



The
"Boys' Fund."

Devoted to the interest of boys in need
of a helping hand.

Published by

Rev. G. W. Hinckley,

March 1, 1888 Newport, ME.

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Rev. G. W. HINCKLEY,
NEWPORT, ME.

VOL. I. March, 1888. No. 2

"Commit thy way unto the Lord,
trust also in him; and he shall bring
it to pass." Ps. xxxvii, 5.

JOTTINGS.

At two or three different times in my life I have, for a little period, in order to accomplish some purpose, kept a journal. Early in '84 I secured a little book, in which I have written at very irregular intervals. It is not necessary for me to state that I wrote nothing that was intended to be read by another, or to appear in print. But it has occurred to me that by the use of a few of these journal jottings I can best tell the story of the Boys' Fund, and how it commenced. And so I willingly transcribe a few jottings, but only those that referred to the work for boys.

Feb. 12, 1884.

Horace Mann opened his journal with words like these: "I have, for a long time, had an inefficient desire to keep a journal." Perhaps I can say the same. When in West Hartford, I kept for a few days a daily journal in order to overcome certain faults in my daily living, and this method of eradication of evil proved effective. When my object was accomplished I ceased to write. Since coming to Maine, I have had some experiences which I wish now might have been recorded at the time. This is, in part, the object of opening this book. It is an unpretentious book. Here will be recorded such incidents in my work as I may want to refer to; my progress in the work I have undertaken.

Feb. 25.

Last week I received from Secretary Crowell, (of Am. S. S. Union) a letter stating that my new commission had been issued. He asks me to give my main attention for the present to collecting funds. I don't want to; I don't feel like it; I can't do it. I have written him. I wait for an answer with some interest. If I don't continue in the work what shall I do? My hope of usefulness is among the young. Shall I return to the pastoral work? If I do, what becomes of my hope and pet plan of aiding needy boys? I will wait and see; and the Lord will do right.

Mar. 5.

My doubts and difficulties have disappeared. Secretaries Kingsbury and Crowell both write letters assuring me that my work has been satisfactory. * * * Since I have been in Maine I have given very little in benevolence. I have kept no account as formerly. I shall keep a record again, and hope the Lord will help my stingy, selfish soul to give according to ability.

March 17.

Isaac Walton said that a man to be "an angler must be born so." I suppose, then, that if a man isn't born so, his prospects of becoming so are small. How can a man help his disposition, his convictions, his ambitions? Was I born to go through the world thinking about needy boys, wishing to be of use to them, always carrying some plan in my head and heart concerning them and yet to die without accomplishing anything in their behalf? I can no more keep this class of people—friendless boys—out of my mind from morning till night, of any day, than I can go that length of time without food. Thoughts of them, and ambitious thoughts of aiding a few, will fill my head. When? Where? How to begin? Oh, to answer these questions! Yet I am nearer to an answer to-day

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Jan. 1 '85.

The past year I have paid the last of my school debt,—a great burden lifted. After that was paid I began to make more definite arrangements for the beginning of my Boys' work. My first deposit in the bank (for the Boys' Fund) was Nov. 25, the sum due to benevolence from the date of paying debt. Friends from Levant and Kenduskeag having spent an evening with me left \$7.75 which I deposited Nov. 28th. After paying other benevolence, the amount left over from my tenth and what had been contributed, was \$6.00, deposited Dec. 28th, which closed the year with \$39.83 in bank for Boys' Fund. This morning I received a check for \$50 from——which is for a nucleus for the "Boys' Fund." Now I will go on. The Lord's hand is in it. My convictions came from God. He will provide. Mr.——promises me \$1.00 per month for the same object.

April 23, '86.

A lady gave me \$5.00 for the "Boys' Fund," which now amounts to \$132.

Dec 31, '86.

The "Boys' Fund" which I commenced a little more than a year ago amounts to \$212.54, deposited. Had I been assured a year ago that at the end of the year \$100 would have been deposited, I would have been satisfied and have been willing to continue in my plan and purpose. During the year——has been clothed, boarded and schooled ten months.

June 22, '87.

To-day I had an interview with Mrs.——, who gave me \$25 for the "Fund." She assured me of aid in the future.

Oct. 13.

Mr.——was converted in the meetings in Aroostook Co. last winter. As a thank offering I receive from him \$10 for the "Boys' Fund."

Oct. 26.

I received a check for \$20 from—— of Bangor.

Nov. 26.

Mr.——gave me \$25 for the "Fund and assured me of help in the future."

Dec. 25.

Received yesterday \$5.00 from Kingston, R. I., for the "Fund." The sums received are small, but I expect large ones. I can never raise the amount needed, but God can. I place myself in his hands to be used in the work.

Jan. 11, 1888.

To-day Mr. S——visited the site selected by me for the Boys' Home, expressed pleasure at the situation, and gave me \$20 for the Fund.

Jan. 20.

To-day——and wife pledge one hundred dollars toward the purchase of the Home.

Jan. 21.

To-day——pledges \$500 invested at 6 per cent., the interest to be used in the purchase and fitting of the farm, the capital to become the nucleus of a permanent fund.

Jan. 28.

A lady contributes twenty-five cents to the fund.

Jan. 30.

Mr.——pledges \$25 toward purchase of the farm.

Jan. 31, '88.

God bless the faithful women, who possess in these days the spirit of Dorcas of old. To-day a gentleman called, and delivered five pairs of mittens, and four pairs of stockings which the ladies in their Society of United

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Workers have knit for the benefit of boys to be aided by the "Fund." While people are wondering whether the work will be established, these women, taking success as a matter of fact, instead of questioning, have been quietly at work. I was assured that these women are at work along the same line now, and preparing bedding for one of the rooms in the building yet to be purchased.

Feb. 3.

A man introduced the subject of the "Boys' Fund" this morning, and handed me a pledge of \$10. Later in the day he told me he had secured another pledge for the same amount. Received \$15.00 through the mail.

Feb. 7.

I gratefully record the receipt of a check for \$5 to-day from Providence, R. I., also several pledges of aid.

THE AVERAGE BOY.

To most of us the average boy is quite a common place affair. He is inclined to be noisy, restless, and careless. This is because the average of boys is not very high. It is only when he is measured by his possibilities that he becomes real interesting. And his possibilities are hard to get at.

The average boy would rather play than work. This is fortunate. He would rather go fishing than hoe in the garden. He would rather, on his knees encourage the dog to dig out a wood-chuck, than himself to dig post holes. And this is as it should be. He would rather play marbles than work the valves of a half completed engine, and yet he has his place, and is worthy of notice. Humphrey Potter was an average boy. Newcome's engine was a very incomplete affair. He had set one up in the mines, and Humphrey Potter was hired to open and close the valves. There was no way to do this but by levers worked by hand. This was not hard work by any means,

but it required Potter's constant attention, and anything that requires the average boy's constant attention is to him a hardship. He noticed that certain parts of the engine worked in the right direction, and yet he had to open or close the valves. So he fastened one end of a strong cord to the proper parts of the engine, and the other end to the valve lever. It worked "like a charm." His attention was no longer needed, so he commenced a game of marbles, and the overseer came around and found him at it. He didn't fly into a rage or discharge the boy. But he looked into the possibilities suggested by the boy's ingenuity. It took a practical form, and the steam engine became an automatic working machine.

FEBRUARY.

The month of February was spent in continuous evangelistic meetings. I had no time—or but very little,—to devote to the Boys' Fund, but it constantly increased. It now amounts to over \$2,000. This is not the \$10,000 desired; nor even the \$6,000 that is necessary to purchase the farm and buildings, but it is a part of it. I am looking for the rest. A few subscriptions of \$500 each now, will make the purchase possible. Doubtless the smaller subscriptions and donations will continue to come in, and if the place can be purchased this spring the first of September next will witness the opening of the "Home" and school to a number of boys in need of a helping hand. The smaller sums are sent in cash. This is as it should be. For the larger amounts, pledges payable when the purchase is made, is all that is asked. In the next issue the record will be taken up where it stops in this number.

Communications should be addressed to
REV. G. W. HINCKLEY,
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