

no harm, but the result is bound to be damaging in one form or another.

The genius of the disposition now referred to and its indulgence wean the mind away from religion, without which a man or woman is at a great disadvantage in this life, as relates to the eternal future. A moment's reflection ought to convince an intelligent youth that time is the most precious of all possessions, and should not be squandered in ministering selfishly to the momentary pleasures of the present, a course that never did and never will lead to greatness, goodness or usefulness. So says history from the beginning of the world.

The bent is in opposition to moral safety, as numerous instances of human wrecks produced by stranding and breaking upon the rock of pleasure-seeking prove. Young women frequently become a prey to human vultures, the latest instance that has come to light being that of the villain Price, who encompassed the ruin of the girl Angell, who is but a child.

One of the most hideous features of this pleasure-seeking rage which is now rampant and increasing is the indifference which many youths of both sexes exhibit toward loving and solicitous parents. Fathers and mothers whose affections are entwined around their offspring are often pained excruciatingly by the course taken by those who should be guided by their wise counsel. How often have many of them, knowing what over indulgence in the pursuit of pleasure so frequently leads to, passed sleepless hours with their heads throbbing and hearts aching over absent members of the family who remain out to improper times of the night. Yet those young people have been in the whirl and maze of worldly amusement, hilariously passing the hours away, selfishly heedless of the sufferings they were inflicting upon those who brought them into being. We set it down as an incontrovertible position, that no youth who has a spark of true manhood in his composition, and no girl who has the instincts of a genuine woman will be guilty of such inhumanity when the enormity of the offense is brought to their attention.

Example is contagious, and young people, whose parents are not in easy circumstances, are thoughtlessly adopting expensive methods of conduct and dress, thus involving their guardians in inextricable perplexity. When remonstrated with

they point to the ways and methods of the children of neighbors, ignoring the fact that the temporal conditions bear no comparison. Instead of young men preparing themselves, by a course of economy, to assume the grave responsibilities of life, some of them pay no heed to anything but the transient gratification of the desires of the moment. All of these indications are inimical to the weal of the commonwealth.

Our advice to the young would not be to cast aside all efforts at pleasure-seeking, but to be conservative in that direction. Seek to build up character by endeavoring to adorn the mind. Read the examples of the good and great of history and emulate their virtues. Be unselfish and devoted to the wellbeing of others. Infinitely more true happiness is derived from the pursuit of that course than from that of a thoughtless human moth, fluttering around the flame of destruction.

ITS LIGHTS AND SHADES.

BUT few, if any, incidents that have transpired in the history of this country have presented more intensely dramatic constituents than has the Johnstown flood. Its occurrence horrified the nation and the wave of this sentiment traveled to the utmost bounds of the civilized world.

The gloom of this deep shadow was relieved by a wave of benevolence whose activity was exhibited by streams of substantial relief in aid of a stricken and afflicted people. Added to this redeeming phase of the visitation were the many deeds of self-sacrificing heroism that occurred in the hour of peril. The tears of the nation, shed over the catastrophe had scarcely dried on the cheek of the Republic, when they burst out afresh from the fountain of joy as the recitals of brave deeds were perused. Courage when exercised for the relief of those in peril has a powerful moving force upon the tender-hearted. It causes them to form a higher estimate of the human race.

Scarcely had this brighter sentiment spread, when the clouds again gathered, and the darker deeds of men caused the full horror of the situation to resume. Depraved wretches set to work robbing the dead, wrenching bracelets from the wrists of delicate ladies who had been drowned and fingers were severed from their hands that human vultures might secure valuable rings adorning them.

This brought upon the perpetrators of those acts, to describe which no language is adequate, the rage of the people cognizant of them. The result was the beating, shooting or hanging of the thieves.

That all the stories relating incidents of this character were absolutely true, we are not prepared to believe, yet numbers of cases of the kind were probably never discovered nor told. It is a notable fact that most of the accused parties were Huns, Italians or Negroes. The intense popular hatred existing against those races in some districts would necessarily lead to false accusations. How easy for an unscrupulous ruffian to shoot a man down at such a time for a special or personal reason and cover the crime of deliberate murder by shouting to the populace, "I found him plundering the dead." This trial, judgment and execution would at once be accepted by a people laboring under the excitement of the catastrophe. Even the undertakers, entrusted with the preparation of the bodies of the victims for burial, were caught pilfering the corpses.

And now the statement comes that large sums of money subscribed for the relief of the sufferers has been pocketed by members of alleged relief committees. This was to be expected, however. At the beginning, when flurry usurped the place of wisdom, many of the fellows sent to work in the capacity of relievers, acted as loafers, loitering lazily about and feeding upon the supplies forwarded for the benefit of the helpless survivors of the flood. Such men would be capable of robbery. Doubtless these cormorant are being, if they have not already been, gradually eliminated.

One of the most sinister features connected with the darker phases of the great disaster was the advent of a number of she-devils in the form of procuresses. These depraved creatures appeared on the scene in search of orphan girls and young women who had been left unprotected and homeless by the calamity. Their purpose was, by hellish and deceptive devices to which they resort, to lead their victims away to a life of immorality and shame. Perhaps this phase of the dramatic occurrence was the most damnable of all.

While those blacker conditions must be considered in the contemplation of the painful subject as an entirety, they are naturally turned from, as they are viewed, with a feeling of unutterable disgust.