it welcome. When a man shuns effort he is in no position to resist. So, through all ages idleness has been known as the parent of all vices. 'Life drives him hard' who has nothing in the world to do. The dry-rot of existence, the vague self-disgust known to the wealthy as ennui and to the poor man as plain misery, is the result of idleness pure and simple. Thro' the open door of idleness all other temptations enter.

"GAMBLING.—In all its forms, gambling is the desire to get something for nothing. It is said that 'money is the root of all evil.' But this is not true. The desire to get money without earning it is the root of all evil. It is the search for unearned happiness through unearned power. To get something for nothing, in whatever way, demoralizes all effort. The man who gets a windfall, spends his time for days thereafter watching the wind. The man who wins in a lottery spends all his gains in more lottery tickets. The whole motive for gambling, betting, and all other forms of stakes and hazards, is to get something for nothing. To win is to lose, for the winner's integrity is in jeopardy. To lose is to lose, for the loser gets nothing for something. He has thrown good money after bad, and that, too, is demoralizing.

"INTEMPERANCE.—Men try to get the feeling of happiness when happiness does not exist. They destroy their nervous system for the tingling pleasure they feel as its organs are torn apart. There are many drugs which cause this pleasure, and in proportion to the delight they seem to give, is the real mischief that they work.

"Pain is the warning to the brain that something is wrong in the organ in which the pain is felt. Sometimes that which should be felt as pain is interpreted as pleasure. If a man lay his fingers upon an anvil and strike them one by one with a hammer, the brain will feel the shock as pain. It will give orders to have the blows checked.

But if through some abnormal condition, some twist of the nerves or clot in the brain, the injury was felt as exquisite delight, there would arise the impulse to repeat it. This would be a temptation. The knowledge of the injury which the eyes would tell to the brain should lead the will to stop the blows. The impulses of delight would plead for their repetition, and in this fashion the hand might be sacrificed for a feeling of pleasure which is no pleasure at all, but a form of mania. Of this character is the effect of all nerve-exciting drugs. As a drop of water is of the nature of the sea, so in its degree is the effect of alcohol, opium, tobacco, cocain, kola, tea or coffee of the nature of mania. They give a feeling of pleasure or of rest when rest or pleasure does not exist. This feeling arises from an injury to the nerves which the brain does not truthfully interpret."

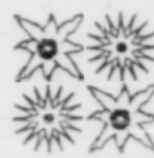
Gen. Grant on Secular Education.

In a republic like ours, where the citizen is the sovereign and the official the servant, where no power is exercised except by the will of the people, it is important that the sovereign—the people—should possess intelligence. The free school is the promoter of that intelligence which is to preserve us as a free nation. If we are to have another contest in the near future of our national existence, I predict that the dividing line will not be Mason and Dixon's, but between patriotism and intelligence on the one side, and superstition, ambition and ignorance on the other. Now, in this centennial year of our existence, I believe it a good time to begin the work of strengthening the foundation of the house commenced by our patriotic fathers one hundred years ago at Concord and Lexington. Let us all labor to add all needful guarantees for the most perfect security of free thought, free speech and free press, pure morals, unfettered religious sentiments, and of equal rights and privileges to all men, irrespective of nationality, color or religion. Encourage free schools, and resolve that not one dollar of money appropriated for their support, no matter how raised, shall be appropriated to the support of any sectarian school. Resolve that neither the state nor nation, nor both combined, shall support institutions of learning other than those sufficient to afford every child growing up in the land the opportunity for a good common-school education, unamixed with sectarian, pagan or atheistical tenets. Leave the matter of religion to the family altar, the church and the private school supported entirely by private contributions. Keep the church and state forever separate. With these safeguards, I believe the battle which created the army of the Tennessee will not have been fought in vain.—[U. S. Grant, 1876.

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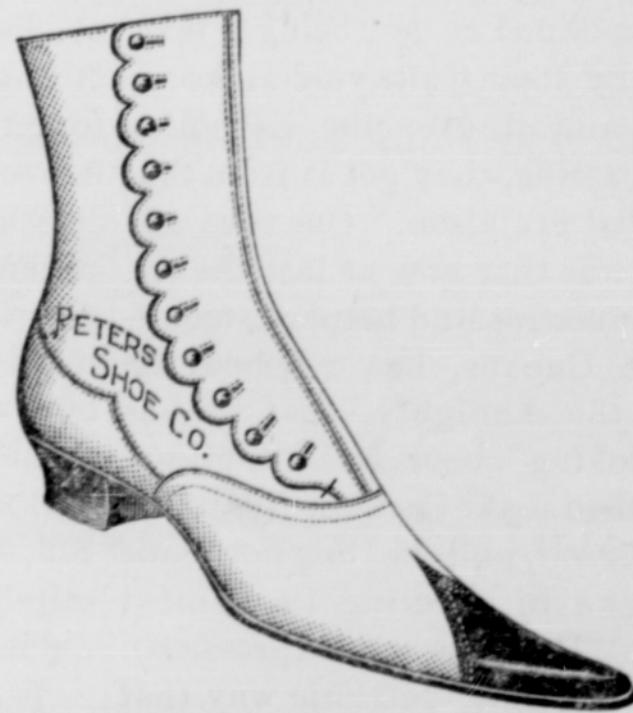
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