

Youth lives for the evening hours. Youth as period of training in the ideals of manhood is losing its significance. We know a score of young men who would deny the truth of this statement, and we can imagine that there are many who would hold with them. Nevertheless, we believe it to be true.

Let us look back into the past a moment. In former days, when life was less crowded with a multitude of diversions, young people had a greater opportunity to assimilate the elements of strong character, as they saw them expressed in the daily home life of their parents. The quiet influence of the mother heart, working its chastening effect upon the young, receptive child nature; the strong, character-forming will of the father, exacting obedience to all rightly constituted law; the intercourse of brothers and sisters, stimulating mutual respect and appreciation and fostering sincere ambition: these were influences which fashioned men out of breathing clay-molds. In such environment men formed ideals of chivalry, honor, and respect for right. Strong, real men, like Lincoln, McKinley, and Roosevelt were products of home influence of the old type. It was ever a maxim in the life of Theodore Roosevelt to spend part of his day with his family, in spite of all the manifold claims upon his time. He realized that only in the home can the worth-while sentiments and ideals of life be engendered. There alone are we infused with "the stuff that makes us men."

Youth is not a period of life; it is a state of mind, an attitude toward the universal situation. A man grows old only as he loses sight of his ideals. The young people of our age are materialistic in spirit. Wealth and amusement are the two motive factors in the majority of lives. Our young people are not losing sight of the worth-while ideals of life; they have lost sight of them already. Some have not had any ideals to lose sight of. "We must be amused," our friends declare. "We must work less, so that we may have more time to enjoy the 'higher things of life.'" What are these "higher things of life" which they speak of? Chivalry? No. Sacrifice? No. Obedience toward parents and other authority? No. Sympathy toward suffering man? No. Unselfishness? No. Close communion with God and His Son Jesus, the Christ? No. A vision of the needs of a world of yearning, unsaved souls? No! What then are these "higher things of life" which our young people crave? Where are our young people on Sunday afternoon and evening, the day set aside by God for the contemplation of the higher things in life? "We must be amused," they declare, and run