

SUPPLEMENT TO THE
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How to Keep the Boy at Home

Could the average parent of the average boy, think the average boy's thoughts, see the boy's viewpoint, feel the boy's emotions and know his boyish ambitions, the world of tomorrow would be a happy transformation.

Should you ask for a definition of a boy a hundred answers would be ready from as many boy-loving souls, but after all is said, in the boy you still have the plastic clay to be either moulded into an immortal life of spiritual beauty and human finish, or shaped into the pathetic spectacle of a man less divine than his Creator had intended.

The heart bleeds to see the little ones drifting away from the home moorings, and in our soul echoes the query, why do they drift away?

Every boy is a man in miniature. His loves and dislikes are more clearly defined than are the mental lights and shadows of more mature age, yet we ignore them. He is more sensitive to the harsh criticisms, or the praises of his elders than is the sensitive plant to a rude shock, yet we are fain to use the former freely and the latter sparingly. The injustice or a thoughtless remark or rebuff by a tired or uninterested parent is very clearly discerned by the seemingly indifferent boy, yet we chastize him if he audibly protests. When the troubles of life close around us and we become temporarily discouraged, how often we think of the dear departed mother upon whose loving breast we poured out untold childish misery, the very recollection of which gives us new strength for the morrow, yet, be it said to our shame, we hold our boy aloof by our actions when his tender heart is yearning, yes, silently pleading to commune with the sympathy and devotion of a father or mother love. Like a man, the boy has his ambitions and desires which he would like to talk about, yet do we ever encourage his confidences? His mind is constantly enquiring and taking upon itself lifelong impressions, yet when he asks what is to him a momentous question, we meet his inquisitiveness with an admonition to "run away and play." If he has the desire to do, make or earn something, wishes a little assistance in his studies, or a few pennies to spend in a legitimate boyish way, we injudiciously wound and hamper a healthful tendency by always considering our duties paramount to his requests, and turn him away with a fretful, "don't bother me." And still worse, when we wish him to assist us, run some errand, or to desist from something, we do not ask him, but we command him, ignoring his feeling of equality and thereby lessening the growth of

mutual love and esteem.

This pitiful condition which exists in so many homes is depicted with the kindest of intent, the greatest of charity, and with the knowledge that it often arises from thoughtlessness or overwork, but its appalling consequences are nevertheless the result of our culpability and will be so adjudged at the bar of Supreme Justice.

To remedy these ills we should seek to know the inner nature of our boy and as we study him and prayerfully ask for guidance, a vista will open to our gaze that will fascinate us with its marvelous possibilities, and make the man-forming process develop in us a new life, a new joy, and a satisfying labor. In our efforts in his behalf we must not lose sight of the vital fact that the boy is a physical being, and to succeed in our desire we must be practical and develop equally every side of his nature.

It should be a priceless privilege to soothe the small heartaches of our little ones when they come to us as parents, and no present duty or labor can be of such pressing need that it should supplant the nestling of the little head against the mother or father breast as the sobbing confidences are tenderly administered to; infinitely better to lose hours of material gain than to let wither a child's simple, trusting faith in the parent love. Let no harsh words of criticism be given, nor light remarks be made of any word or thought intrusted to us by a child, for if the bond of confidence in us be once broken the reuniting is a lifelong task. Kind, just, and loving correction of a child will always be finally accepted, but an impatient or unkind censure will never disappear from many a child's mind until age and judgement soften memory into forgiveness. Sympathy and love manifest in the praise or correction of a child is as sunshine and moisture to the budding flower. When the quality of independent inventiveness asserts itself, his imaginative nature conjures up all sorts of plans and schemes which he likes to talk about, and herein lies the opportunity of guiding aright the developing genius of the child. Assist him to solve his problems, though you must coerce yourself to take the time. Do not be above playing games with, or otherwise amusing your boy; it will make you younger and better able to understand him. Let him feel that you consider him your equal in all respects except in experience. Discuss his boyish ambitions and when possible assist him to realize them. He will have flights of imagination at times which will make it difficult for you to follow at your staid old age, but be patient for I trust he is no more fanciful than were you at his age. In a crude way he will imitate everything he sees men do and be the brighter for it. He will fire countless questions

at you, which, by counter questions and discreet answers, will develop in him a remarkable reasoning power. Let him own something. Make him a partner with you in some undertaking or business, even if you have to start one expressly for that purpose. Whenever it is possible, take your boy to the city, to the country, or to your place of business. The great secret is, be a loving, helpful companion to your boy. Love and respect him and he will love and respect you. He will want no chance company if you fill the vacant place in his nature. Your influence will increase his manliness and unconsciously he will grow into the soul of boyish honor and truthfulness.

Now approaches the danger line in the boy's career. The time has come when a physical change in his nature turns his wonderings toward the gentler sex. He is timid and secretive about matters which he should know, and in order to know them he often gets into bad company, thus sometimes laying the cornerstone of ruin. A fatal mistake this, that fathers and mothers fail to give their developing sons and daughters an insight into such facts of nature as they should know and will find out from some source.

Again expanding young manhood has aspirations, ambitions and desires regarding many subjects which he would like advice upon, but because of the fear that we may make fun of him, or not be interested in his affairs, he deprives himself of parental guidance and sympathy which by rights should be his. How many times in our boyhood we have desired to know if our parents approved of our keeping company with a certain young lady, or wished to be informed upon some point of etiquette, while a false delicacy in the presence of our parents made us take the young lady on the sly and gain our desired information by dint of foolish and embarrassing mistakes.

Many a young man has formed laudible plans regarding his social, business, or educational future which are practical, but he hesitates to lay them before his parents. A kindly word will often give the boy the necessary confidence to approach you for advice along some line and then the knowledge crushes in upon you that here is your baby boy a grown man and you are scarcely acquainted with him, that you have left him to drift along alone, and that the fact that he has come into so pure a manhood is to the credit of kind Providence and not to your duty done.

If during the childhood years you have been a comforter to your boy in his sorrows, a playmate in his games, a sharer in his joys and emotions, a partner in some undertaking, interested in his plans and studies, firm, kind and just in your requests and corrections, and a companionable adviser in his

young manhood, in your old age you can point with pardonable pride to a stalwart specimen of American manhood, grown into a kind, home-loving man, a fitting descendant of sainted parenthood.

B. B. D.

Bob Thompkins, of Tillamook, brother of Mrs. C. F. Miller, is visiting.

Mrs. A. C. Sargent and Mrs. Bateman, of Gales Creek, are here today.

Mrs. Hannah Best, of Gales Creek, is the home of her daughter, Mrs. Thomas, during the illness of the little daughter May.

The Laughlin hotel is being built. When finished it will be one of the finest buildings in the valley. Wagner, the artist, is doing the designs.

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