THE RISE AND FALL OF A CHICAGO SPORT

Chicago is no better and no worse than any other large city. In fact, if one were to take size into consideration, Chicago would not be found to be much worse than the majority of the villages throughout the entire country. The wickedness of any great city is great by comparison with the smaller towns, because only the vice, and not the difference in population, is compared.

The Sights on Every Corner.

But people throughout the entire country seem to think that they have placed both their lives and their reputations in jeopardy if they get within hailing distance of the western metropolis, while the truth is that nine times out of ten they could find as much wickedness to the square foot in their own villages as they could find in Chicago.

I have friends residing in the east, who started on a trip to the west some time ago, and when I heard of where they had gone I chided them for not having called upon me while in Chicago on their way west, supposing, of course, they had passed through the city, as it lay within their most direct route.

"But we did not pass through Chicago on our way west,'" said the letter which I received in reply. "We traveled west by way of Springfield and Quincy, so as not to expose Harry to the wickedness of Chicago."

Harry is a 14-year-old son whose life has been spent in a village in New York state. He missed seeing the sights of a great city because his parents were afraid of exposing him to the contaminating influence of the city's wickedness. The sights he would have seen on every corner; the wickedness he would have had to search for. But the incident illustrates the character of Chicago's reputation, whether it is deserved or not.

About a Good Young Man.

That crime exists in Chicago in large quantities is true; that it entraps many a brilliant and promising young man in its nets and carries him down to a life of debauchery and ruin is equally true. But so it does everywhere, either in village or city. The number that are caught in Chicago is greater because there are more to catch.

Was an Exemplary Young Man.

The ways in which these young men are caught, in which the Chicago sport is born, are numerous. This shall be the true story of but one incident that will illustrate but one way.

At the time our story opens, as the fiction writers would say, our hero, if such he may be called, was but 17 years of age. In fact, our story deals with but five years of his life, from 17 to 22, but in that five years he lived a lifetime.

This young man was the son of moderately well-to-do parents. The father was working on a salary for a large concern in Chicago, but they had never known the pinch of poverty. At 17 the son had secured the best schooling the public schools of Chicago could give him. He had learned something of the three R's and had dabbled in the fads, and when graduation day in the high school came he felt that he was equipped for his life struggle.

So much for his education. Morally he was an exemplary young man. Not of the extremely good kind, but good enough so that no one need have been ashamed to associate with him. He took an interest in church work in the suburban town in which he lived, though he was not a church member. And then at 17 he stepped out of school into the counting room of a big grain commission company and began his life work.

Road That Led to Ruin.

The employer of this young man lived in the same suburban town, and they rode to the city on the same train. The employer rode in the smoking car, that he might enjoy an after-breakfast cigar and play a sociable game of cards for small stakes with congenial friends. The young man rode in the same car, that he might, when occasion offered, show an interest in his employer.

The First Step Downward.

Before the first month had passed he had lost his interest in his employer, but continued to ride in the smoker, that he might enjoy the fumes from an after-breakfast cigarette and watch the card game. When the employer noticed the cigarette, he advised the young man to throw it away and accept a cigar which he offered. The young man accepted the advice—and the cigar. The employer also called his attention to a few good hands which he held, and the young man showed the desired interest. The subject of cards permitted a friendly familiarity on the part of the young man with his employer at the office, and he talked glibly of "full houses, three of a kind, flushes, jack pots," and other terms significant of poker, and his fellow employes envied his opportunities.

Then there came a day when business called the employer to Europe to be gone for several weeks. The next morning his three old business friends sat disconsolately in the smoking car wishing for a fourth hand at cards. The third morning after the departure of the employer the young man occupied the vacant seat and played, as he said, for his employer. That morning he won, and at noon he spent his winnings for a better luncheon than he had been accustomed to.

That was not the first step in a downward course, but the second. The first had been the smoking car to which he had not been accustomed, and the encouragement of his employer.

A Well Learned Lesson.

By the time the employer returned from Europe the card game with the young man as a participant had become a regular thing each morning. But the young man was not sure that the employer would approve of his course in having played for him, and did not mention it.

Full Fledged Sport at Twenty.

When the employer took his accustomed place in the game the morning after his return the young man held back until one of the friends asked if he was not "coming in," and offered an explanation. The employer told him to "come in" if he liked, and the young man "came."

That morning the employer won, and it took half of the young man's salary for the week to pay his losses. That day he ate no lunch at all, but his pride would not permit him to tell the other men what his employer already knew, though he thought nothing nor cared nothing of the circumstance, and the young man continued to play, and to often go without his luncheon and other necessities and luxuries which his salary should have brought him.

The employer was not a sport. He was a respected business man to whom a game of cards was a pastime, and who cared nothing for the small amounts he won or lost, but he had unconsciously taught the young man to love a game of chance. His church companions were forgotten, and in their place he made friends with the class who knew all too well the paths of crime, and these he followed. His Saturday afternoons were spent at the race tracks, at the gambling houses and the pool rooms, his evenings at the theaters devoted to the prize ring.

Starting from a game of cards in a smoking car he had, in two years' time, become a sport in all that the name implies in Chicago.

Changed Checks for Stripes.

By the end of three years the well trained boy of 17 had become the sport of 20, but in that time he had risen to a position of trust in the house for which he worked, and considerable sums of money were entrusted to him. The card games on the train were continued, but the employer knew of none of the other vices to which the young man had become addicted.

Wearing a Convict's Garb in Joliet.

While the employer traded on the board of trade it was always for customers, never for himself, nor did he know that the young man whom he had raised from not but much more than an office boy to a position of trust was interested in the rise and fall of grain.

"Buy wheat for a rise to-day," was the instructions the young man heard the employer give to one of the firm's buyers. He knew not what was behind those instructions, but he had confidence in the judgment of his employer. He also needed ready cash. His accounts were $5,000 short; $5,000 of his employer's money was the price he had paid for becoming entrapped in the nets of crime. Another thousand would not be missed for a few days more, and with it he bought margins on wheat for a rise.

The instructions the employer had given his buyer were those transmitted by him from a customer and did not express his own views of the market. He did not expect wheat to rise that day, and it did not. When the board closed and the time of settlement came the whole terrible tale was brought to view.

That day it lacked but six weeks of being five years from the day when he had first ridden to the city in the smoking car with his employer and witnessed a game of cards for money. At the end of that six weeks the young man's name had been exchanged for a number, and he was wearing a convict's garb at Joliet.

WRIGHT A. PATTERSON.

Women Remember This Fact

That in addressing Mrs. Pinkham you are communicating with a woman—a woman whose experience in treating woman's ills is greater than that of any living person—male or female.

A woman can talk freely to a woman when it is revolting to relate her private troubles to a man.

Many women suffer in silence and drift along from bad to worse, knowing full well that they should have immediate assistance, but a natural modesty impels them to shrink from exposing themselves to the questions and probable examination of even their family physician. It is unnecessary. Without money or price you can consult a woman, whose knowledge from actual experience is unequaled.

Women suffering from any form of female weakness are invited to freely communicate with Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass.

All letters are received, opened, read and answered by women only.

This is a positive fact—not a mere statement. It is certified to by the mayor and postmaster of Lynn and the Women's Christian Temperance Union, whose letters, all in a little book, Mrs. Pinkham has just published. Thus has been established the eternal confidence between Mrs. Pinkham and the women of America which has never been broken and has induced more than 100,000 sufferers to write her for advice during the last few months.

Out of the vast volume of experience which she has to draw from, it is more than possible that she has gained the very knowledge that will help your case. She asks nothing in return except your good-will, and her advice has relieved thousands. Here is one of the cases we refer to:

Miss Collier Writes for Mrs. Pinkham's Advice, Receives it, and is Made Well. Read Her Three Letters:

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—I have read in a paper of a young lady who was cured by the use of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and would like your advice in regard to my case. I have taken medicine, but do not see that it has helped me much. I have such dreadful cramps and pains at time of menstruation that it seems sometimes as though I could hardly stand it. I would be so thankful if I could find a cure for my trouble. Please tell me what to do."—MISS LILLIE M. COLLIER, Pigeon Run, Ohio, April 9, 1896.

"I received your letter in reply to mine and I followed your kind advice; have taken four bottles of your Vegetable Compound. I think it has helped me a good deal. How many bottles will effect a cure?"—MISS LILLIE M. COLLIER, Pigeon Run, Ohio, July 11, 1898.

"I again did as you advised me and now I feel it my duty to tell you what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me. For five years I suffered untold agonies at time of menstruation. I have now taken twelve bottles of Compound and used three boxes of Liver Pills and am entirely cured of the dreadful pain I used to suffer. I advise all those who suffer with female weakness to write to Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass."—MISS LILLIE M. COLLIER, Pigeon Run, Ohio, May 10, 1899.

Two More Women Who Acknowledge the Help They Have Received from Mrs. Pinkham.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—The doctor says I have congestion of the womb, and cannot help me. There is aching in the right side of abdomen, hip, leg, and back. If you can do me any good, please write."—MRS. NINA CHASE, Fulton, N. Y., December 20, 1897.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—I followed your instructions, and now I want every woman suffering from female trouble to know how good your advice and medicine is. The doctor advised an operation. I could not bear to think of that, so followed your advice. I got better right off. I took six bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and used three packages of Sanative Wash; also took your Liver Pills, and am cured."—MRS. NINA CHASE, Fulton, N. Y., December 12, 1898.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—Have been suffering for over a year and had three doctors. At time of menstruation I suffer terrible pains in back and ovaries. I have headache nearly every day, and feel tired all the time. The doctor said my womb was out of place. Would be so glad if you could help me."—MRS. CARL VOSS, Sac City, Iowa, August 1, 1898.

"Please accept my sincere thanks for the good your advice and Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done me. I did everything you told me to do, and used only three bottles, and feel better in every respect."—MRS. CARL VOSS, Sac City, Iowa, March 23, 1899.

Mrs. Pinkham has Fifty Thousand Such Letters as Above on File at Her Office—She Makes No Statements She Cannot Prove.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for February 18, 1900—Jesus at Jacob's Well.

[Prepared by Hector C. Lenington.]

THE LESSON TEXT.

(John 4:5-14.)

5. Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.
6. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.
7. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her: Give me to drink.
8. (For His disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)
9. Then saith the woman of Samaria unto Him: How is it that Thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.
10. Jesus answered and said unto her: If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee: Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.
11. The woman saith unto Him: Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?
12. Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?
13. Jesus answered and said unto her: Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:
14. But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

GOLDEN TEXT.—God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.—John 4:24.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

This lesson takes us to the close of Jesus' first year of public ministry, December, A. D. 27. This marks the close of that period known as the Judean ministry. For convenience we will follow in the study of the text and context the following outline:

Introductory .....John 3:22-36, 4:1-3
Jesus and the Samaritan Woman....vs. 4-9
The Water of Life .....vs. 10-15
Jesus Reads the Woman's Heart..vs. 16-18
True Worship .....vs. 19-24
Jesus the Messiah .....vs. 25-26
Jesus and His Disciples.....vs. 27, 31-38
Preaching to the Samaritans.....vs. 28-30

Introductory.—All through the early ministry of Jesus thus far John the Baptist had been preaching and baptizing in Judea. Jesus' preaching attracted large crowds. John observed this, and said: "He must increase, but I must decrease." It was a noble self-renunciation on the part of John that he could see that it was his measure of success that he could have helped attract the people to Jesus, while his own following was falling off. But it opened up a situation of which the pharisees (always bitter) were not slow in taking advantage. They tried to awaken jealousy and conflict between the disciples of John and those of Jesus. John's work, however, was not yet done, so Jesus, with a practical wisdom disciples of our later day would do well to study and imitate departs from Judea and turns toward Galilee.

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman.—Traveling through Samaria Jesus came to Jacob's well just without the city of Sychar. Here He stopped to rest, sending His disciples on into the city to buy food. While they were gone there came a woman to draw water from the well. The request of Jesus for a drink surprised the woman. A strict Jew would not have asked any favor of a Samaritan. Much less would a strict Jew have made such a request the way for opening a conversation. Undoubtedly Jesus was tired and thirsty, yet we may imagine that He used just this opportunity in just this way for winning the woman's heart. "How is it," she said, "that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria?"

The Water of Life.—The question not only showed the woman's surprise, but indicated a willingness to talk with the stranger. So Jesus followed up His advantage, and said: "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water." That expression, "Gift of God," is very significant, meaning the Messiah or Christ and His salvation. But the Samaritan woman did not realize this hidden significance any more than she did the double meaning Jesus put into those words "living water." She only thought of the water that is necessary to sustain physical life.

"Sir," she exclaimed, "thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep." Jesus had to open to her mind His real and hidden meaning. "The water that I shall give him," He said in reply, "shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Jesus Reads the Woman's Heart.—Jesus would not have completed His mission to this woman had He stopped with this truth. He must convince her of her sinfulness, show her the need of a change of heart. This He did by the very gentle reminder of her past life, yes, and even of her present living in sin.

True Worship.—Naturally now came the idea of worship; but where? In the holy mount of the Samaritan, or at Jerusalem? Jesus showed her that the infinite God is not confined by place or circumstance. "God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

Jesus the Messiah.—This Samaritan woman had heard of the Messiah, and after what Jesus had said, it took only His "I am He" to send her back to the city to there proclaim the man "who told me all things that ever I did."

AFTERTHOUGHTS.

The food of the body will not feed the life of the soul.

Jesus offers the water of life to the sin-stained, thirsty soul.

A chance meeting by the well—yet only God knows how much of chance it was. In the providence of God the next one we meet will be one from whom we may learn or one whom we may help.

Prejudice should never stand in the way either of giving or receiving help.

Holy mounts count not so much with God as holy moments.

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