

**DYING AT THE TOP: OR, THE
MORAL AND SPIRITUAL
CONDITION OF THE
YOUNG MEN OF AMERICA**

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Dying at the Top: Or, The Moral and Spiritual Condition of the Young Men of America by
Joseph Waddell Clokey

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JOSEPH WADDELL CLOKEY

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DYING AT THE TOP;

OR,

The Moral and Spiritual Condition of
the Young Men of America. ✓

BY

REV. JOSEPH WADDELL CLOKEY, D.D.,

PASTOR OF THE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA.

REVISED AND ENLARGED.

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"There is nothing covered that shall
not be revealed."—*Christ*.

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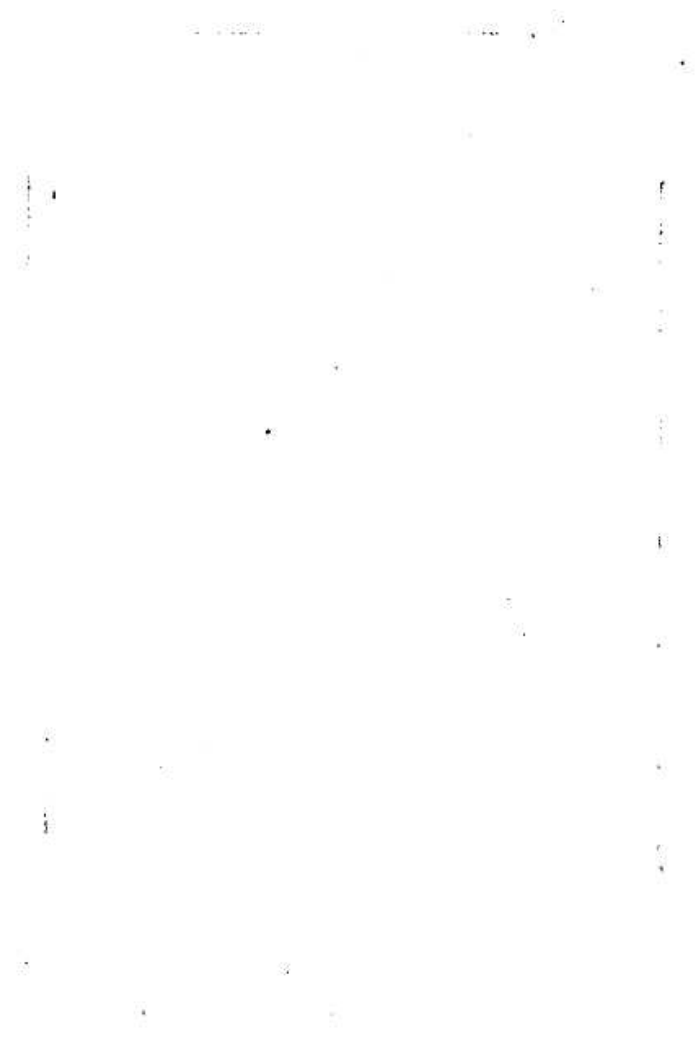
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DEDICATION.

To the Young Men's Christian Association of the United States, whose work constitutes one of the greatest movements of this great century, this Book is dedicated, in the hope that the facts presented in it may stimulate its members to a still greater zeal in the redeeming of young men to the morality and faith of the Lord Jesus Christ.

J. W. CLOKEY.

PREFACE.

The original form of this work was an address delivered before the Indiana State Sunday School Union, at its convention in Columbus, Ind., held June 21, 22 and 23, 1887. The address, published in the proceedings of the convention, and delivered subsequently in different places, has awakened so much interest by the facts it presents, that it has been thought advisable to enlarge it, and issue it in a form for general circulation. The title, *Dying at the Top*, was the outgrowth of a real heart-sorrow. In my yard at home stands what is left of a favorite apricot tree. For years it had stood there, the very symbol of life and vigor. Its beautiful blossoms were among the earliest harbingers of spring, and the fruit that soon followed the falling of the bloom, was delicious in the extreme. The tree was our pride and delight. But one day I saw that the very topmost branches had withered; and I said, "Ah, our apricot is death-smitten; it is *dying at the top*." These top branches were cut off, but the next season the next highest withered. And now there is not enough life left in the tree to mature what few blossoms it puts forth. On examination *worms were found at the root*; they had worked their way up *under the bark*, and though the outside seemed firm and healthy, the tree was almost girdled by the unseen pests, and death was inevitable.

From the dying of the tree-top came the theme, and from the theme came the following pages. Before me now stands the Human Tree, and it is with a sadness approaching dejection, that I say: "*It is dying at the top.*"

APOLOGY.

This little work has now been before the public for a year. The number of copies sold has not been very great, but there is evidence that those that have been sold have been widely circulated. They have gone into every State in the Union; and been everywhere in the hands of those who are best able to judge of the truthfulness of the statements made.

The author, in giving the work to the world, did it with much hesitation, knowing how liable statistics are to err; and how often the facts gathered from a few communities may not prove to be true of the country at large.

At the present writing, the saddest thing about the work is that it has told the truthful story of the whole land. Not a single person has arisen to deny its correctness; while from Maine to California, and from Oregon to Florida, letter after letter has come, saying "It is all true." If it is all true, and true everywhere, then American society, from ocean to ocean, is suspended over an abyss, and it will require the engineering skill of the best elements in Church and State to keep us from falling into depths of distress along side of which the taxation of England, in the old colonial days, and the slavery of the South, were but baubles.

The troubles growing up between nation and nation, and State and State, over their material relations, have been to a great extent the incidents of human progress, where the strong body of our national manhood has been throwing off the shackles of its old-time bondage. But corruption in the morals of our people is the incident of a deep-seated disease, whose cancerous properties will sooner or later bring us into troubles worse than war or oppression, unless we correct them.