

The Moral Lesson OF Modern "Rake's Progress"

How Young Charlie Gates, Reckless Spendthrift, Hurried Himself Into an Untimely Grave by Feverishly Pursuing Everything That Was Not Worth While

"The Wages of Sin Is Death"

By Dr. Madison C. Peters,
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To the Editor:

VERILY "The Wages of Sin Is Death"—and Charles G. Gates lying in his grave at the age of 37 years teaches a solemn lesson which it is the moral duty of your newspaper to preach to your readers. Seldom do we find a more perfect example of a mis-spent life—rarely a more complete picture of devotion to all things in the world that are vain and profitless and utter neglect of all the things that are worthy. The great artist Hogarth in his day awakened the public conscience in England by his powerful pictorial story of "The Rake's Progress." And the dismal story of this modern "Rake's Progress" may well be told in your powerful columns and made to serve an equally useful purpose.

MADISON C. PETERS.

Like Hogarth's Famous Masterpiece

THE death of Charles G. Gates at the age of thirty-seven is the close of a modern "Rake's Progress" as sad as any that American life can show.

Born with a splendid physique and a robust constitution and possessed of wealth to satisfy every caprice, this young man killed himself in the prime of life simply by fast living. His death came suddenly from apoplexy while he was on a hunting trip in Wyoming, taken to restore his falling health.

Apoplexy is a disease brought on by fast living and excesses. Extravagance in eating, drinking and other pleasures of life cause hardening of the arteries. Then an artery in the brain breaks and that means sudden death from apoplexy.

"The Rake's Progress," depicted by Hogarth, the greatest pictorial satirist England ever had, is the typical illustration of youth's ruin by fast living. The history of Charles Gates is as close a parallel to Hogarth's rake as a modern American case can be to an eighteenth century English case. Like Hogarth's rake, Gates received in early youth a large fortune without having been trained in any high or useful ideals of life.

Like the rake, Gates was immediately surrounded by a flock of parasites and toadies. The rake spent his nights in the nocturnal taverns and gambling houses of old London where he was constantly engaged in brawls. Gates spent much of his life in bars and cafes and was not infrequently engaged in brawls.

The rake ruined himself by gambling and Gates gambled almost every day of his life. The rake was arrested and so was Gates, not once, but many times. The rake's story has more brutal features than Gates' life, but that is because some conditions of living have changed. Today we rarely send a wild young man to a mad-house, as happened to the rake, but the essential facts are the same in both stories. The rake may have suffered more misery at his latter end, but Gates killed himself more quickly.

Science has recently warned Americans that fast living, whether in the extreme form practiced by Gates, or in its lesser forms, is destroying our nation. Doctors have saved the lives of many babies and young people by conquering epidemic diseases and thus lengthened the average life as compared with previous generations. On the other hand, the expectation of life beyond middle age is decreasing on account of fast living and chronic diseases, especially arterio-sclerosis and nervous diseases. Thus while we are saving many immature and defective lives we are wasting the lives of mature men who in many cases have proved their usefulness to society.

Poor Gates was proud of his fast living, and boasted of it. Like many wealthy young men, he had the speed mania.

"Speed is life," he said. "I'm used to special trains and like them. I'm not happy unless I'm making ninety miles an hour. The faster the better—that's my rule. When I start for a place I like to get there."

"I give away \$1,000,000 a year in tips. I can't take it with me when I die. I believe in spending it as I go along. I don't know how much it costs me to live. I work hard the greater part of every day, and when I am through I like to enjoy myself."

Charles Gates began his rake's progress at a period of the most reckless stock gambling this country has ever known. His father was John W. Gates, the most notorious gambler of that period. When Charlie was a mere boy John W. Gates was a wealthy business man, and speculator, but it was in 1900, when the young man was about twenty-five years old, that his father began to acquire vast millions.

John W. Gates was president of the Wire Trust, and for his interest in this and other corporations sold to the Steel Trust at its formation, he is said to have received \$40,000,000. After this he established a stock brokerage firm in New York, which carried on the largest gambling transactions ever known on the Stock Exchange.

From this time Charlie Gates had all the millions he wanted to waste. His father set him an example in gambling, and gave him unlimited money to do it with. The father was known as "I-bet-you-a-million" Gates, because he was always ready to bet an enormous sum on any proposition.

Stock speculation became bad in 1903, and clients of the Gates firm lost \$20,000,000. John W. Gates retired from business with falling health but a large part of his fortune. He had a tremendous physique, which he inherited from western pioneer stock, but the kind of life he led wore him out comparatively early, for he died at the age of fifty-six. He was able to endure that life longer than his son. It was not to be expected that the good old pioneer stock could stand another generation of abuse.

Charlie Gates could scarcely pass a minute of the day without gambling. He went to Saratoga a few years ago to spend his time gambling on the horses by day, and at Canfield's gambling tables at night, but that was not enough for him. He used to bet every day that the horse he rode to the races would beat somebody else's. He bet as much as \$500 on this, and would have gone to any limit.

For several years he was in the habit of taking a party of friends to French Lick Springs, Ind., where he played roulette and faro at the notorious gambling den that formerly flourished there. One year he took with him a party of four friends. For board and lodging for these friends, himself and wife, he paid \$150 a day at Tom Taggart's hotel.

He lost several hundred thousand dollars on the green tables. His father then investigated the game and decided that the player did not have a reasonable chance. He persuaded his son to swear off gambling at these tables and agree to pay a forfeit of \$100,000 if he broke his promise. Charlie kept the compact, but to console himself he bet freely on dog and badger fights, boxing matches and other sporting events that were held at the village. During the day he wired stock gambling orders to New York.

The gambling episode that pleased Gates more than anything else in his life occurred at Rawhide, Nev., in 1903.

In the course of twenty minutes he lost \$100,000, got it back and netted \$20,000 profit. In 1910 he lost \$40,000 in one night, while gambling at a place kept by Albert Rothstein in New York. He paid his losses with a check. It was time for the banks to open when Gates started to leave in the morning. To make sure of the money Rothstein proposed that his partner should accompany Gates to the bank and cash the check. The gambler afterward complained that his partner had kept the money.

Mad extravagance of one kind or another marked every day of his life. After entertaining a party of friends at the Hotel Rogers in Minneapolis in 1909, a check for about \$100 was handed to him. He gave the waiter a \$1,000 bill, said hurriedly "Keep the change, boy," leaped into his automobile and hurried away.

At Los Angeles in the same year he gave \$2,500 for a very ordinary looking bulldog.

Actual physical speed was one of the most marked features of Gates' mania. It has been calculated that he was arrested eighty times for



The Rake in the Madhouse, the Last Scene in Hogarth's Famous Series of Satirical Pictures, "The Rake's Progress."

breaking the speed limit. Once he was arrested for speeding along Constitution Hill, a park road that skirts the grounds of Buckingham Palace in London. Here even horses are required to drive slowly out of respect for the royal family.

When he was fined \$50 Gates remarked to the magistrate: "Say, old man, I'm no pliker. Make it a fine. You won't see me again for a week or two."

Whenever he travelled by railroad he hired special trains and cars. In this way he spent several million dollars. In 1911 he travelled all the way from Yuma, Ariz., to New York by special. The section of the journey from Chicago to New York he made in sixteen hours and forty-nine minutes, a speed record for special trains. At one part of the journey he worked the speed up as high as ninety-two miles an hour.

In September last he came all the way from Minneapolis to New York by special train at a cost of \$3,045, brought three nurses with him, for he was coming East to be treated for his accumulating diseases.

Then he took another special back to Wyoming to make an effort to regain his health. That proved his last journey.

Once at Los Angeles he said good-bye to a friend who had boarded the train for San Diego. Then he hastily hired a special and arrived there in time to meet his friend's train as it came in.

At Columbus, Ohio, his valet by mistake had his special car attached to a train for St. Louis. When Gates was in a hurry to get to Cincinnati. When Gates discovered the mistake

he destroyed all the crockery in the dining car of the train by throwing it at his valet.

Not infrequently Gates became involved in some nocturnal fight, although his lavishness with his money tended to avert these affairs. One night he persistently criticised the pool playing of W. J. de Aguiro, a prominent member of the New York Athletic Club. When Mr. Aguiro requested him to be quiet he hit the prominent member on the nose. For this he was suspended for a time.

Gates was married at twenty-two to Miss Mary W. Martin, of Chicago, who was even younger. Her life was inevitably made unhappy by Gates' reckless living, in spite of his generosity and good nature. In 1911 his wife obtained a divorce from him in New York, mentioning a prominent musical comedy star.

When the suit was begun Gates was in California nursing his already shattered health. He immediately took a special train back to New York, sending his wife hourly telegrams saying that he was getting better. They did nothing to stop the divorce.

Two months later he married Miss Florence Hopwood, a daughter of F. F. Hopwood, of Minneapolis. She was a remarkably pretty girl. In July of this year a very circumstantial report reached New York that Mr. Hopwood had drashed his son-in-law in McCormick's cafe in Minneapolis. The report specified that Mr. Hopwood knocked Charlie down twice, and mentioned what he said to him. Presumably he was seriously dissatisfied with his son-in-law's ways of living.



Mrs. Gates, the Divorced Wife.

This year it became apparent that poor Charlie Gates' race was rapidly coming to an end. His mind and body were wearing out under the terrible strain of his reckless life. He acquired blood poisoning by hurting his knee while cranking his automobile. His ninety-mile-an-hour train bumped his head against the roof of the car. He ate inordinately of the richest kind of food in too great a hurry. Wine and other drinks added to his troubles, although he was not what is ordinarily called a drunkard.

Charlie Gates died without leaving any children, and the family of John W. Gates has come to an end.

Charlie Gates was not an alto-gether wicked man. There have been young millionaires whose influence has been much worse. But the untimely death of young Gates serves to teach an impressive moral lesson, as the Rev. Dr. Peters truly points out. And it is a double lesson for it includes a lesson for parents. Young Gates was the result of the inspiration and the influence of his father—the father the son learned to value all the things of this world which are not worth while.



CHARLES G. GATES



MRS CHARLES G. GATES

New Proof That the Moon Is a Mischief Maker

THE poets have always said the devil was in the moon for mischief, and the amatory effect of the moon upon loving swains and maids is too well known for comment. Following close upon the work of Professor Wood, of Johns Hopkins, who found that moonlight exerts a peculiar influence upon certain chemicals, comes Professor Bryant, a British scientist, with new proof that the man in the moon is a mischief maker.

There is scarcely any region on this globe, from the equator to the newly found continent of the Arctic circle and the lately discovered South Pole, where there is not a general belief in the powerful and deleterious effects of moonlight on fish, on newly-planted seeds, and to a lesser extent on meat which is to become food.

Many analogous and related beliefs have to do with dangers to persons who are forced to sleep out of doors exposed to the full glare of the moon, especially a tropical moon directed fully in the face of the sleeper. It is unnecessary to discuss this as only a tropical effect, because the very next farmer you meet hereabouts will tell you of damage done by moonlight to newly sown seeds, and how a sheet must be thrown over young bulbs at night of full moon.

Suddenly, in his laboratory, it occurred to Dr. Bryant to test the idea that all of these effects of the moon, if true, depend upon the well-established fact that the light of the moon, since it is a reflected light, from the sun, is more or less polarized. Polarized light, or, as the scholars say, "polarization," is the quality or power that light has of having its rays turned away from the zenith or North Pole. It is a sort of turning around of the waves of light similar to what the hands of a clock make when they leave twelve o'clock. Twelve o'clock is the pole, and the rays are repelled from such a point when light is polarized.

If reflected light is examined by a physicist with an instrument called the polariscope, it is always found to contain some polarized light. The polariscope is merely a glass made of quartz or some similar ma-

terial, which easily filters out and shows the different directions in which light is turned from the poles. When light is fully polarized, its rays are all turned in one way or one plane. Ordinary light has its waves going in all planes or directions at the same time.

It so happens that some minerals and substances will only permit rays of light to pass through them, as those rays come in one plane. To all other rays of the same light, the crystals or minerals are opaque. Thus, as light is transmitted, through such a substance, it shows or selects only those which correspond to its preference. Quartz is only one of many such things. It is used in a polariscope. If the light of the moon is thus analyzed it is found to be "polarized."

Now it is no new thing to learn that the moon's light is thus deflected. But Bryant searched all the authorities, but could find no one who had ever thought to examine polarized light with regard to any possible chemical effect from it.

Therefore, the British savant began his experiments with the hope that such effects would be found. A few of his experiments were made with a 200 candle-power Osram lamp. Later tests were carried out with 22-candle-power carbon filament lamps. The light from these electric bulbs were polarized by means of a pile of seven sheets of plate glass, backed with a silver mirror. In this way the reflected light of the moon from the sun was duplicated in the laboratory. More powerful beams of light than those used will only serve to confirm Dr. Bryant's discoveries.

He obtained the most surprising results with fish. He cut up slices of fish and hung some of them up before the direct rays of light and others from the same fish in the reflected or polarized beams. The fish in the polarized light decayed long before the other slices, although the heat was several degrees lower than in the direct light.

Then tests were made with seeds, plants, meat, jam, cane-sugar solution, and other things. In every case the polarized light had a decided effect upon the organic substances.