

Concerning Boys

By Captain Herbert Fiddes

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON TO EACH AND EVERYONE.

Hello Boys,

With the approach of the New Year "resolutions" will be the order of the day, and it might be timely to give a hint to boys not to make too many, but to make sure of what you do make.

A story is told of a young Naval Officer, who in the Sudan War led his troops across the trackless desert by the help of the stars. The move was an important one and gave our troops an advantage, and they attacked at dawn. In the first rush the young officer was wounded and taken to the rear. When the storm of the attack was calmed the Officer Commanding went back to see the lad, and found him dying. At the approach of his superior officer the little hero smiled, and said "Didn't I lead them straight, Sir?" "Aye, my lad, You led them straight," and the lad who had led them straight passed into the Great Beyond. Make that your resolution for 1920 "I'll lead them (my companions) straight," and you won't go far wrong.

RE CHARTING.

The paragraph re Charting boys in last month's issue has brought many comments, the majority of which are strongly in favor of this method, which we said "If it can be worked successfully deserves every encouragement." In view of the evidence brought forth, we commend it to others.

Anent our "Catechism for Preachers" a bright and breezy personality came into our office the other day and told us about a certain prominent minister in Vancouver who had camped with his boys. He shared the boys' tent, and instead of being a kill-joy was the life of the tent. One mother asked her boy—"How did you like sleeping in the same tent as Mr. ———?" "Oh, fine, mother, he's as bad as the rest of us." What an influence Preachers would exert if they would drop the camouflage of severity, and show themselves human.

DR. H. E. THOMAS - DENTIST

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WHAT CANADA NEEDS :

Canada's greatest need to-day is "More Home Life." With the attractions of Picture Shows, the Home Life in Canada is in danger of becoming a minor factor, instead of the vital factor it should be. In many cases many of the responsibilities incumbent on parenthood are relegated to others. Amusements, many boys have to find outside the home. Religious education is left to Sunday School Teachers, Boys' Leaders and others, and the picture depicted by Burns in "The Cotter's Saturday Night" is seldom seen in these days of rush. This neglect is eating the very foundations of our National Life. Many men find it easier to pay \$5 to the Y. M.C.A. or other worthy institution than to be bothered taking the trouble to teach the boys the truths of the Bible, and other things every boy should know.

Responsibility is one thing we may shirk, but cannot shift. Mr. Father, are you giving your boy the chance that he should have to make "good" not merely in the commercial world?

A BOY'S MOST VALUABLE ASSET

If there is anything a boy should be careful about it is his friends, and above all his chum. Chums are scarce—very scarce. A chum is more valuable than gold. In our opinion he is one in whom you have implicit confidence, and to whom you tell freely, without reserve or restraint, the most secret things of your heart, knowing he will not "split" or laugh, but help. He is your friend, in all the true meaning of the word. He is part of yourself, and would give his last drop of blood for you. He considers you before himself, and you consider him first always. If you have a chum tried and proven, "bind him to your heart with hoops of steel." Acquaintances you may have many, friends (true ones) a few, but chums you may have one, very seldom two. Choose well your friendships, because while you make friends, your friends ultimately make you.

Let Your New Year Portrait Be
a Picture

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