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Building a Future for our Children, 1936.

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BUILDING A FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

What Kind Of A Future Do The Children Of Today Face?  
To What Extent Can We Provide For Our Children's Future?  
Is Any Planning Possible?

By  
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

At  
The Temple

On  
Sunday Morning, October 25, 1936





There are many parents who believe that the future for their children is far less certain, far more unpromising than it has been for the children of the past generations in this country. They feel that there is great uncertainty and, generally, a lessening of opportunity. They think back, and in thinking back, they do what all people do - they idealize the past - a past of unlimited opportunities, of ever new frontiers to conquer, of untapped national resources. They think back over the past and see where in the Olden Days a man could start out with very little and go very far and become rich over night, as it were. In the past success was commonplace and <sup>a</sup>common everyday occurrence.

Now things are different. It is harder for young people to establish themselves, to find a job. It is hard to advance. It is harder today to begin a business with little capital. It is the day of Big Business and the little fellow has a hard time of it. Professions are crowded. Competition is keen. Parents are worried about the future of their children.

The interesting thing is that during and following every depression in the past history of our country, men were given to this mood of dejection, glumness and lack of buoyancy. During the depressions of 1884, 1893, 1901, 1907 - when you read the records of those days you felt that all the unlimited opportunities in the United States had come to an end.

Possessing hind sight as we do, we are able to look back on previous epochs and by comparison find them more tranquil, secure and happier than ours. But the people who actually lived in those epochs, did not feel that way about it at all. To read their own records, they were as perturbed and unhappy and worried about their future as people are today.



We are, for example, accustomed to think of the Victorian Era as one of extreme orderliness, of easy-going conservatism, of intellectual placidity, of confidence. But the spokesmen of that age, the men who actually lived during that period and spoke for it - the artists, writers, poets - don't at all give that impression of that age.

You may recall the great poet, Tennyson, who belonged to that age. In his "Locksley Hall" his hero yearns for some retreat deep in yonder shining Orient - "where never comes the trader, never floats an European flag." There, methinks," writes the poet, "would be enjoyment more than in this march of mind - in the steamship, in the railway, in the thoughts that shake mankind." Although seeking an escape from his age which to him is one of confusion, harness, the poet, of course, does not make his hero permanently yield up in the mood of escape. He rouses his hero in epochal 19th century "Forward, forward, let us range!... Better 50 years of Europe.— But the mood of escape is there and the unhappiness and uncertainty which gives rise to such a mood is there.

Mathew Arnold, another Victorian, in his "Scholar-Gypsy", likens life in his own age with <sup>the</sup> calm, peaceful age of this scholar gypsy living two hundred years before and he apostrophises the fortunate man born in olden times:

"O born in days when wits were fresh and clear,  
And life ran gaily as the sparkling Thames.  
Before this strange disease of modern life,  
With its sick hurry, its divided aims,  
Its heads o'ertaxed, its palsied hearts, was rife -

.....

"O life unlike to ours!  
Who fluctuate idly without term or scope,  
Of whom each strives, nor knows for what he strives,  
And each half lives a hundred different lives;  
Who wait like thee, but not, like thee, in hope.



He found no hope, this poet and spokesman of the Victorian Age.

And so it is with every age. Only distance gives us perspective. Those who live too close to an age see only a little blurred area of it. So, I believe, it is with our age. There is no warrant to be pessimistic about the future of the children of these United States. Our nation just gave evidence of amazing recuperative power, emerging from one of the most disastrous depressions known in our history. Our country is vast and thinly settled. Our resources are untold and well nigh unlimited. Our soil is rich. We are economically dependent upon no other nation. Our people is industrious, hard-working, inventive and full of enterprise. Our institutions are free and our schools are eagerly and intelligently at work training the rising generation.

There is no reason to think that our children are anything but supremely privileged to live in the kind of a country in which they live. There are problems of course - hundreds of problems, difficult problems of all kinds, economic, political and social, but there are no problems so difficult, so enormous that a free intelligent people like ours cannot solve with at least a fair degree of accuracy.

It will not be as easy to get rich quick in the days to come as in the days gone by. But the people don't have to become rich quick. There will probably not be as many millionaires in the future. But then men don't have to be millionaires to be men and be happy. The business of life is not to get rich nor is it the function of country to help people get rich. Opportunity must follow the bent of one's interest, one's ability and the chance to earn a fairly decent living for oneself and one's family without a shadow of unmerited want - that is what people want.



And if these opportunities and these chances of which I speak to which people are entitled, come wrapped up with hard work and struggle, why, so much the better. The grandparents of the children of this generation did not have an easy time of it. If their grandchildren today do not have an easy time of it, so much better for the country.

In building, therefore, the future of our children, it would be well to bear in mind that while there will be opportunities for work and advancement, these opportunities will come, in the future, only to those who are willing to pay the price for it in hard work, industry, perseverance, sacrifice - the old, homely red-flannel virtues, those virtues which a generation of golf-clubbing, night-clubbing flaming youth forgot and is now painfully rediscovering.

Parents will, therefore, best serve the future of their children by beginning to train them early in life in the discipline of hard work - not to shield them against the exactions of hard work, not to over-indulge them and pamper them, but to train them for a career of intense dilligent labor. You can't build for the future of these children by saving up money for them, by leaving them a large legacy. You can't build for the future of your children by gifts, only by guidance and counsel and instruction and example which is <sup>a</sup> far more difficult thing to do. "The only true gift", said Emerson, "is a portion of thyself." You can't insure the future by laying aside money for them. Money evaporates. Estates vanish. We have seen it with our own eyes in the last few years. Children who depend on such things come to find themselves betrayed when misfortune overtakes them.



"I find nothing so dear as what is given me", said a wise philosopher. I find that these legacies, this wealth set aside for children have a tendency to undermine their character, to make them indifferent to work and careers and to start them off early in life to be little parasites.

Children are not particularly grateful for those things either. "One can never quite forgive a giver." A friend of mine is in the habit of saying: "I don't know why that man hates me so much. I never did him any favors and I never lent him any money."

Whatever financial assistance a parent can render or give to his children he should give during the years of his early life when the young man is struggling himself, not posthumously. Whatever assistance parents give should be given to enable his child to marry early in life and build a home, to gain a footing in their chosen business or profession. Parents really leave nothing to children at death, nothing but memories. At death you have either given to your children of counsel, inspiration, or you can no longer give them anything.

I spoke a moment ago of training our children for hard work. That is not enough. Hard work is not enough. You must give them something more. You must give them the ideal of true workmanship. You must inculcate in them the reverence for honest craftsmanship, thoroughness and honesty in whatever they do or plan to do! No one has ever been happy who has not had respect for his own handiwork, for the value and dignity of his life's work. You can work hard. You can work yourself to the bone. You can keep busy from early morning to late at night. But if what you engage



in is ignoble, anti-social or carried through with ruthlessness, with the exploitation of others, then your future holds for you nothing but tragedy. Such a life brings with it no reward. It is not enough to work hard. One must have an ideal. Whatever it is you are doing - an artisan, professional man, a merchant - whatever it is you are doing, there must be in it an ideal of honest craftsmanship if life is to have meaning.

There is a story told by one of the Rabbis to his disciples - the story of a king who built a palace and wishes to decorate his banquet hall. He summoned two artists and set them to the task of decorating the walls of the banquet hall. He designated one great wall for the one artist to paint and another to the other. He then drew a curtain separating the two walls. He gave the artists one year in which to complete their work. The one artist, faithful to his art and conscientious, set about dilligently, honestly, through the days, weeks and months of the year painting with all the fervor and inspiration that were in him. The other artist was indifferent to his work, indolent and idle. He dallied and he let the weeks and months go by. When the end of the year cam around, he had nothing to show for his labor which was assigned to him. He therefore polished the surface of his wall with a mirror-like substance so that it would reflect all the painting on the other wall. When the day arrived for the king to view the decorations, he went first into the one section of the hall and saw the work of the artist who had worked hard and saw that it was a marvel of beauty and grandeur. Then he drew the curtain and immediately all the work of this artist was reflected in the mirror on the other wall. The reflection looked just as beautiful and perfect as the original. But the king was a wise king and knew what had happened. He took a table and placed gold and precious jewels in it and gave it to the artist who had labored fervently and conscientiously. The table with the gold and jewels in it



of course was reflected in the mirror-like wall. The king said to this second artist, "Your reward is exactly like your work."

And when we build for the future of our children, let us help them through the early formative years of their lives into habits of honest craftsmanship, of faithful consecrated labor for whatever careers for which they are preparing themselves. Let us also build for the future of our children by training them so as not to be over-ambitious for unworthy things, not to pin their hopes for the future too much upon unworthy success. Who knows what success is?

I recently read a book called the Brothers Ashkenazi written by I. J. Singer, a very gifted Yiddish writer whose book is now translated into English. The hero of this book is one named Max Ashkenazi who was pathologically ambitious. His whole being was consumed by ambition. His consuming ambition was to become king of the entire weaving industry the entire textile industry of Lodz, Poland and he went through life like an invader, like a conqueror and he rose to power over the bodies of his father, his brother, his wife, his children, his friends and his employees. He knew of no other goal or love in life. He knew of no other joy and satisfaction but possessing and he died a broken, defeated, deserted old man who, like Job of old, cursed the day he was born.

The father of these brothers Ashkenazi was a pious Jew and long before his children were born, the father went to a rabbi and asked for a blessing and the pious rabbi said to him. "Ashkenazi, you will have a generation of rich men." And the father was terrified. "But Rabbi, I want a generation of God-fearing Jews." That is all the Rabbi said. There was no more. And Ashkenazi had a generation of rich men



but nothing more.

Ambition, my friends, must be early tempered in our children by a sense of social mindedness. The frame which we must hold up for our children as a creed for their future untold years should be not careerism, not self-seeking, not success at any cost but the commendable ambition in future days to come should be to win the respect and love of fellow men by honorable work, self-improvement, by good taste, good manners, good judgment, by joyous and eager cooperation in the great cosmic experience which we call social living. That is the creed to hold up before our youth.

Gentleness of spirit is far more important as an element of happiness than intensity of ambition.

What did the father of the Ashkenazi brothers mean when he prayed for his children to be God-fearing Jews? Why he meant that he would like to have children in whose hearts there would be room for more than the ordinary concerns of commonplace life - for something of the pathos <sup>of</sup> life, for the grace of self-renouncement, the beauty of self-sacrifice which would make them great and strong in humility and kindness.

Whenever you see a person who has that in his life, you know it at once. You know that they seem to have come through some great inner experience in life. They look as though there was a glow in the cup of their heart. They radiate a spiritual stateliness. They seem to dwell in communion with saints.

Parents would bestow favor on their children if they would prepare them early in life for what I would call for want of a better word, "Inwardness", so that they would have inner poise, strong confidence, calmness later on in life, so that they will be able to endure the buffeting which is



likely to come to human beings.

My friends, it is in the field of character building that parents can be most practical and definitely help their children. You can't carve anything out of rotten wood. And you can't carve men out of poor human material. You have got to see that the human material from which you plan to build a future shall be good material. You can do that by training them, by precept, by example, into wholesome habits of work, into reverence for honest workmanship, into spiritual sensitiveness and social mindedness. You may then leave the rest of the work of building to your children. They will not disappoint or dishonor you.

Do not try to blue-print your child's future. A parent should not try to dispose of his child's future. He should give scope and freedom to the child. He should let his child be his own architect of his future as far as he can. But if we lay the full foundation, our children will never disappoint or dishonor us.

What is it you want from your children? Happiness. What is it we all want for ourselves? Happiness in life. Sages and philosophers since the beginning time have fought to teach us the way which leads to this happiness. Aristotle, Plato, Epicurus - all of them - all the greatest thinkers since the beginning of time have sought a way to human happiness. There is no royal way to human happiness. It is quite difficult to map a way. It is impossible to give direction to that goal of happiness.

One thing is certain - that without honorable work, without a heart full of goodness, of reverence, of humility, you cannot find a way to happiness. These are not abstractions of which I am speaking. This is the accumulated wisdom of mankind.



It is not wealth which will insure happiness to your children, nor position, nor power. It is what you help them to be in their hearts and in their minds, the equipment which you give them, spiritual and intellectual, the attitudes which you give them.

So, when we set about building a future for our children, let us then not so much speak in terms of material success. Let us think in terms of the fundamental, the basis upon which they will in later years set about building edifices of their lives, in terms of qualities of mind and soul, in terms of reverence and humility.





# Building a Future for Our Children.

1. Dark - uncertain - clouds of war - of depression -  
lessening opportunities -
2. Idealize past. Our land - unlimited opportunities -  
advancing frontiers - untapped resources -  
men could start with a shoestring - and become millionaires  
Over-night fortunes could be made.  
Success was a common place word - and a common place  
fact.
3. But now things are different. It is harder to find a  
job. It is harder to advance. It is harder to begin  
a business on small capital. The professions are  
crowded. Competition is keen. It is the day of the  
struggle - and the little fellow has a hard time of it.
4. The interesting thing is that during every deflation  
to succeed following it - our people experienced such  
a mood of dejection & lack of loyalty - gloominess.  
1884 - 1893 - 1901 - 1907. And each period has been  
followed by an accelerated tempo of recovery, expansion  
and increased opportunity. This, of course, is ~~not~~ <sup>no</sup> infallible  
guarantee that it will always be so. But it is significant  
and worthy of note that so far - it has always been so.
5. Possessing hindsight we can look back upon previous  
epochs & by comparison find them so much more  
tragic, sadder and happier than ours. And yet the  
men & women who lived in those epochs did not  
feel that way about their age at all. To read  
their records - they were as full of life, hope, and  
and unshaken about their times and their



prospects as we are of ours.

We speak of the Victorian Era - and think back upon it - as an easy-going, orderly, confident, conservative age - and yet - the spokesman, that age - the writers, poets, artists etc. give us such accounting of their times -

Tennyson - Locksley Hall - yearns for some retreat deep in yonder shining Orient - "where never comes the trader, never floats an European flag"

Matthew Arnold - another Victorian - in the "Scholar-Gipsy" likens <sup>his own</sup> his age to that of 2 centuries before -

6. And so it is with every age. Only distance gives perspective. Those who are too close see <sup>only</sup> a smallest, blurred area, and nothing more.

There is no warrant to be pessimistic about the future of our country. Its amazing recuperative powers are being even now manifested, as we emerge from one, the most disastrous depression of modern times - Our country is vast - and thickly settled. Our resources are limitless. <sup>we are not econ. dept. upon any other people</sup> Our soil is rich. Our people hard working, <sup>and capable</sup> and capable, <sup>we are in the forefront of the world</sup> <sup>our</sup> <sup>or intellectual</sup> <sup>eagerly</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>work</sup> <sup>forming</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>rising</sup> <sup>generations</sup>. Our schools

There is no reason to believe that our children are anything but privileged to be born into such a land - regardless of the size and difficulty of the problems - econ. and pol. which confront us now and will in the future. - A free, intelligent people can solve these problems.







9). You can't build a future for your children by saving up money for <sup>4</sup> them. ~~and leaving them a big legacy~~ You can't build their future with gifts - only with guidance and training - a far more difficult job!

(1) "The only true gift is a portion of thyself" - Emerson.

(2) You cannot insure the future of your children with money - money evaporates! We have seen that with our own eyes in the last few years - Estates vanish into thin air. And children, who looked upon them, feel betrayed.

(3) "I find nothing so dear as what is given me" - Montaigne. These perfect legacies frequently undermine the character of children - make them indifferent to work and careers - and turn them into little parasites, growing bigger with the years.

(4) And they are not particularly grateful for it. "One never quite forgives a giver. A friend of mine is fond of this saying: 'I don't know why that man hates me so, I have never done him any favors or lent him any money' -"

(5) Whatever financial assistance, parents can give their children - should be given - not posthumously - but during their struggling years - to help them gain a footing in their chosen business or profession - and to <sup>enable them to</sup> ~~enable them to~~ early and to build a home. -

(6) At the time of death - parents really have their children nothing. <sup>What they</sup> ~~What they~~ <sup>they could have given them</sup> ~~they already have during their life-time~~ <sup>but death has taken</sup> ~~memories~~

10). I spoke a moment ago of hard-work. - Not enough - but true workmanship! I inculcate by precept and example reverence for honest craftsmanship - thoroughness and honesty in whatever you do a man to-do!



No one has ever been happy who has not had respect for (5)  
his own handiwork - for the value and dignity of his life's  
work. You can work hard - and in purely busy,  
and consume yourself in industry - but if what you  
doing is unworthy, dishonourable, fraudulent, anti-social  
or if you do ~~a thing, another, as they say~~ in ruthless, ~~exploiting~~ manner -  
you are doomed to tragedy. Such a life has no rewards.

(1) 2 artists.

(2) Whatever the work is - <sup>day-labour - mechanic - merchant - professional</sup> ~~done~~ with the consecration  
and conscientiousness of <sup>you must feel that it is real</sup> an artist - That is a marvellous  
foundation to build for future life.

11). We can build a happy future for our children - by training  
them not to be over-ambitious - in worldly goods. Not to  
pin all their hopes upon worldly success. Who knows  
what success is? and who has ever combined success  
with happiness?

(1) The Brothers Ashkenazi - J. J. Singer -

Max Ash. - pathological ambitions. Went through life like an  
athletic mermaid and conqueror. He ~~was~~ wanted to be king  
over the vast weary-industry of God. He became king. He  
rose by trampling over the bodies of fathers, brothers, wife,  
children, friends, employees. He ~~never~~ knew no other  
purpose in life - no other goal - no other joy or satisfaction - but  
success - money and power. He got to have them all -  
and he died a lonely, debilitated, decrepit old man, and  
at the hour of his death, he opened his mouth like a  
dog and cursed his day.....

Long ago, before Max's father's father was born



their poor father had visited his Rabbi. and had asked for a blessing:

"Your generation will be rich men" - said the Rabbi.

"But I want them to be first among Jews". their father resolved  
himself.

But the Rabbi had added nothing more - His prophecy  
came true. The sons were rich men - but - nothing  
more! —

- 12) Ambition must be tempered with modest-mindedness. The flame  
kindled in child's soul - should be <sup>not careerism + self-seeking but</sup> the ambition to win in later  
life the love and respect of his fellowmen by honorable work  
and service and self-improvement, by good taste, good manners,  
good attitudes, <sup>and</sup> good judgments, ~~and good~~ by being a willful  
and joyous co-worker in the cooperative life of his community.  
Gentleness of spirit is far more life-enriching than intensity  
of ~~desire~~ ambition.

- 13) What did father, Ash. truly mean when he prayed  
not for a generation, ~~for~~ rich men - but first among Jews?  
He wanted children in whose hearts there would be room  
for <sup>something</sup> more than the ordinary, commonplace concerns of daily,  
hum-drum existence - Children who would know in their  
hearts something, the <sup>the grace of self-renunciation, the heart, & sacrifice,</sup> mystery, the ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> father's life, and  
who would therefore be great and strong in humility and  
kindness.

Whenever you see such a man - ~~in whose~~ you know  
him at once. They <sup>look</sup> ~~appear~~ as if they have had some great  
inner experience. They seem to carry a glow in the crease  
of their heart. They radiate spiritual statefulness. They seem  
to dwell in the commonness, the saints —



(b)

A wise parent will build for his child's future by  
cultivating inwardness in him - That makes for inner strength,  
poise, calmness, mildness, in later life - <sup>and</sup> for a capacity to  
meet likely the buffeting of fortune, ~~and the~~

14. It is in the field of character building - that parents can be  
most practically and definitely helpful. You cannot carve  
anything out of rotten wood. You cannot carve any  
career out of weak human material. Lay the  
strong foundations for your child's future - in good  
wholesome training - in habits of work and industry,  
in respect for their thrift workmanship, in sound  
moderation, in spiritual rectitude, and you  
may leave the rest ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> the work building to  
your child. He will not disappoint or dishonor  
you. ✕

Don't try to blueprint your child's future.  
Don't apply yourself too closely to the disposition of their  
future. Give them scope and freedom to be their own  
builders. But lay the strong & firm foundations.

15. It's happiness you want for your children. It's happiness we all  
want. The key to it once men Philos. have sought from the  
Pyramids, to ~~whether~~ Plato in his Academy. Aristotle in  
the Lyceum. Epictetus in the Garden. ~~Plato~~ <sup>Zeno</sup> in the Porch. The  
Rabbis in the Veroy and Gamara. They have all sought  
the way to human happiness. It is quite different to  
map it. But this is certain - without honorable work and  
a heart full of goodness, and reverence and humility - no man  
can find it -



- 1/ Dark-uncertain - lessening opportunities -  
Idealize past - unlimited opportunities - new frontiers  
A man could start - over-night - Success a common  
But now things are diff - Harder to find - advance -  
to begin - Day of big business - little fellow has a hard  
Profession-crowded; Competition -

2/ The interesting thing - during + following - people experience  
glimmers - lack of buoyancy  
1884-1893-1901-1907 - And each period was followed -  
accelerated - ~~no unfairness~~ ~~guarantee~~

3/ Possessing hind-sight - previous epochs + by comparison  
And yet the men + women who lived - did not feel  
To read their own records - as perturbed, frightened  
Victorian Age - orderly - confident - conservative  
yet its spokesmen  
Tennyson - Hero of "Locksley Hall" - yearns for  
"Some retreat deep in yonder shining Orient"  
"When never comes the trader, never floats an emporium"  
(Just)  
Matthew Arnold - "Scholar-Gipsy" - laments his age  
(Just)



4) And so it is with every age - Only distance  
There is no warrant - Amazing recuperative -  
No reason to think - anything but privileged - Problems

5) It will probably - get-rich quick -  
Not the business of life -  
Opportunity - all that free men are entitled to -  
And if these opportunities - The grand fathers -

6) In building - has in mind - while opportunities - will  
come to those willing to earn them - sweat -  
the old-homely - red-planned virtues  
Parents will best - train - work-habits - over-indulgence  
Shielding - teachers

7. You can't build - Saving money - rich legacy  
" " " with gifts - only guidance - a far

✓ "The only true gift is a portion of thyself"

Insure - Evaporates - Estates vanish - Betrayed -

✓ "I find nothing so dear as what is given me"  
Undermines - indiff. to work-careers - parents

✓ Not grateful - "One never quite forgives a giver"



a friend - "I don't know why -

(c) Whatever financial assistance - at death -

8). I spoke of hard-work - not enough - Time Wastefulship  
Inculcate - honest craftsmanship - there was - Honesty  
No one has ever been happy - respect for own - Value  
and dignity -  
You can work hard -

The 2 artists

9). Over-ambitions in worldly goods  
Not to pursue - worldly success - Who knows?

The Brothers Ashkenazi. I. J. Singer  
Max A - pathological ambitions - Went thru life -

Kung. Rose by hand  
Knew no other. He died - at home - curse

Long ago -

10). Ambition-tempered / Social-mindedness - The flame -  
Gentleness of spirit

11). What did father of Ashkenazi - wanted children in whose hearts  
Whenever you see -



A wise parent - inwardness - That makes.

11). It is in field of character-building

Curve

Lay the stone - in good, wholesome training - disappoint

12). Don't try - blue-print - dispose - Scope - foundations

13). Its happiness you want - The way -

Plato - Academy Gymnasium Garden Porch Vineyard

goodness, reverence and humility.





"There, methinks, would be enjoyment more than in this march of mind -  
In the steamship, in the railway, in the thoughts that shake mankind"

Does not permanently yield to this mood of escape.

He rouses himself

"Forward, forward let us range!..

Better 50 years of Europe

But the mood

He apostrophises the fortunate man born in olden times;  
"O born in days when wits were fresh and clear,  
And life ran gaily as the sparkling Thames.  
Before this strange disease of modern life,  
With its sick hurry, its divided aims,  
Its heads o'ertaxed, its palsied hearts, was ripe -

.....

O Life unlike to ours!  
Who fluctuate idly without term or scope,  
Of whom each strives, nor knows for what he strives,  
And each half lives a hundred different lives;  
Who wait like thee, but not, like thee, in hope.





BUILDING A FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

It is in the field of character building that parents can be most practically and definitely helpful. You cannot carve anything out of rotten wood. You cannot carve any career out of poor human material. Parents can lay the foundation of their children's future by training them in habits of work and industry, in respect for honest workmanship, in social-mindedness and in spiritual sensitiveness. They may then leave the rest to their children. They will not disappoint or dishonor them.

Parents should not try to blueprint their children's future. Children should be given scope and freedom ~~xx~~ to be their own architects.

There is no warrant to be pessimistic about the future which faces the rising generation in this country. America has just given evidence of its amazing recuperative powers for emerging from one of the most disastrous depressions in its history. Our country is vast and thinly populated. Our resources are well nigh limitless. Our soil is rich. Our people are hard working, capable, inventive and enterprising. Our institutions are free. Our schools are eagerly and intelligently at work training the youth of our land. There is no reason to believe that our children are anything but extremely privileged to be born in such a land regardless of the difficulty of the problems which confront our nation at this time - problems which a free intelligent people will solve with a fair measure of adequacy.

It will probably not be as easy to get rich quick in the future. But then men don't have to get rich quick. There will probably be far fewer millionaires in the United States in the future. But men don't have to be millionaires to be happy. It is neither the business of life to become rich nor is it a function of society to help men become rich. Opportunity to follow the bent of their interests and talents and a chance to earn a respectable living with no unmerited



want darkening their lives are all that free men are entitled to.

And if these opportunities and these chances come wrapped up with a lot work and of hard/struggle, so much the better. The grandfathers of this generation had no easy time of it. And if their grandchildren today are having no easy time of it either, that is so much to the good.

There will be plenty of opportunities for work and for advancement in the future. But these opportunities will come to those who will be willing to earn them by hard work, devoted industry and by habits of dilligence and perseverance - the old homely red flannel virtues which a generation of golf-clubbing and night-clubbing flaming youth lost sight of for a time and is now painfully rediscovering.

