

A Few Years Hence

What will you be, where will you be, a few years hence. In heaven, hell, or purgatory -- in jail or in the White House -- on Wall Street or South Clark? One thing is certain: you will be just what you are heading for now unless a miracle happens -- a miracle of grace.

Why the Question?

A report from a state penitentiary states that two Notre Dame students for the past six years are star boarders there. One was sent up for murder and the other for raising checks. The first one has three murders to his credit, but he says they flatter him: he never did anything like that, although he admits some sixty hold-ups.

The Honor Roll.

The list of old students in a certain city is made up largely of "broken-down race horses." The list runs something like this:

A has lost a million dollars during the past five years. He inherited it, and booze is making away with it.

B's uncle is a good man, and has a splendid business. He has been trying to train B to succeed him -- but B simply won't train. He won't stay sober long enough to find out what it's all about.

C has gone to the dogs through drink.

D and E, Brothers, have recently gone into bankruptcy. Their father unfortunately left them a splendid business. Both are divorced, both drink like fish, and E is addicted to dope and has married a divorced woman.

F. holds two degrees from Notre Dame. He is now a telegraph operator -- at the job he had before he came to Notre Dame.

G, the best of the lot, is a high school teacher -- only that, although he was a very promising student here.

H might be added to the list. He was in two or three national scandals before he was killed a few years back.

The Case of E.

E was a very bright boy, and you may want some further information on him. He was a minim at Notre Dame, and a few years later he graduated with honors from another university. Although he was only 19 he was class valedictorian. He was a handsome shiek, and always did the proper thing. He drank, but never in excess; he danced all night, but dancing was never an occasion of sin for him; he read what a young man of the world was supposed to read, and ran with the best girls on or off the stage; he was a prominent member of the Sodality. How did he happen to cave in? Read the following from the current issue of the Ave Maria:

"A laborer who was drilling rock in the sub-basement of a large public building was startled by an explosion for which there was no apparent cause. Upon examination it was found that a blasting charge had been latent in the rock for many years -- ever since the excavation of the cellar in which the drilling was being done. This incident is paralleled in the mortal world almost every day. The reputable citizen who suddenly becomes a criminal, the respectable woman who suddenly falls from virtue, the professed Christian who suddenly lapses into unbelief -- what are they all but victims of dynamic forces that have been latent in their character for years -- blasting charges of false principles imbibed from bad books, or evil associates, almost if not quite forgotten when the inevitable explosion at last occurs?"

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John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,  
Prefect of Religion.