

**A FEW THOUGHTS
FOR A YOUNG
MAN: A LECTURE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649022342

A Few Thoughts for a Young Man: A Lecture by Horace Mann

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HORACE MANN

**A FEW THOUGHTS
FOR A YOUNG
MAN: A LECTURE**

▲

FEW THOUGHTS

FOR A

YOUNG MAN,

A LECTURE,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE BOSTON MERCANTILE LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION, ON ITS 29TH ANNIVERSARY.

BY HORACE MANN,
THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF
EDUCATION.



BOSTON:
TICKNOR, REED, AND FIELDS.

M DCCC L.

1050

Educ: 3. 50
5



Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1860, by
HORACE MANN,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

PRESERVATION MASTER
AT HARVARD

Stereotyped by
HOBART AND ROBBINS:
New England Type and Stereotype Foundry,
Boston.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ROOMS, }
BOSTON, Nov. 16th, 1849. }

DEAR SIR, —

I have the pleasure of informing you, that, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mercantile Library Association, held last evening, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :

" *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Association be presented to the Hon. Horace Mann, for his valuable and instructive Address, delivered at the celebration of the twenty-ninth anniversary of this institution, and that a copy be requested for publication."

Hoping you will comply with the earnest solicitation of the Association,

I have the honor to be,

With sentiments of the highest respect,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. S. BLANCHARD,

Corresponding Secretary.

HON. HORACE MANN.

53422

WEST NEWTON, Nov. 17th, 1849.

GEO. S. BLANCHARD, Esq.,

Dear Sir, — The possibility that even *one* young man may be prompted to lead a higher and a truer life, by anything contained in the Lecture which you have asked for publication, induces me to comply with your request.

I have retained several paragraphs, in different places,

which, on account of the length of the Lecture, were omitted in the delivery.

Be pleased to accept the assurances of my deep interest in the personal welfare of yourself and your fellow-members, and in the prosperity of the noble institution you are so wisely cherishing.

HORACE MANN.

LECTURE.

MR. PRESIDENT, AND GENTLEMEN;

I FEEL a vivid and a peculiar pleasure in addressing the young gentlemen of this society. Enrolled among the members of the "Boston Mercantile Library Association," there are, at the present time, as I am informed, between eleven and twelve hundred clerks who belong to this city. If not, to-day, therefore, the most powerful, it is surely among the most potential organizations in this metropolis. Though the present influence of its members upon the character and fortunes of Boston may not be great, yet it *will* be great; nor will it require many years to unfold its powers. As the botanist or the anatomist foresees the gigantic proportions of the oak or the elephant, in the embryo germ which he dissects, so the moral seer can prophesy the energy and compass of this fraternity, from the numbers and the capacities of the ingenuous youth who compose it.

I feel a deep regard for this society, too, because the great majority of its members are now at the most intensely interesting period of their life. Their characters and habits are at that critical point, when, in the language of Dr. Paley, they are about to take "a holding turn." At least as early as the age of twenty-five in the city, though perhaps at a somewhat later age in the country, — for a city life hastens the development of mind, as a hot-house does of plants, — a young man generally has the great *objects* of his life pretty distinctly defined and mapped out. His *course* of life, or the means by which its chosen objects may be pursued, remain subject to change. But at these ages, in city and in country, the Star of Hope which rose with existence and has been steadily ascending and brightening in its course, like the star seen by the Eastern Magi, stops in mid heaven, and there, beneath its culminating point, the youthful devotee expects to find his Bethlehem and his salvation. It is a time, therefore, when every young man is adjured, by every motive that can operate upon a mortal or an immortal nature, to take an observation, and to see whether the star of his destiny is about to reach its zenith on the meridian of Nazareth or of Sodom.

There is still another circumstance which excites my sensibilities most strongly, and attaches me most tenderly to the members of this institution. Many of them are from the country, brought up under quiet roofs and in secluded vales, and watched over from their birth by parental eyes, only less sleepless than the eye of God. Into their hearts have daily fallen the grave inculcations of a father's wisdom and the more subtle and subduing influences of a mother's love; and there too, in sorrow and in joy, they have felt the balm and the thrill of those tender relations to a sister, which, through its affections and its forbearances, was designed by Heaven as a preparation and a prophecy of that holier relation, for which one shall forsake father and mother and brother *and* sister. Torn from the parental stock and transplanted to a city, who can describe the dangers that encompass a young man during the period of his moral acclimation? This suggests, indeed, the grand reflection with which every wise parent and every wise person looks upon youth:—However virtuous and exemplary a young man may have been, he is yet within peril of falling; and however vicious and abandoned he may have been, he is yet within hope of saving. And what renders this crisis at once so fearful and