CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

A BUILDER'S LESSON How shall I a habit break? as you did that habit make. As you gathered you must lose; As you yielded now refuse. Thread by thread the strands we

twist Till they bind us neck and wrist; Thread by thread the patient hand Must untwine ere free we stand. As we built up stone by stone, We must toil unhelped alone, Till the wall is overthrown.

But, remember, as we try, Lighter every test goes by, Wading in the stream goes deep
Towards the center's downward

Backward turn, each step ashore Shallower is than that before.

Ah, the precious years we waste Leveling what we raised in haste; Doing what must be undone Ere content or love is won!'
First across the gulf we cast Kite-born thread, then lines are

passed, And habit builds the bridge at last.

ONE DEPENDS ON THE OTHER

Never lose sight of the fact that what you do has a vital connection with what you are. Each The depends upon the other. What you do is a result of what you are; and, on the other hand, what you largely are depends upon what you do. Thus you cannot do your best without becoming better; and it is equally certain that unless you do your best you will degenerate.

WHAT SHOULD HE DO

What should young men do in order to be successful in a noble way and lift his life above more selfish interest or sordid cares?

In the first place, a young man, having been selected or been forced by circumstances into a Offer to her their prayers and their calling or business, should seek to make himself as efficient as possible. If he has selected a profession, during the earlier days of that profession he should give himself to careful study, thus accumulating a fund of knowledge to be used when the demands of his profession shall call upon his reserve.

If he has selected a business, then, irrespective of the compensation, he should seek to make himself so useful and acquire such knowledge and have such stick-to-itiveness that promotion

may speedily come. Second, he should so improve his leisure hours as to broaden his view of life and his sympathies, so that with time he shall not become a simple machine or crank. As to the method of improving his time, I would suggest that he seek the society of those who are more intelligent than himself, who are in pursuit of the best things instead of systematically improved.

to systematically improve them: First, in the selection of companions, those with whom he boards and associates. Select men that have ideas, and with whom he can interchange ideas.

Second, set apart time for the when he has read a book, talk over it with his friends. Third, attend from time to

time lectures of a higher order. Fourth, without any view to holding office, identify himself the civic questions, exercising his civic rights intelligently, having given consideration to the metters and seek shelter for the night, said a tall, middle-aged man of one of the having given consideration to the metters and seek addressed to St. Jerome in the fourth century by the heretic Vigilantius, that great numbers of candles were lighted in church the matters under discussion. Spend half of his dinner hour at have traveled far, and you are shining. some library looking over the welcome to the home of Alban.

Fifth, give some time to social engagements, making the acquaintance of refined families, "Hush! I am not a Chris-

Church, read its history, study townspeople.

This will keep him from being avaricious, covetous, selfish, worldly, immoral, and will make his life beautiful. He will be on his life beautiful. He will be on the lookout for opportunities to brought to the house that the be of service — as teacher in Roman soldiers were approach-Sunday school, as member of the ing. Alban thinking not of him-St. Vincent de Paul Society, as self but of the safety of his a leader of instructive books friend, bade him quickly fly. to persons not of the Faith,

as a writer to the daily newspapers when they misrepresent Catholic doctrine or remain and, if need be, we will practice as a friend to other die together. young men, poolly trained or sorely tempted, etc., etc. To the man seeking to be good, oppor-tunities will come; and when the interests of the heart of Christ are the interests of the young man, he will see a hundred ways in which he can spend himself for God and man.-Church Pro-

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

VIRGIN AND MOTHER

gress.

Virgin and Mother of our dear Re-All hearts are touched and softened

at her name. Alike the bandit with the bloodstained hand, The priest, the prince, the scholar

and the peasant, man of deeds, the visionary Pay homage to her as one ever pres-

And even as children who have much offended A too indulgent father, in great

shame, Penitent, and yet not daring unat-

ing wait Till she goes in before and inter-

So men, repenting of their evil deeds. And yet not venturing rashly to draw With their request on an angry

And she for them in Heaven makes

intercession.

And if your faith had given us nothing more
Than his example of all womanhood, So mild, so merciful, so strong, so

good, So patient, peaceful, loyal, loving, and then, beheaded.

known before. -Longfeldow

TACT REQUIRED TO BE PLEASING

read plography, the best literature, history and fiction All of this can be done in his leisure hours, if only those hours are systematically improved. A few suggestions as to how sive, and determined without brutality. It is largely a question of tact.

A woman in business, who has a pleasing manner, possesses capital sometimes more valuable than money. There is no royal road for reaching this desirable reading above indicated and quality but goodness of heart, an honest desire to please are paths that will lead to it.

THE FIRST MARTYR OF ENGLAND

"Oh, thank you, and may God

Sixth, a young man starting in Alban was not a Christian, to keep the but he had one of those noble his hair. hearts which are found in all Candles, too, may have other

refutations of the objections He immediately ordered the so that the wind should not make anade to it by opponents, become familiar with the lives of its of the wayfarer, and to see that

Second, that he will practice priest, for such he proved to be, estimate the time spent in reading religion, by frequenting the was too worn out to pursue his ing. Sacraments every month, by regular attendance at Mass, by the observance of feasts and fasts; by a virtuous life, and by a steady growth in holiness.

Einelly, his life will be for view and aspecially, his love of the saintly stranger, the more he was attracted to him. His learning, and specially, his love and aspecially his love and aspecially his love.

tered unto, but to minister." the truths of the Christian religien, and never had a Catechumen been more anxious to learn about

God than he. Alban thinking not of him-

'Too late !" cried the priest

No, no, Father," cried Alban. "You must save yourself. There are many more Albans in Britainy who need you. Take off your Caracalla (a robe similar to the habit of a monk) and put on one of mine The priest knew that if he hesi-

tated a moment all would be lost, and, casting himself into the arms of Divine Providence, he hastily donned the garb of a citizen of Britain, leisurely who is in heaven." Matt. v. 15, 16. walked down to the old Roman

road. The tears gathered in the eyes of Alban, as he picked up the clerical robe and put it on, for he felt in his heart that he would never meet his friend and father in this world again. He locked all the doors, and hid himself in one of the unused rooms of the house. It was not long before he hear the soldiers talking to the servants. They forced open the doors and searched the house from top to bottom before they came upon the hiding place of Alban. Words cannot describe their anger when they found, not Penitent, and yet not daring unattended

To go into his presence, at the gate Speak with their sister, and confiding wait.

Alban. Words cannot describe their anger when they found, not their anger when they found, not the service of others. "Thus," said a spiritual director at St. Sulpice, "should alban. They dragged him off to director at St. Sulpice, "should alban." the judge, and told him the trick that had been played on him.

"You shall pay the penalty," said the judge, "if you do not sacrifice to the gods at once.'

The brave man replied that he would sacrifice to no god but the true God who made heaven and earth.

life you will sacrifice."
"The only happiness I desire is Heaven," replied the saint. the judge ordered him scourged

On the 22nd of June, the day Than all the creeds the world had seeing that it would take hours for all to cross the bridge, suggested to his guard to wade through the river which divided the street. No sooner had the Carried to excess, this desire to please becomes affectation. water, than a dry passage was "Pleasing" is not always agreeing with the last person who has At the sight of this miracle many spoken, as many seem to think. were converted and it is said That sort of thing detracts from that fully one thousand of them the character of one who does it. followed the priest who con-But "pleasing," in its true sense verted Alban into Wales, where is graciousness, fact, a sincere desire to offend the feelings of no the persecution ceased a small chapel was built over Alban's It is perfectly possible to dis- grave, and to this day special

CATHOLIC CUSTOMS AND SYMBOLS

THE SYMBOLISM OF CANDLES

By Right Rev. Msgr. H. T. Henry, Litt., D. " People sometimes wonder," said a cultivated Catholic to me recently, "why candles are still used in church, when gas and electricity give so much better light." It was an implied query, not a complaint. But it seemed a far-off echo of the criticism "I am a stranger, and seek addressed to St. Jerome in the "From your appearance you even while the sun was still

It is really not trivial to recall here Joe Muller's classical query. 'Why does a miller wear a white quaintance of refined families, and in this way cultivate the social side of his life.

Inting his dusty cap.

"Hush! I am not a Chriskeep his head warm," is inadequate. An additional reason and harbor you as I promised." to keep the fine white dust out of

First, that he will know his walks of life. His charity to the uses than their original one of religion. He will therefore learn correctly the doctrines of the held in the highest esteem by his instance, measured time by them, enclosing them in horn lanterns heroes, and take an interest in everything possible was done to its present condition and promake him comfortable. at regular intervals, and could The next morning the poor thus see to read and could also

steady growth in holiness.

Finally, his life will be far from full unless the keynote of that life be the motto of Christ's life: "I came not to be minis-

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So let your light shine before with new spiritual meanings men, that they may see your good undreamt of by Jew or pagan.

The myriad-minded Shakespeare seems to have caught the symbolism of that lesson.
Approaching her home in the darkness of late evening, Portia saw, while still afar from home, the candle's light gleaming in her hall, and made the Scriptural application: "How far that application: little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world." She personifies the little candle, as if it were an alert watchman—" his " beams, she says.

Still another symbolism! They the priest be like a candle, con-sumed wholly in the service of other people.

They are also emblematic of the clear light of faith, the aspiring gleams of hope, the burning zeal of charity; of innocence, as when the baptized catechumen is given a lighted candle; of good example, as in Our Lord's comife you wish nappiness in this ife you will sacrifice."

"The only happiness I desire tan joy, as St. Jerome pointed out: of fervent, continuous prayer, as when the devout, he judge ordered him contents. having knelt at a shrine, light a votive candle before departing; and, finally, of Our Lord, the "Light of the world." John ix. 5.

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most effectual pedagogy. "Men," While candles had been used by the pagans in their worship, and put it under a bushel, but they are in themselves indiffer upon a candlestick, that it may ent things. The Church, a wise shine to all that are in the house. Mother of souls, endowed them

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