Youth Learns to Live

Colonel Anson, for many years chief constable of the County of Stafford, tells us that during 40 years of life in a thickly-populated industrial area, he has observed a great increase in the self-respect of the young men of the towns under his control. He alludes especially to the decrease of drunkenness, which he is convinced is not due to restricted hours, but to the increasing self-respect of the younger generation.

Prohibition and Temperance

Of course his good tidings roused the prohibitionist in Lord Astor, who wrote at once to warn us that if in this land of liberty "Dora" were to allow us a glass of ale of an afternoon, as in days of yore, we should find that all the young men and maidens of industrial England would rival the sidled youth of the Tenderloin district of New York, in those unhappy habits that seem inseparable from Prohibition.

It seems a sad thing that Prohibition and Temperance like crabbed age and youth, cannot live together, but it is good to learn from a Chief Constable that temperance and self-respect are on the increase, and degradation and drunkenness are on the decrease.

One is not so much interested, however, in the eternal — I had nearly written infernal—controversy between the wet and the dry as in the hopeful evidence of Chief Constable of long experience, that the youth of the country are ahead of their ancestors in habits of sobriety. You may be sure he knows more about it than society ladies who look at humanity as through a drawing-room window and whose angel visits to industrial districts only occur at election times.

I am thankful that we have this changed manners and habits of the youth of the country during the last Centuary and we may be sure that it has not come about by accident but by our conscious and deliberate efforts to make work for youth to do and your growing youth heart and soul in the work.

The Future Rests With Youth

A hundred years ago the decencies of modern cleanliness, sanitation, and hygiene were unknown to our ancestors, and their moral outlook was often cruel and obscene. We owe a debt of gratitude to the great humorous writers, Dickens, Thackeray, Carlyle, Ruskin, and hundreds of earnest men and women who eloquently and drastically exposed the base and degrading customs of their time.

Nor must we forget the power of the press which has a duty to the new generations in encouraging their efforts to a higher standard of life. Colonel Anson has done well to remind us of achievement already achieved. The future will largely depend on our finding work for youth to do and your growing youth heart and soul in the work.

Preparing Youth for Life