

Harper's Weekly
Harper's Bazar
Harper's Magazine
Terms for Harper's Magazine
Just the Thing
Singer's Sewing Machine
National Hotel
White Chicken
American Hotel

The Degeneracy of Modern Children.
The parents of the children of today are not only more ignorant than those of the past, but their character has been growing weak and inefficient. Not only is there to be noted in our modern youth a general lack of public education, but there has been a pretty general abdication of parental responsibility. Children are no longer brought up under the influence of their parents, but are left to the hands of the school, where they are obedient without repentance and disrespectful without remorse. Kindness and gentleness are not the virtues which are dearer to him than his life itself, may watch in vain for some sign of thankfulness; and he will pursue the same unwise methods, and endeavor by increased indulgence to win the love for which his soul is craving. And so the domestic comedy—alas! it is not parody of a domestic tragedy—goes on. Masterful parents, and miss Mamma; mamma; well-meaning observers who tender their advice; from time to time the children are a pervading nuisance; ill-treated servants give warning and are dismissed; victors, slumbers, they are the house which harbor such terrible infants, who grow less and less under the as they grow older and stronger. The years advance, the little fruits of infancy ripen and not into mature and incorrigible vices; and these ungrateful children pass from the land of peaceable to the full and noxious bloom of comparative depravity, themselves destined to perpetuate in perpetuity and to experience the discipline which they formerly inflicted.

MAN AND WOMAN—I should not say from my experience of my own sex, that a woman's nature is flexible and impetuous, though her feelings are, I know very few instances of a very inferior man ruling the mind of a superior woman, whereas I know twenty-five of a very inferior woman ruling a superior man. If she loves her the chances are that she will in the end weaken and demoralize him. If a superior woman marry a vulgar or inferior man, he makes her miserable; but he seldom governs her mind or vulgarizes her nature, and if there be love on his side, the chances are that in the end she will elevate and refine him. The most dangerous man to a woman is a man of high intelligence and moral position; for in a woman's nature there is such a necessity to approve where she admires, and to believe where she loves—a devotion compounded of love and faith is such a part of her being—that while the instincts remain true and the feelings uncorrupted, the conscience and the will may both be led far astray. Thus fell our general mother-type of her sex—overpowered rather than deceived, by the colossal intellect—half great, half monstrous, of Mr. Jackson.

A minister once prayed, in the pulpit that "the Lord would bless the congregation assembled, and that portion of it which were the prey to children and those who were at home getting ready to some, and that in his infinite patience he would grant the benefit of the benediction to those who have heard the voice of God just in time for that." The clergyman succeeded in breaking up a bad habit which had resisted all legitimate appeals—that of prayer breaking.

Mankind may be divided into three distinct classes—those who are to stubborn to be moved, even after conviction; those who are so glibly as to be easily humbugged, and deceived; and those who, by possession of good common sense, and use it to best advantage in directing the irascible and stubborn.

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