



The Towers

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Penrith High School
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The Towers



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Headmaster's Message

Dear Boys and Girls,

In the absence of your headmaster overseas, I have been asked by the editor to give you a message.

My first impressions of your school were good and I have had no reason to change them. Your school has a very good tone, the boys and girls dress nicely, and the grounds are well kept. However, what I liked most of all was your school motto, "Al Tiora Peto," "I seek the higher things (of life)" and it is about this that I wish to write.

Boys and Girls who "seek the higher things" of life must of necessity live on a higher plane. They must seek to fill their minds with the best learning, must seek to enjoy sport so as to develop a healthy body and, lastly, must be true to themselves, loyal to their school and friends, and respectful to those older than themselves.

The "higher things," those that are good, come from God. It is a coincidence that God and good come from the same old Anglo-Saxon word *god*, so that, in every sense of the word "God is good."

John Hampden Gurney wrote:

Yes, God is good — in earth and sky,
From ocean depths and spreading wood.
Ten thousand voices seem to cry:
God made us all, and God is good.

So many boys and girls of High School age, the age of Adolescence, follow the things of God (good) whilst at school, but begin to neglect them when they leave school. This is one of the tragedies of young life, for seeking the "higher things" embraces seeking the highest

things of all — those things that enrich our characters, known as spiritual things, and which we have been taught from the cradle upwards.

A Norwegian legend tells of a spider who lived in the dark rafters of a barn. One day, whilst walking on a rafter, he fell and went down a great distance into the light, where he hung by a thread. He liked this new place very much and decided to remain there and spun his web. Indeed, it was a good place, for he was able to get much more food there than up in the rafters. He grew sleek and fat. One day in walking around his domain, he noticed his original thread that held up his web, and, forgetting the purpose of it, broke it with one blow. Down toppled his web and himself to the ground below where he was quickly destroyed.

Let us learn a lesson from this legend, for we must not forget, boys and girls, that like the spider we are attached to the higher things of life by a thread, called habit. If we break this thread we depart from the things that are good and noble, the "higher things" of life, and descend to the things that are ignoble and unworthy of us.

I trust that you will all endeavour to live up to your motto by building up a fine character, thus becoming not only worthy members of an important school but, later on, good citizens of this fair land of ours.

Yours sincerely,

T. E. Perrau,

Relieving Headmaster.