HINTS TO YOUNG MEN ON THE TRUE RELATION OF THE SEXES

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Hints to young men on the true relation of the sexes by John Ware

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JOHN WARE, M. D.

ELEVENTH EDITION.

Lane Library

BOSTON: CUPPLES, UPHAM & CO., 1884. W26 1884

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

During the winter of 1847-48, many meetings were held in Boston to consider what means might be employed to lessen immorality, and promote the well-being of the young. These meetings were numerously attended, and many measures were considered. Towards the close of them, the undersigned were appointed a committee to cause a book to be prepared, which should deter from vice by a just exposition of its nature, its danger and its effects, and yet be free from the faults of other works which have recently been written for this purpose. The committee requested Dr. JOHN WARE to write such a book; he consented to do so, and has given them this little volume.

We think it excellently well adapted to its purpose; accurate, clear, and truthful, but never offensive to modesty, nor suggestive of evil thoughts. It represents the evil effects of vice faithfully, but without the exaggeration which has sometimes prevented reform, by the belief that reform was impossible, or would be useless, and has thus produced despair instead of repentance. It places the relation of the sexes upon its true grounds; and it arms the tempted with the strongest motives to resistance.

We cordially recommend it to parents and others having charge of the young.

> THEOPHILUS PARSONS, SAMUEL, G. HOWE, ALEX. H. VINTON, GEO. B. EMERSON, J. B. WATERBURY.

Boston, May, 1850.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

WE have learned with great pleasure that a new edition of this little work is called for. We repeat our commendation; and ask for it a circulation which shall have some proportion to the necessity for it and the good it may do. Experience has justified the hopes we derived from the long experience of the author, from his wisdom, and from his ability to present necessary truth, concerning even a revolting subject, in a manner which reflects the purity of his own mind and character. Nor can we let this opportunity pass by, of expressing our profound sense of the loss our community has sustained in the death of one so venerated and loved, and our hope that his memory will linger among us, and prolong the usefulness of his most useful life.

THEOPHILUS PARSONS, SAMUEL G. HOWE, ALEX. H. VINTON, GEO. B EMERSON, J. B. WATERBURY.

BOSTON, April, 1806.

THE

TRUE RELATION OF THE SEXES.

It seems unfortunate that the propensity of our natures which we find most difficult to control and which, when uncontrolled, is sure to be the source of the greatest physical and moral evil, is that whose regulation is left most completely to chance, or at least to the influence of circumstances in the progress of life, that we can do very little to modify. It is hardly necessary to say that reference is made

to the propensity which grows out of the distinction of the sexes. The formation of the character of young persons, in this very important moral relation, is seldom the object of care, instruction, or forethought. It is not often, indeed, impressed on their minds that this propensity has, like all others. a moral relation. They are left to find this out by accident, if they find it out at all. There is a striking contrast between the training of children in regard to this, and in regard to other points of their moral characters. The distinctions between right and wrong, virtue and vice, are among the earliest lessons which are taught them. The love of truth, honesty, charity, kindness, is carefully cultivated, and enforced in a thousand ways, by parents, friends, and instructors, at home, at school, and in the intercourse of life. With their prayers at the mother's knee, children are taught to shun evil thoughts, evil words, and evil actions. The nature of our bad propensities, their sinfulness, the means of conquering them, are plainly and fully dwelt upon. The dangers under which we lie from hatred, envy, malice, anger, covetousness, worldliness, are distinctly pointed out to us. But, in regard to this particular propensity, an utter silence is maintained. Our whole

moral education is as if from this no danger were to be apprehended. We are left to enter into the midst of the fearful temptations which are to assail us, unwarned, uninformed; or, if informed, informed wholly by those who have been uninstructed themselves, and have found their way instinctively, or else have been themselves led to the evil which attaches to the most mysterious and ungovernable of the animal appetites. In short we are left to receive our first impressions on this subject from our companions; from those who are only a few years older in years, or in experience, than ourselves. Under these circumstances, it