

A Litany of "Ifs".

How many men have died from over-exertion in "just going to do something"?

"If I had time"

"If I were well enough"

"If I thought it would pay."

"If I had a little help."

"If I had some encouragement."

"If my surroundings were congenial."

"If I could get down to it."

"If it were not so cold."

"If it were not so hot."

"If I only had a square deal."

"If I could afford it."

"If I was sure I could succeed."

"If", "If", "If".

The Supreme "If".

Thus they go on through life until they see death stalking them and they say, "If you had not come so soon!" Next week many a one will say, "I could have hit 90 on that 'If'!" ! ! ! Seniors will soon begin to view with alarm the last semester of their college career. They would do well to make a list of their "ifs" and hand them in for the guidance of others. The "if", in fact, becomes an excellent subject for examination of conscience. The fulfillment of the condition needs only a little will power.

The Temptation "If".

How many are kept from frequent and daily Communion by the thought, "I would go, if only I could get rid of my temptations." That is asking for what ne'er was, nor is, nor e'er shall be. Temptations are not sins. They are the first advances towards sin. Resisted they become a source of merit. The devil does not need to tempt the unrepentant. They are already doing his work. It is only the earnest strivers that he endeavours to entangle in doubt, first, and then it is only a step to give in.

The Imitation Counsels.

"So long as we live in the world we cannot be without tribulation and temptation."

"Temptations are often very profitable to us though they be troublesome and grievous, for through them a man is humbled, purified, and instructed."

"Often take counsel in temptations."

"First there cometh to the mind a bare thought of evil, then a strong imagination thereof, afterwards delight and evil motion, and then consent."

"We ought not therefore to despair when we are tempted, but so much the more fervently to pray unto God that He will vouchsafe to help us."....

(Imitation of Christ, Bk. 1, Ch. 13.)

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