

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

LIFE'S MIRROR

There are royal hearts, there are spirits brave. There are souls that are pure and true; Then give to the world the best you have. And the best will come back to you. Give love, and love to your life will flow. A strength in your utmost need; Have faith, and a score of hearts will show. Their faith in your word and deed. Give truth, and your gift will be paid in kind. And honor will honor meet; And a smile that is sweet will surely find. A smile that is just as sweet. For life is the mirror of king and slave; 'Tis just what we are and do; Then give to the world the best you have. And the best will come back to you. —M. S. Bridges

HE NEVER GOES WRONG

The chief of the St. Louis detective force is a keen observer. He says: "I am frequently asked what is the type of the man who goes wrong. The answer is that there is no particular type. There is a clear type of man, however, who never is in trouble. This is the man who lives within his means, who saves a part of his earnings each day and week and year. It does not matter how much, he lives within his income and saves."—Catholic Transcript.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

When the years have slipped by and memory runs back over the path you have come, you will be glad you stopped to speak to every friend you met, and left them all with a warmer feeling in their hearts because you did so. You will be glad, too, that you kept back the unkind word which formed itself on your lips. Much of the sorrow of life comes from giving way to the spirit of evil and not listening to the angel of good when the two strive in the heart. And then, you will be glad that you were happy when doing the small everyday things of life; that you served the best you could in earth's lowly round. You will be glad that men have said all along your way, "I know I can trust him; he is as true as steel." You will be glad you shut your ears tight against all the evil things men said about another and tried the best you could to stave these words winged with poison. You will be glad that you were always bright and cheery, though sometimes pain made it cost you sorely to keep your heart sweet. You will be glad that you lifted at every wheel which turned hard, and tugged back at none when the load was heavy. You will be glad you have met all the hard things which have come to you with a hearty handshake, never dodging one of them, but turning them all to the best account. If you are glad of all these things, you will be glad that you have lived.—St. Paul Bulletin.

BE AN OPTIMIST

Don't get discouraged because you have made a mistake. There has never been a human being who did not make some mistake. The best way we can do is to try not to make the same mistake again. In this way our work will become more and more accurate and we will become more and more reliable. Don't get discouraged because you are blamed for something you did not do. Explain the matter in a straightforward manner if you can; if you cannot do that, circumstances seeming to point to you as the guilty party, just wait. Time will clear up the whole matter and exonerate you from all guilt. Don't get discouraged because you seem to be standing still in your business life while others are forging to the front. Do your duty faithfully and your opportunity will surely come, and when you least expect it. Don't get discouraged because others seem to be making a brilliant success of life while you are only making moderate advancement. Meteors make a brilliant dash across the midnight sky, but they soon die out and are heard no more. Don't get discouraged because you have lost your position through no fault of yours. Many a man has risen from such an experience to higher and better work than he would have gained if he had held the old place. Don't get discouraged because people laugh at you and ridicule you when you are trying to do right. Every successful man has had the same experience; in fact, it seems to be one of the prices we have to pay for success. Don't get discouraged about anything when you are trying to do your best. Everything will come out all right, and you will laugh tomorrow over the cares and worries of to-day.—Pittsburg Catholic.

Believe always that every other life has been more tempted, more tried than your own; believe that the lives higher and better than your own are not so through more ease, but more effort; that the lives lower than yours are so through less opportunity, more trial.—Mary R. S. Andrews.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

THE WELL-BRED GIRL

The girl who is well-bred never finds it necessary to announce the fact to the world. Good breeding is as natural to her as breathing, and as necessary, too. She never gossips or listens to tales about her friends. This sort of conversation is not pleasing to her. The well-bred girl seldom apologizes—it is not necessary for her to do so, because she is always careful of other people's feelings, and she never talks of her private affairs. The well-bred girl never makes herself conspicuous in public places, and does not permit herself to be drawn into any arguments in conversation which might involve others. She is gracious and hospitable, giving of what she has with a good will, and never attempts to entertain in a way she cannot afford. Indeed, she is just a simple wholesome girl, careful of other people's feelings, and always has a ready fund of sympathy for those in trouble.

A SCOUT AND A GENTLEMAN

A great banker tells a delightful little story of the good turn which a boy scout did for a poor woman. He says: "A woman selling newspapers was caught in a gust of wind and her papers were torn from her grasp. A boy scout ran forward, and picked them up for her, and as he handed them to the aged woman, she said to him: 'You are a gentleman.' " "No, I am a scout," he replied. "What is your name?" I asked, as I happened to be near by and saw the good turn. "That would spoil it. Good-night, sir," and the modest boy scout disappeared."

A MOTHER'S LESSON

Some friends were talking about children and their ways. "I saw a pretty thing the other day," said a teacher. "You remember little Robert Donovan? He is a handful in school, but since I saw him in the five and ten cent store the other day he has gone up a hundred per cent. in my regard. He was wandering around the store with a younger brother. Finally they stopped at the counter where religious articles are displayed. Robert's mischievous little face grew very serious suddenly; he picked up a crucifix from the counter, kissed it, put it to his brother's lips, and replaced it; then, taking the baby's hand, he walked off. 'Wasn't that sweet?' " "It was better than sweet," said a mother. "It was holy. Can't you imagine the home training these little ones are getting. They know the crucifix, and they respect and love it. That, it seems to me is the highest knowledge. You may teach Robert much in school, but his mother has taught him the best lesson of all."

How true are this mother's words! May every mother who reads them resolve to teach her little son the same beautiful holy lesson!—Sacred Heart Review.

A SAINTLY BROTHER AND SISTER

St. Scholastica, sister to the great founder of the Benedictine Order, consecrated herself to God from her earliest youth. She founded monasteries one of which, at Plombiaro, she chose as her retreat after her saintly brother had moved to Mount Cassino, five miles distant. Scholastica visited her brother once a year. As she was not permitted to enter his monastery, St. Benedict with some of his monks, went out to meet her at a house not far distant. These visits were spent in prayer and spiritual converse. A remarkable circumstance is related of the last of these visits. The day had passed as usual, the brother and sister had finished their evening meal when Scholastica urged her brother to delay his return until the following day. St. Benedict, unwilling to transgress his rule, asked that his sister would not insist upon such a breach of monastic discipline. As if forewarned that this would be their last interview, Scholastica laid her hands upon the table and, resting her head upon them, with tears begged of Almighty God to interpose in her behalf. The night was clear, but Scholastica's prayer was scarcely ended when there arose a storm of such rain, thunder and lightning that St. Benedict and his companions could not set foot out of door. "God forgive you, sister," he exclaimed: "what have you done?" Scholastica answered: "I asked you for a favor and you refused it me; I asked it of Almighty God and He has granted it me."

St. Benedict was therefore obliged to comply with her request. The next morning they parted and three days after St. Scholastica died in her solitude. St. Benedict was then alone in contemplation on Mount Cassino and lifting up his eyes to Heaven he saw the soul of his sister ascending thither in the shape of a dove. Filled with joy because of her happy death he gave thanks to God, announced her death to his brethren, and caused her remains to be brought to his monastery and laid in the tomb he had prepared for himself.

The aim for which we give our best strength is everything, the visible success is nothing. True faith may be the greatest, goodness and fidelity at the highest, when visible success is at the least.

That terrible artillery, the prayers of little children.—Sheehan.

"I FEEL LIKE A NEW BEING"

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MYSTERIES

IF THERE BE NATURAL WHY NOT SUPERNATURAL ALSO?

By Rev. H. C. Hengell, Madison, Wis. The Catechism defines a mystery as a truth which we cannot fully understand. The secrets of nature which men will never be able to discover are natural mysteries. The truths of revealed religion which men will never be able to explain are supernatural mysteries. Men whose minds are filled with self-conceit sometimes pretend to be too learned, too scientific, to accept the mysteries of the Christian religion, and yet they accept without a quibble or a doubt mysteries of the natural order. The natural universe is full of mysteries. In fact there is not a cubic inch of the earth upon which we stand, of the air which we breathe, of the food and drink we imbibe, that is not full of mysteries for the most learned and scientific men in the world. There are innumerable things in everyday life accepted by everyone as facts, but no one can explain them, and no one will ever be able to explain them. They are mysteries and always will remain mysteries in the natural order of things.

Why then should men balk at mysteries in the Christian religion? It is because their minds are so full of intellectual conceit and their hearts so full of foolish pride that there is no room left for anything else. Jesus Christ, the greatest Teacher of all the world's history, did not hesitate to condemn as malicious and culpable the unbelief of such men. He demanded the unqualified submission of all men to the teachings of His Apostles and their successors, and He insisted upon it in words that could not be more clear and forcible: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be condemned," or as the Protestant Bible translates His words, "He that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark xvi, 16.) No one who has the use of reason and free will and who lives in a Christian country where the Christian religion is constantly preached, can conscientiously remain neutral towards revealed religion and its mysteries. That is sinning against the Light. "He that is not with Me is against Me."

All Christians should earnestly pray for the conversion of the self-conceited, sinful men who live in their midst for the few short years of human life, who know so little about their own world, who are so pre-occupied with material things, who are so blinded by culpable conceit and sensuality, and yet presume to pass sentence on the most profound mysteries of God and deny the existence of anything they have not seen with their own eyes and touched with their own hands.

TOLERANCE

Tolerance is a calm, generous respect for the opinions of others—even of one's enemies. Tolerance is silent justice blended with sympathy. Tolerance always implies wisdom and kindness. It seeks to convert others from error by gently raising them to higher ideals, by leading them to broader lines of thinking, by patiently helping them to help themselves. Tolerance does not use the battering ram of argument, or the club of sarcasm, or the rapier of ridicule.

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