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A Timely Letter.

"Dear Father: I hope that you will accept this letter in the humility, sincere, I hope, in which it is written. It is, indeed, a presumptuous attitude on my part that leads me to criticize anything that you have done. Believing, however, that you are always seeking for the truth and always anxious to do right, I have the temerity to make some suggestions.

"Some years ago I worked for several months in one of the cheapest dance halls in the city, and while there I had the opportunity of observing the girls who frequent such places. These poor creatures are usually more sinned against than sinning. Like the rest of us they are merely humans--with all of our struggles, triumphs and falls, sins and virtues. Most of them are underpaid, comparatively uneducated shop girls, who in despair turn to the dance hall for their pleasure.

"What should be the attitude of a real Notre Dame man toward these girls? Should he regard them with contempt, insult them at every opportunity, and always be ready to drag them lower? Is this the practice of Christian charity? I cannot think so. To my mind no one who is a true Catholic and a Christian would ever refer to these girls as "pigs" no matter how low they might have sunk; no real gentleman would ever try to drag them further into sin; no real Notre Dame man would do aught else but set them the example of Christian forgiveness.

"A Senior."

This is an excellent characterization of the girl of the dance hall, and gives all the reason in the world why students should seek their recreation elsewhere. These girls seek their recreation in the dance hall "in despair;" which means that they have nowhere else to go, and have not the mental equipment to seek diversion in loftier channels. For a student to seek the same recreation "in despair" is to confess that he has not the mental equipment for the pleasures of reading and association that are denied the uneducated shop girl. For him to go further and call his playmates "pigs" is to place himself quite out of the class of gentlemen.

It is one thing to forgive and feel kindly towards these poor unfortunates; it is quite another to seek them out as playmates. Respect for womanhood demands that one avoid association with any girl he would not care to present to his mother as his own social equal.

Tragic as it may seem, it is nevertheless true that often these girls fare better in both manners and morals by associating with men of their own class, uneducated, than they do with students of the University of Our Lady. A student whose self respect does not keep him from fugitive entertainment with those whom he regards as intellectual outcasts, will find sooner or later that his self respect will not keep him from taking advantage of their simplicity. On the other hand, uneducated factory hands may be rough in speech but clean in heart towards these girls from whom many of them will choose their future wives. -- And there are dance halls in South Bend where students are excluded, because both patrons and management recognize -- what students do not recognize -- the incongruity of such mingling.

Will Seniors Desert Van?

Practically the only students now at Notre Dame who knew Van Wallace are Seniors. He was a member of their class; quite a few of them were with him in Carroll Hall. If they are not behind him in the present Novena, there is not so much hope that others will fall in line. A few minutes of thought should convince any senior that there are few things of greater importance to their class than the restoration to health of one whom God has left dependent upon their prayers.