IN FAVOR OF THE YOUNG FOLKS

A FOREIGN REACTION AGAINST "IMMORALITY" TALK.

that accompanies this drawing in Noten Kraker (Amsterdam),

The Mrs. Grundy Association," runs a translation of the caption

at last found a model that will meet all the needs of modesty."

similarly, that:

VIRE'S OUT, or at least under control. Loss fully covered by insurance. Not such a frightful loss, either. Conflagration really a blessing in disguise, as the new structure to be erected on the site will surpass in grandeur and prac-

ticality the one destroyed. Figuratively-of course, figuratively-such is the conclusion reached by multitudes of observers regarding the wild doings of

superintendents, editors of religious newspapers, and editors of college weeklies and monthlies goes to show that the worst is past or even that what we have called the worst was instead a manifestation of tendencies actually beneficial. All in all, the opinions set forth by these optimistic onlookers constitute a vigorous reply to the letters reviewed in last week's DIGEST, and it is significant that they come from the same classes of observers as the others and from

the same localities—that is to say, from educational centers in virtually all districts of America.

letter which THE DIGEST sent out and to which our correspondents reply. It was worded thus: A year ago The Digest gathered opinions from all over the country on dress, dancing, manners, and general moral standards,

For the sake of clearness,

we print again the circular

especially as these matters affected young people. The material was presented under the heading "Is the Younger Generation in Peril?" and aroused considerable comment from all quarters. There does not seem, at the present time, to be nearly so much discussion of this subject as there was a year ago, but of that little a large part is unfavorable.

Will you be kind enough to tell us whether, in your opinion, there has been a change, and, if so, in what the change consists? Are conditions worse or better? What are the causes? If remedies are in order, what remedies would you suggest? Your opinion, given to all America through our 1,500,000 copies, with millions of readers, may be of great value to parents, edu-

cators, young people, and others directly interested in the rising generation. Perhaps the crux of the question may be stated in this way: Is society, especially the younger part of it, undergoing a revolution in morals, in manners, or in both? In replying to this letter, several correspondents assert that much'of the alarm over our young people's behavior was a result of sensational and wholly groundless reports in the newspapers. "It is a well-known fact that the metropolitan newspapers find

no college news so tempting as the scandal news which comes

from college and university communities," says Brewster P. Campbell, editor of the Michigan Daily (Ann Arbor). "Some universities, it will be noticed, receive much more such unfavorable publicity than do others. Investigation will usually prove that these institutions are located near, or in, large cities, where papers with a yellow tendency, are published. The university is a place where scandal can easily be started, and the papers play on this-manufacturing much news with but little basis." OldMagazineArticles.com "Young people to-day are just as home loving and just as moral as their parents were, but they object most strenuously

deavor Union, believes that, "It is the unusual that attracts

attention and we soon become accustomed to anything. This is

"In many places we hear charges of indiscriminate and even organized immorality on the part of young people of high-school age," agrees President Futrall of the University of Arkansas. "If the persons making the charges are called on for evidence they are rarely able to produce any. There seems to be a type of mind which is always glad to believe that the world is going to the dogs with the young people leading the way." contemporary young folks. The preponderant testimony from college presidents, college deans, high-school principals, school

Meanwhile, we are warned by numerous observers not to be too seriously distrest over developments whose reality no one questions. On the surface

there are changes. How deep do they go? R. L. Nye, dean of the College of Agriculture at Syracuse University, replies in this optimistic way: "The manner of dress on the part of girls, a general 'boldness' in their attitude

toward the other sex, apparently less of the restraint of social convention, has led many of us older prudes to judge that there is a corresponding laxity of morals. I do not believe this to be the case. "My conclusion," says H.

Truman Bates, superintendent of schools at Somerset, Mass., "is that despite the fact that sex is unduly emphasized by fashions and the dance hall, we hear and know of no more immorality than at previous periods in the history of society." A student editor, Andrew Hamilton, of the Ellsworth Student (Iowa Falls, Ia,), believes,

"The younger generation is perhaps quite as free from evil as were previous generations. The greatest trouble seems to be a desire to appear 'fast' because 'everybody else does it.' The

they are just 'jazzy' because it is the style in the city. "The current idea that every girl having bobbed hair, a short skirt and silk hose is of the flapper type is erroneous. It is simply keeping up with the Joneses," thinks B. F. Weiss, principal of the Kent (O.) High School. President Atkinson of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute sends us a cutting in which the Brooklyn

sophisticated young man-of-the-world and his little 'flapper'

are not devoid of goodness, as some righteous souls would have

us believe; they do not themselves understand their actions;

Eagle quotes him to this complimentary effect: "On the whole, I approve of the modern style of dress and do not believe for a moment that it is as a general thing worn for any immodest motive. Generally speaking, I should say that it has not had a deleterious effect on the morals. The use of rouge, the lipstick and the eyebrow pencil is pretty general, I suspect. It is silly and objectionable, but not

immoral. Whether cigaret-smoking is as general among young girls, I do not know. I hope not; but even this practise is not immoral. Calling it so will get us nowhere. I do not know whether men refuse to dance with girls who

do not 'pet,' smoke and drink. Much of the criticism is due to the natural antagonism that has always existed and will always exist between the old and the young. As one of the 'old ones' I am quite ready to admit that the youth of to-day, while strangely different, is more moral than the youth of my day."

Equally complimentary to the young idea is C. R. Smith, editor of the Kansas State Collegian, who observes:

The Literary Digest for June 24, 1922

the war could, with a little change in terminology, be made equally applicable to the days when those of us who are so gravely concerned, were young. Our difficulty, it seems to me, is in no small part due to the facility with which we remember ourselves as

to abiding by the superficial conventionalities under which their parents labored. If a girl does not like to be loved promiscuously she says so in the fewest and the plainest words possible and that At heart I believe the youth of to-day is sound. we were not. settles the matter. The conversation of the average young Its overflowing life and spirits express themselves in a little different way, but it is the same kind of life, which is the possession of youth in all times. It is subject to excesses, but no couple to-day would be shocking perhaps to their grandparents, but if so it is because the grandparents of the present generation would have been much better off if they had been shocked a

more so than yesterday.' little more frequently. False modesty is passing. "Young people are doing openly to-day a great many things Frank L. Freer, general secretary of the Ohio Christian Enwhich they formerly did secretly," says W. F. O'Donnell, super-

especially true of young people and in no way can I bring myself to believe that the average young person has any moral disturbance because of current style." J. R. Kelton, principal of the Amsterdam (N. Y.) High School, expresses his agreement in the lively assurance that, "The powdered beak or the dimpled knee won't send any more to the bow-wows than did the styles when we saw less and thought more." And President Judson of the University of Chicago reaches the conclusion that there is not, at least, any "serious

"There is always more or less discussion

as to the younger generation. As far as my

experience goes, and it covers now not a few years, the younger generation is always changing. It is changing now. Some of these changes I should rather not have. Others I am very glad to see. I do not believe, on the whole, that the conditions are materially worse than they have been for a long time. No doubt the war unsettled society at large. In this unsettlement perhaps our younger people share to some extent. But mind you, it is only a sharing of what goes with the entire community. In short, to answer your questions specificially, I do not believe that society, especially the younger part of it, is undergoing a radical revolution either in morals or manners. It is passing through a condition of change certainly in manners, perhaps to some extent in morals, but I do not believe that there is any serious danger. We need to do what we have always needed to do-to use the best efforts for wise direction and proper education. May I add that these efforts belong to the home and the

danger." - He comments:

church even more than to the schools? President Smith of Roanoke College (Salem, Va.) finds "young people to-day just as genuine and wholesome as they have ever been. They have more candor than formerly, more self-assertion, and greater intensity of life." Edith M. Tuttle, adviser to students in the Department of Education, at the Washington Irving High School (New York City), reports: "Our experience with our 5,600 girls in this school leads us to believe that there is at present as much idealism as ever among young people. Our girls show a willingness to learn and to practise the best in morals and in manners." "Fundamentally,"

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looking backward, writes:

tion of a student body of 3,500 men and women emphasizes the

absence of any major moral laxity in spite of the changing sur-

face appearances." Edgar L. Killam, editor of the Baptist,

"My personal opinion, based upon a fairly wide observation,

birds trying to fool the disgusted spectators in regard to her age. She only succeeds in fooling herself."

them for the reform of the morals and manners of the middle-

aged citizens of to-day," says Dean Hill of Georgetown College

"I have great faith in these future citizens of our great country, and should not be surprized any time to see a movement among

leads me to believe that a great deal of the talk about flappers, galeshes and wild oats which has had the public attention since

the professors, in place of the 'How do you of two years ago, but I see in this not president emeritus of Western Reserve University, sharpens his general approval with a bit of criticism. He writes: 是可以是

fellow editors, Ward W. Adair, editor of Railroad Men, takes agrees John C. Burtner, who edits the Oregon Countryman at the elder generation to task in fashion: the Oregon Agricultural College, "morals are no worse than before. They appear worse because the changing manners have "I am personally less concerned with the morals and manners allowed the worst elements to become conspicuous. Observaof the rising generation than I am with those of people in middle

"SIMPLY FLAPPERISH."

Here is the real flapper, according to an

artist who draws for The Outlook (New York), as opposed to the exaggerated

conceptions of a number of authorities

who believe that the young idea is not

shooting as straight, as formerly.

intendent of the Carrollton (Ky.) public schools, "and this fact leads some to believe that there has been a lowering of moral standards." A similar differentiation between manners and morals is made by Dean Eldridge of the University of Idaho, "Briefly, I believe there is a decided revolution in manners but I can not bring myself to believe that our young people are essentially different in morals. One hears now on the campus 'Hello!' even to

> a trace of disrespect, but rather a quite wholesome acceptance of the faculty as fellow humans!" "Fundamentally, I believe, there has been no change. Only the appearances have changed, the real things will last," says F. King Turgeon, editor of the Bowdoin Orient. Charles F. Thwing, LL.D.,

"The morals of young people are not bad -in fact, they are becoming better. year has brought improvement. stincts of young, as of older, people continue to be sound. But the manners are cheap. Our manners lack dignity, poise, self-respect, a respect for life's sanctities. Irreverence characterizes both manners and manner. "As far as I can see," remarks President Ray Lyman Wilbur of Stanford University, in a cheerful vein, "the young

people are going downward at about the

same rate that they were when I was in

high school and in college some twenty-

five or thirty years ago. The newspaper editorials and comments from the older generation that I heard then from above are very much like those that I hear all around me at the present time. I find the young men and women with whom I come in contact fundamentally sound and wholesome." Ann Hastings, editor of the Radcliffe News, is equally optimistic. "I do not think," she writes, "the 'morals of the young' are inferior to those of previous generations. The 'young' always will shock the old, and the old always will talk. about it." Nor are "the old," it appears, in a position to be censorious without incurring a degree of ridicule. Speaking for several

The Literary Digest for June 24, 1922 did. Unjust criticism by the mature is no less a fault than frivolity on the part of the young, and much of the recent criticism has been distinctly unjust." And when the older generation berates the younger for refusing to reverence tradition, there are those who would have us look back a little and see if the past had not its follies, equalling or outdoing in their absurdity (and sometimes depravity) the things so unsparingly denounced to-day.

life, particularly women. To see some of these old crows blowing

smoke rings in a restaurant, or sitting around station waiting-

rooms in knickerbockers, and with their feet higher than their heads, is what gives a man loathing and disgust. And these

outrages are perpetrated more particularly by dames who have

passed the half-century mark, and are trying to kid themselves that they are still on the map, than by any of the rising genera-tion. Nothing is more tragic than to see one of these ancient

criticism, believes Mc-"On the whole," says Lane Tilton, editor of Fitzgerald S. Parker, the University of Vireditor of the E_{P} worth Era, "I think ginia Alumni News. the morals of both He observes: young men and young

(Georgetown, Ky.). The age of the critic

has much to do with

the flavor of the

to be talking with.

"So far as mere women are better dicta go, all depends than they were a upon the age of the generation ago." "So woman one happens far as I can see,"

agrees Dean Hurst

of Syracuse Univer-

sity, "our young people are not un-

dergoing any great

changes for the worse.

It is my honest belief

that they are just as

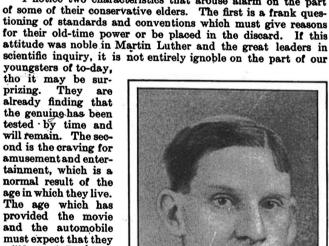
Between twenty and thirty she defends the flapper; from thirty to forty, the honors are easy; from forty

and upwards, the flapper has no friends among her sex. And that is that. "Girls are no better "NO SERIOUS DANGER." President Judson of the University of Chicago reaches this conclusion in the course of a discussion of manners and morals, in which he asserts: "I do not believe, on the whole, that conditions are materially worse than they have been for a long time. Monday German in a Virginia city saw a girl from another set on the floor, and when they became convinced a girl from their

not take the slipper in hand until it cleans off the mud that is on it." Another defender of the youth of the nation goes further along the same line. The elder generation, she helds, is actually responsible for leading the youngsters into temptation. As this critic, Thyosa W. Amos, Dean of Women at the University of Pittsburgh, views the matter: 'At present, the social curriculum is being attacked because of social standards. The attack is unwarranted. The student does not set social standards. He inherits these just as he falls

believes that our young people are "fairly capable of working out their own salvation as ably as their fathers and their mothers OldMagazineArticles.com The Literary Digest for June 24, 1922 IN FAVOR OF THE YOUNG FOLKS (Continued from page 38)

Dean Bouton of New York University, "but still far more "The whole movement," agrees William S. Ament, alumni



The young people of this generation, in the cept a liberal view, is opinion of President Wilbur of Leland fraught with more or Stanford University, are "fundamentally less danger, a majoras right as they ever were. ity of our correspondents seem to recognize, and it appears that in various localities the young people themselves do. While there is little acceptance of convention as such, we hear that experimentation grows more cautious, with promise of a return to beaten paths. "The reaction has already begun," according to President Smith of Washington and Lee University. "The 'jazz' period is receding, and when a saner equilibrium has been attained, we will find that the average woman, while no longer a clinging vine, helplessly adhering to some manly oak, will have gained in breadth, strength, and poise, more than she has lost in gentleness and docility." "We believe that this year we can distinctly say that the peak of this has been passed and that now there is

a slow but gradual and distinct reaction against the excesses of

recent years," declares C. F. Ross, dean of men at Allegheny

arisen among them," he observes, "which are intended so combat many evil tendencies." Touching especially on alcoholic tendencies, Arthur E. Wilson, of the Maine-Spring (University of Maine), tells us that "Maine has shared the average college reputation for drinking in the past, but it has been noticeable that there is great improvement this year. This can not be entirely credited to Prohibition, as our geographical situation young people generally will emerge morally stronger and better than before." Dean Heckel of Lafayette College finds his They display "a sturdier

judgment in such cases. Philip W. Porter, editor of the Lantern, a student publication at the University of Ohio, observes "the older generation can

mercialized society.

heir to the studies of the academic curriculum. No student invented jazz; no student wrote the sex play; no student wrote the present vulgar obscene songs; no student photographed the immoral film; and no student created coarse fashions in dress for men and women. All these are the gracious gifts of a com-If society in general had as high ideals as the average high school or college student, there would be a different world to-morrow. For the most part, his worst fault is that his taste is bad. Student government associations, fraternity and social groups are struggling to maintain high ideals of social life, but society at large makes their task doubly hard. In the past, youth has been trained to reverence and follow the judgments of maturity. To-day, when he follows the leadership of his elders, they condemn him." President Kolbe of the Municipal University (Akron, O.) definite than they were in the Seventeenth Century at a time when Anglo-Saxon society had not yet been accused of degen-

eracy." Lillian Billings, dean of women at Bush Conservatory

(Chicago), remarks, "Our present-day flapper wears knee dresses and roll-down hose, but is that so much more suggestive than the bustle or the sheath gown with the skirt slit to the knee?" And Jennie S. Ladd, dean of women at the University of Minnesota, asks, in agreement: "Would the loudest objectors care to have the tilters, the bustles, the huge sleeves, and the dragging skirts return?" Ben-Fleming Sessel, editor of Silver and Gold at the University of Colorado, defends the modern dance in this paragraph: favor of the close dancing of the time which is condemned. It at least keeps young people dancing. Now we do not have to provide ar-bors at dances for those who find some other attraction than keeping step with the music. If it is seasu.

"MANNERS ARE CHEAP"

At the same time, believes Charles F

Thwing, President Emeritus of Western University, the past year has brought an improvement in morals. of the past, such as bundling, etc., he can not 'become alarmed

conventional notions of those at present controlling society." "The simple fact is," declares Henry F. Cope, general secretary of the Religious Education Association, "that young people

to-day are really a good deal more moral than their grandmothers

or seriously imprest with the hue and cry which is raised against

were; the difference lies in the fact that youth to-day act with intelligent choice as to their conduct while the past generations usually acted under control, by authority, or according to some fixt tradition." D. W. Worthing, dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Arizona, advises that we "Let the young things take their risks, just as we had to take ours. Perhaps at our age they will be as safe and harmless as we are." "In our opinion," says A. B. Clarke, editor of The Messenger (University of Richmond), "there has been no revolution in morals except in the sense of a change toward greater frankness and open-mindedness. On the other hand, manners have undergone a tremendous revolution. Give the younger generation time. It has defied the conventions of its elders and has undertaken to work out its own ideals." In these scientific days we believe in experiment, asserts Harold P. Knauss, editor of the Muhlenberg Weekly (Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa.). "Perhaps," he concludes, "the present generation is making some experiments; here's hoping that we interpret the results rightly." OldMagazineArticles.com The Literary Digest for June 24, 1922 PERSONAL GLIMPSES Continued makes the 'stuff' obtainable." W.S. Gober, principal of the Elgin (Ill.) High School,

reports "less dancing, less jazz music and heedless running about now than a year or two ago." We are told by Principal C. P. Quimby that the girls at the Cony High School in Augusta, Maine, voluntarily adopted a number of resolutions making for more modesty in dress. Then, too, a great many observers assure us that out of the general upheaval there is emerging a really splendid type of young manhood and young womanhood-a finer type, indeed, than any we have evolved hitherto. That is the opinion advanced by President Murlin of Boston University, who says that "Students were never so responsive to ideals, were never so ready to follow the right sort of leadership, were never more earnest in devotion to vital instruction, were never more responsive to all the higher which the

and finer ideals for stands." Similarly, Oliver Reiff Hartzell, superintendent of the San Rafael (Cal.) schools, observes that "On the basis of conventional standards, our young people are sliding down hill, but in their observance of their principles of right and wrong as it affects actual fundamentals, they are stronger than the generation which preceded them." Ross N. Young, principal of the Stillwater (Minn.) High School, adds the prediction that "the youngsters of this generation are going to be much better and much wiser parents than those of to-day." And Frank Wilson Blackmar, dean of the Graduate School of the University of Kansas, argues to this effect: indiscretions to the whole number?

those of the past generation.' generously disposed to a life of unselfish service than in any previous generation." President Penrose of Whitman College (Walla Walla, Wash.) would rather have young folks loyal to self-chosen ideals than to have them "conventionally correct in slavish obedience to the voice of author-

poker and he drives a car instead of a fast horse, but he has the same spirit and the same ideals that the college man had a generation ago." President Blodgett of Adelphi College (Brook-

will be used. But these amusements helped to teach many things that have been undreamed of by the young of other times. They face the problems of their age with better understanding of its dangers and dangers and ities. They possibilities. will be able to meet its requirements." That all this "ex-"SOUND AND WHOLESOME." perimenting," to ac-

College. "An illustration of this may be seen by the fact that in the first half year the number of dancing parties decreased approximately 14 per cent. over the preceding year, and also by the fact that there have been fewer matters which might be termed disciplinary, than in many years past." J. D. Moore, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, gives it as his opinion "that there has been a decided improvement within the past year in the moral ideals of the young people. "Organizations have

students "manlier, more reasonable, more self-controlled, more serious-minded, more purposeful." type of character," agrees Dean Vickert of the theological seminary at Colgate University. President Macmillan of Wells College is, in his own words, "strongly inclined to side with those who frown on the present-day tendency to advertise and criticize any little change in the dress or demeanor of our educated young women. The mingling of the sexes in society on the basis of equality, it should be remembered, is only a few centuries old and confined to a small portion of the civilized world. Every forward step has been criticized, but the criticisms have not been justified by the event." "The younger generation shocks my conservative soul like an eruption of Vesuvius," confesses Dean Page of the School of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati, "but I have moments of calm during which I can see that while the dangers of youth's lofty flight are greater, it also runs a better chance than ever before of reaching the stars." Quite as optimistic is H. G. Russell, superintendent of the Beardstown (Ill.) schools, who "Tho the pessimist rant and the critic croak to their heart's content, the present

than ever before," believes S. A. Covington, principal of the Franklinton (La.) High School, "because a good part of the false modesty has been eliminated, and they understand themselves and each other better than ever before." "What change is there?" asks Georgia Meckling, librarian of the Seniors High School at Butler, Pa. "The child of to-day may lack the courtesy,

youth of the land are growing into the wisest, most virile, most versatile, most

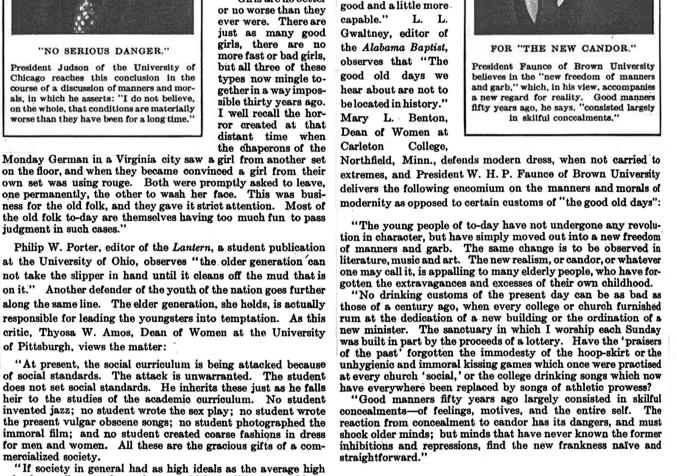
capable and most useful generation since

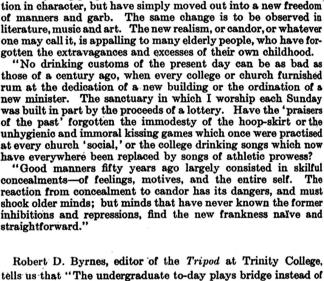
"Young people are safer together now

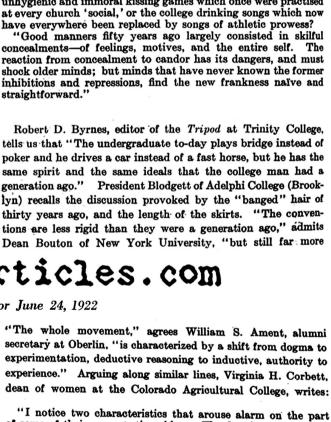
history started.

even respect for his elders, which belonged to the child of yesterday; but the offspring of to-day has a self-reliance, an insatiable curiosity which will send the next generation ahead of the civilization of the last. Yesterday said, 'Dig! Dig! Dig!' 'Pep! more Pep!' is the language of to-day. The excitable rush of the younger generation carries us on, not to revolution, but to a bright, alluring future." Selden Peabody Delany, editor of the American Church Monthly, takes the same general attitude, and Bishop Thomas F. Gailor. head of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, sums up a mass of popular

opinion in a recent statement, running: "The young girl of to-day is as good as she was thirty years ago. There is no reason to believe that we are in a period of







the young people of the present day." President Bell of St. Stephen's College (Annandale-on-Hudson), believes that, altho our young people have lost much of the old respect for conventionality, "they demand to know the reason for decency and insist that the reason must go deeper than conformity with the

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ally perverting, and I

doubt it, it at least keeps our sensualities

out in plain view. ilf

jazz makes one riot-

waltz makes one sentimental, and the last

is as bad as the first."

President Swartz of

the Woman's College

of Alabama says that,

"when he remembers

some of the practises

then the old

"The changing customs of dress, dancing, cigaret-smoking, furnish great opportunities for the sensationalist, but these changes do not represent progress or deterioration, for the lines of progress are more sternly drawn and are not thrown aside by temporary adjustments. It is not possible to defend the actions of many young people in respect to these customs, but why single out 10 per cent. of the young and charge their per cent. of the young people of my acquaintance are sane, wholesome, and sensible, with intellectual and moral integrity not inferior to but probably in advance of A. M. Kerr, editor of the Herald of Gospel Liberty, finds that youth is to-day as clean and fine as ever-"and more of it

ity." "After this wave of extremes in immorality because youth is full of pep and life and jazz. I am not going into dress, dancing, jazz music and so forth has passed," says President Roessler of hysterics because of this skipping about Valparaiso University, "I believe the of young women."

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