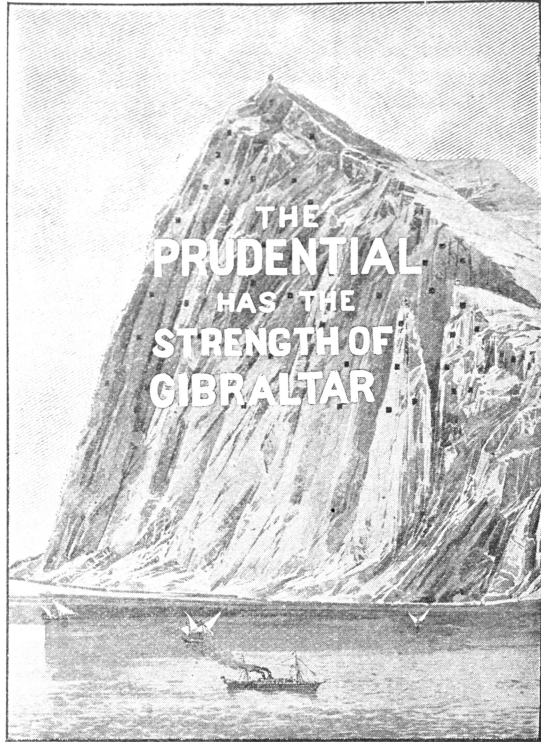


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Stole Many Books.

James Brittain Miller, a graduate of the Yale Divinity School in the Class of Ninety-Four and since that time a student in the Graduate Department, was arrested a week ago, charged with the theft of books from the store of Mr. Augur on Church street. When Miller's room at 123 West Divinity was searched by the detectives, over two thousand books were found stored there.

After the circulation of this news, booksellers all over the city came forward and told of losses of books for some time and asked permission to look at the books in Mr. Miller's room. Mr. Judd of the Edward P. Judd Co., positively identified as his a number of the volumes, as did also W. H. Kingsbury and A. R. Andrews, dealers in second hand books.

Miller worked the scheme of an endless chain on Bookseller Kingsbury, whose store on Orange street and later, on Crown street near Orange, is well known to Yale graduates. His plan, so it is alleged by the prosecution, was to steal books from the shelves of this dealer, and after holding them for a time, sell them on commission. Whenever he came with a large supply his excuse was that he was handling the books for friends of his. In this way the unsuspecting bookseller was made to sell scores of his own books and pay the bulk of the profits to Miller. Among the books found in the room were these: "The Making and Unmaking of a Minister," and "Mistakes of a Minister."

When arrested, Miller had on a large overcoat, the inside of which was fitted with several mammoth pockets. His plea in the case is absent-mindedness. Under the advice of his counsel, Attorney Tyner, he would not answer the question whether he was a kleptomaniac or not. Among Miller's personal effects were found two bank books with a total amount of \$1400 on deposit.

Two days after his arrest and release on \$500 bail, Miller was again arrested charged with the theft of a gold watch from E. E. Wallace, a graduate student who rooms in 19 East Divinity. Wallace reported the theft to the police over a year ago. Miller was released on \$1,000 bonds and will be tried at an early date.

University Prize in Poetry.

A prize of fifty dollars is offered by Professor Cook for the best unpublished poem which shall be submitted by the writer on or before May 1, 1899. Competition is open to students of the University in all departments. The award will be made by a committee which will be designated hereafter. If none of the poems possesses sufficient merit, the prize will not be awarded.

A College not a Home for Incurables.

[From the article by Dean Briggs of Harvard, on "Fathers, Mothers and Freshmen," in the January Atlantic.]

A college is not a home for incurables or a limbo for the dull and inefficient. Moreover, as a Western father observed to President Eliot, "it does not pay to spend two thousand dollars on a two-dollar boy." Though a firm believer in college training as the supreme intellectual privilege of youth, I am convinced that the salvation of some young men (for the practical purposes of this present world) is in taking them out of college and giving them long and inevitable hours in some office or factory.

I do not mean that all success in college belongs to the good scholars; for many a youth who stands low in his classes gets incalculable benefit from his college course. . . . It is the weak-kneed dawdler who ought to go, the youth whose body and mind are wasting away in bad hours and bad company, and whose sense of truth grows dimmer and dimmer in the smoke of his cigarettes; yet it is precisely this youth who, through mere inertia, is hardest to move, who seems glued to the University, whose father is helpless before his future, and whose relatives contend that, since he is no man's enemy but his own, he should be allowed to stay in college so long as his father will pay his tuition fee,—as if a college were a public conveyance wherein anybody that pays his fare may abide "unless personally obnoxious," or a hotel where anybody that pays enough may lie in bed and have all the good things sent up to him.

No college—certainly no college with an elective system, which presupposes a youth's interest in his own intellectual welfare—can afford to keep such as he. Nor can he afford to be kept. One of the first aims of college life is increase of power; be he scholar or athlete, the sound undergraduate learns to meet difficulties: "stumbling-blocks," in the words of an admirable preacher, become "stepping-stones." It is a short-sighted kindness that keeps in college (with its priceless opportunities for growth and its corresponding opportunities for degeneration) a youth who lies down in front of his stumbling-blocks in the vague hope that by and by the authorities will have them carted away.

One of the surprises in administrative life at college is the underhand dealing of parents, not merely with college officers, but with their own sons. "Your son's case is just where I cannot tell whether or no it will be wise to put him on probation," says the Dean to a well-educated and agreeable father. "It will do him good," says the father emphatically. "Then," says the Dean,

"we will put him on"; and the father, as he takes his leave, observes, "I shall give him to understand that it was inevitable,—that I did all I could to prevent it." Now and then a father writes to the Dean for an opinion of a son's work and character. The Dean would like to show him the answer before sending it, so that everything, favorable or unfavorable, may be above board; but he has, or thinks he has, the father's confidence to keep. Accordingly he says nothing to the student concerned, answers the father straightforwardly, and learns later that his letter, if unfavorable, has passed from the father to the son without comment, as if it had been a gratuitous emanation from the Dean's office. Even the self-protecting words, "in answer to your inquiry," are not enough; for a letter may be garbled.

In answer to the inquiry of a distinguished man about his ward, the Dean of a College made clear, first, that the young man had been in danger of losing his degree, and next that the danger was probably over. The distinguished man had the unfavorable part of the letter copied, omitted the favorable, and sent the partial copy to the student. He omitted the Dean's signature; but the letter itself showed whence it came; and it appeared to have been written just after the Dean had assured the student of his belief that the degree was safe. The young man was frank enough and sensible enough in his perplexity to go straight to the Dean; but the false position of the distinguished man and the false position in which (to some degree unwittingly) he would have left the Dean before the student, are clear.

Class Secretary's Report.

Norman Leeds, Secretary of the Class of Ninety-Five Sheff., has just published his triennial report. It is very complete and conveniently arranged.

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