

III.

"Lead a Clean Life." -I.

If we admire chastity in a woman, we admire it a thousand times more in a man. Even the world stands in awe of the power that chastity gives a man. It cannot understand it, it scoffs at it as an impossible ideal, it even denies its existence -- and in all the ways it pays unwilling tribute to it -- and withal it recognizes chastity in the firmness, the determination and the power of the chaste man. The devil, having no body, cannot understand the force of impurity and the source of its hold on man; the world, having no soul, cannot understand the force of continence and the source of its power.

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"Know you not that you are the temples of the Holy Ghost and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" asks St. Paul. At baptism you are anointed with holy chrism and consecrated as God's temple. He who dares violate that consecration must incur the penalty of sacrilege. Willing sacrifice and tears may wipe away the offense against God, if the sacrifice and tears are united to the Precious Blood that flowed on Calvary for the sins of the world: if willing sacrifice and tears are not forthcoming, the violator of God's temple must still stand his penalty, which comes surely in the world to come, and almost as surely in this world.

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You are considerate enough of the welfare of your children to want to give them the purest mother in God's creation, a mother who can train them to piety and goodness, so that they will not "bring down your grey hairs in sorrow to the grave." Could you ask a pure, wholesome girl to entrust her innocence to the keeping of a beast? Could you ask her to enter into a lifelong association with an animal whose reason is swept aside by the first breath of passion, whose sole joy in life is the basest feeling that can enter into the heart of man?

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Chastity overcame the pagan empire of Rome, for chastity gave to the martyrs the fortitude of which they are the most excellent example in the whole history of the world. And chastity has lost none of its force in strengthening the arm of character. What field of battle won, what triumph of arms can compare in joy of conquest with the victory won over self. When a soul comes clean with the help of God from such an assault it is conscious of a power that can say NO with a force the world can understand and fear.

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If you want hygienic reasons for purity, they are abundant. Syphilis kills more people annually in the United States than any other disease, although in the death notice it is usually listed under some other head. A Bulletin of the Public Health Service of Chicago states that 100% of the locomotor ataxia, general paralysis of the insane, congenital debility, icterus and acroderma, 50% of the organic diseases of the heart and aorta pectoris, 40% of the diseases of the arteries, cerebral hemorrhages, apoplexy and softening of the brain, 20% of the Bright's disease, and 10% of several other diseases noted in death certificates should be ascribed to syphilis.

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Children suffer worse than parents. Fournier's study of 72 syphilitic fathers is typical. Seventy healthy mothers gave birth to 307 children -- 110 stillborn, 166 syphilitic and 31 healthy. One hundred per cent of prostitutes are diseased; so are a large proportion of wives and girls who are "easy-going" -- and who are so at times in order to take a cruel revenge on mankind for their own condition. The ONLY sure precaution against disease is continence; every other precaution has been known to fail.

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If you are inclined to scoff at this, ask some kind-hearted physician to show you a few cases. The Chicago clinic averages about 2000 cases a day, and the hospitals have plenty of them; so do all insane asylums. See the noses eaten away; look down through the hole in the cheek; take a good look at a decayed brain. It gives you a new idea of Nature's revenge.

Tom Casey was called home yesterday by the death of his brother.
WAY OF THE CROSS at seven o'clock tonight.