

CHARACTER SKETCHES

HERE is something radically wrong with the man or woman who does not desire the friendship of some one. The instinct of companionship was implanted in Adam, and it has never been eradicated from the human race.

Asceticism is prompted by an unhealthy mentality. Great minds find relief and pleasure in occasional solitude; but the abode of a purely voluntary recluse shelters a mind diseased, which may have been caused by a great sorrow or disappointment.

The study of intimate friendships presents some interesting phases. It has been remarked that the two ends of friendship are never evenly balanced, as regards power. Observation will go very far toward establishing the truth of this.

In every small company of persons there is always one central figure, one whose words are listened to with greater respect than the words of the others, and who is involuntarily conceded to be the dominant spirit.

An instance of this was the friendship of George W. Childs and Anthony Drexel, of Philadelphia; two men who walked through life literally hand in hand, and who embarked for the unknown shore, separated by only a few months.

Call up the friendship of any two of your acquaintances, and see if you do not find one, in some way, under the influence of the other.

Projects in which two friends engage usually emanate from the same source. If they travel, the itinerary is not the result of strictly mutual consultation and consideration; but rather the work of the more positive of the two.

The nervousness of which I speak last week has, if anything, more victims among men than among women. With men it largely spends itself in business. It prompts them to make many and sudden changes, to speculate, to twist and turn, and to try to cut across the quarter stretch in the race for the flying dollar.

If you think that crime is

only an accident, that criminals are persons who have been urged or forced to the commission of crime by the environment in which they happen to be placed, or that they have reached their present state through drunkenness, or some mistake, embrace the first opportunity that presents itself to observe a number of criminals confined together.

If you visit the penitentiary ask, for instance, to have pointed out to you the photographs of the convicts who have committed brutal crimes. Even a cursory glance will show you that nearly every one of them has a peculiarly shaped head. There is something distorted. Some have protruding, some receding foreheads; some have peaked craniums; some have heads that are cone shaped.

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