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IV

"Lead a Clean Life." - II.

Clean ideals. "The nicest divorce I ever had," is the characterization given on the front page by an American princess of the Paris decree that ended a month's debauch with an Egyptian. This sort of legalized prostitution kills everything fine in the heart; and if it goes on unchecked at its present rate it will kill everything fine in the American family. No social scourge is more deadly than a frenzied licentious woman who has the approval of society and the law.

The Catholic Church holds up to us the Blessed Virgin as the ideal of pure womanhood and St. Joseph as the ideal of manly chastity. And to prove that these models are possible of imitation she lays before us the long roll of saints, men and women, who consecrated their chastity to God. And to see that these models still have ardent imitators you have only to watch the long file of rugged, healthy young men filing up to the Communion rail each morning. You love the fight you see in a strong, clear eye. "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God."

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Clean Companionship. Gold and silver, even diamonds, lose their brilliancy when exposed to poisonous fumes. Your soul is more precious than any of these and not less susceptible. Can your mind stay clean and pure in the midst of sordid discussions, filthy stories, foul philosophy, scenes of beastly degradation of the temple of God? Can your conscience maintain its fine edge when it trifles with temptation? Can you ask God to preserve your soul free from stain when you rush headlong into danger? Can your ideals remain untarnished when the books and papers and magazines you read are written with the sole purpose of selling by their appeal to the basest human instincts? "Tell me with whom you go and I will tell you what you are."

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The Vow of Chastity. "The greatest religious influence in my life has been the vow of chastity made at the age of twelve," wrote a student on his questionnaire three years ago. Nothing could do more to set off the Catholic ideal of purity in the midst of worldly corruption. The effect on the maker of the vow would be stimulating and refreshing; and the effect on the spiritual life of Notre Dame, if such a vow were made by half, or even a third or a fourth of her students, would be beyond calculation.

All who practice the virtue might just as well have the double merit of the vow. As said before, the vow should be made only for short periods at a time, and with your confessor's permission. It should include all thoughts, words and actions contrary to purity; if made in marriage, it should include all infidelity to one's wife, in thought, word or deed. What a guarantee of high ideals such a vow brings to the marriage contract! What a pledge of God's blessing it will bring!

Prayers.

Charles Baum, who had an operation on his ear last week, writes that he is improving, but is still in pain. Miss Kosek, of last year's library staff, asks prayers for her mother who is very sick. Brother Nicholas, C.S.C., asks prayers for his sick father, and Bro. Bernard for a deceased sister. Charlie O'Connell, who left school a year ago, has been discharged from the sanitarium, cured, but his mother is gravely ill; he thanks the boys for their prayers for him, and places his mother in their hands. Five other sick persons are recommended to your prayers.

A Letter from Van Wallace Himself (facsimile)

Dear father- the typewriter is a conservative success . dark hard work and no capitals to show for it . three lines are a days work. day by day etc tho. van  
p.s apostrophe in days also out of the question  
--- Father Brooks writes that he and his converts are praying hard for Van.