

**TOMORROW**

He was going to be al. that a mortal should be  
 Tomorrow.  
 No one should be kinder or braver than he  
 Tomorrow.  
 A friend who was troubled and weary he knew,  
 Who'd be glad of a lift and who needed it, too;  
 On him he would call and see what he could do  
 Tomorrow.  
 Each morning he stacked up the letters he'd write  
 Tomorrow.  
 And thought of the folks he'd fill with delight  
 Tomorrow.  
 It was too bad, indeed, he was busy today,  
 And hadn't a minute to stop on his way;  
 More time he would have to give others, he'd say,  
 Tomorrow.  
 The greatest of workers this man would have been  
 Tomorrow.  
 The world would have known him had he ever seen  
 Tomorrow.  
 But the fact is he died and he faded from view,  
 And all that he left here when living was through  
 Was a mountain of things he intended to do  
 Tomorrow.  
 —Edgar Guest in Kansas City Star.

**END OF THE CROOKED ROAD**

Charles E. Ackron, once the "king" of New York's "tenderloin district," and said to have been the

most influential man in New York outside of the chief of Tammany hall, has been sentenced to spend the remainder of his life in Sing Sing prison, because he was an habitual criminal. The law in New York makes the fourth conviction for felony punishable with life imprisonment on the ground of habitual criminality. In sentencing the convicted man, the judge said:

"Ackron, when the foreman of the jury said: 'Guilty, as charged,' and convicted you as a fourth offender, that closed a career that even you must admit has been notorious. \* \* You belong to a brotherhood that calculates the chances. You have played and lost."

Broken in health, penniless, almost 60 years old, the man who had once ruled New York's underworld, bribed New York's police system and defied the state's courts of justice, while he piled up wealth off of the honor of men and the virtue of women, goes to a felon's cell to drag out the rest of his wrecked career.

He "played and lost." They all do. The paths of crooked living lead to but one destination — exposure, disgrace, ruin. Nothing has been written to state that burning, eternal truth more clearly since it was penned, "Be sure your sins will find you out."

Charles Ackron is not the only example. Only a short time ago "Barney" Bertsche, counted Chicago's most successful criminal and one of the cleverest of international crooks, wrote his autobiography for The Chicago News. He, too, had played and lost. He wrote, out of his own experiences:

"It (the life of a criminal) is an unequal combat. The individual of the underworld always loses—a bullet by night, a prison cell, a cot in the pauper consumptive ward. The route may be different, but the finish is the same."

"Keep away from bad company" was the message "Whitey" Lewis, one of the New York gunmen quartette convicted of murder, sent to the boys of New York's east side, as he was waiting to be strapped in the death chair. "A fellow who honestly earns \$6 a week is better off than he who gets \$1,000 a week, if he doesn't get it straight," said "Lefty Louie," another of the quartette, as he stood on the brink of eternity. These men had traveled the fast pace, and they knew, too late, the wisdom of avoiding the crooked road.

The young man—and older ones, too—inclined to follow the "easy" life of a "sport," should heed such warnings from those who have played the game to the end and found they always lose. The finish is always the same. Down and out, at the best; behind prison bars or on a slab in the morgue, the other alternatives.

Would you work for such wages and such a future, for any store, factory, corporation or individual, giving to the last full measure of your vitality, youth and energy?

Of course, the world of honorable labor is disagreeable at times; it requires sacrifices of pleasures; it demands application, long hours, stern discipline; sometimes the wages are small—unfairly so. But even at the worst, they are better than the wages which await the man who treads the crooked road.

Fame is a bauble. Riches are fleeting. Office and preferment go by accident. Nothing is enduring save character — character that stands all the firmer the harder it is

attacked, that grows stronger as the stress increases. The man—or woman—who flings character aside in the mad contest for anything else is foredoomed to failure and disgrace.

The safest thing, the most profitable thing, that any young man can do in these days is to get something to do in the way of honorable work, regardless of the immediate wages. Not only is the finish of every man who tries to beat the straight, industrious game of life the same, but

nine times out of ten the beginning is the same:

"Half the trouble and half the strife,  
 Half of the ills and sorrows of life;  
 Half the crime and misfortune, too,  
 Can be laid at the door of 'nothing to do.'"

—New Orleans Item.

No one would complain of a leak in Wall street if it let the water out of some of the stocks.—Life.

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