

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

ON CHARITY

Oh, be not the first to discover
A blot on the fame of a friend;
Oh, be not of discord the mover,
For hearts may prove true in the end.

We none of us know one another,
And oft into error we fall;
Then let us speak well of each other;
Or speak not of others at all.

A sigh or a smile may awaken,
Suspicion most false or untrue,
And thus our belief may be shaken
In hearts that are honest and true.

How often the friends we hold dear,
Their noblest emotions conceal?
And bosoms the purest, sincerest,
Have secrets they cannot reveal.

Leave base minds to harbour suspicion,
And small ones to trace out defects;
Let ours be a noble ambition
To love as our Saviour directs.

—Southern Cross

LIFT YOUR HATS!

Of the many simple and beautiful professions of faith, expressions by which we openly declare our belief, such as the sprinkling of Holy Water, Sign of the Cross, rising to our feet at the reading of the Gospel, etc., what is more touching and inspiring than the lifting of their hats by men as they pass the church? The very act is a recital of the Apostles' Creed—"I believe," as plainly as if the words were spoken. Do our Catholic men fully realize this privilege which is theirs in making this simple and beautiful profession of Faith. —The Transcript.

"GETTING ALONG" WITH OTHERS

The greatest science men can study is the science of living with other men. We are seeking to control the forces of nature, but the forces of human nature are more important. Criticism is easy. Fault-finding becomes second nature. The great art is forbearance, and the faculty of getting the best out of our associates by encouragement and commendation. It is the wisdom of business and business relationships. An old philosopher used to say: "If you are a master, be sometimes blind; if a servant, be sometimes deaf." More than half the sorrows that people suffer are caused by their own want of good sense and by the thoughtlessness or ill-humor of their fellow beings. How much will not courtesy prevent in the way of grief and annoyance? Silent patience has enough to its credit to go straight to heaven. Then there is habitual good nature, gentle tact and the forgiving spirit. It is for Christianity to bring into our lives as much of these saving graces as possible. —Catholic Columbian.

A THRILLING EXPERIENCE

An Eastern tourist on the Pacific coast tells the following story: "I was promenading the deck of a steamship en route to San Francisco from Los Angeles. The ocean was decidedly rough and the boat rolled from side to side. A submarine captain on board told me the boat was top heavy, and it was loaded light."

"I was passing the entrance to the bridge when people began pouring from their cabins, buckling on life preservers, faces blanched and terror-stricken. There was a concerted rush to starboard. The boat gave an upward heave, and a woman fainted and fell at my feet. I picked up a life preserver and buckling it about her waist, carried her to a railing. A captain in uniform ran shouting into the crowd, but his voice was drowned in the confusion. As I leaped to the rail to dive overboard I glanced over my shoulder. The crowd had paused. Women were chatting comfortably, while the men were calmly enjoying a smoke."

"A man in puttees, carrying a megaphone, approached me and grinned: 'We are making a moving picture, but we didn't shoot this scene. This was the rehearsal. You got so much pep in it we'll give you a \$5 voucher if you'll do it over and make the dive.'"

"I refused the munificent offer, but my movie shipwreck has remained my funniest travel experience." —Southern Cross.

HIS FIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Recently a correspondent asked the question of the Bombay Examiner: "What are the accomplishments which make up an educated man?"

The root idea of education, says Father Hull, S. J., is the drawing out or development of a man's faculties or powers, so that he acquires the habit of using them for the purposes of life. The more fully these faculties and powers are drawn out or evolved and applied, the more educated a man is, and the more he can make, both out of himself and out of his environment.

Education thus admits of many degrees, beginning with something quite elementary; and there is no human being (except a complete idiot) who is not educated in some degree—even if he only knows rationally how to stand and walk and eat and speak, and do anything for himself or for others. Hence when we divide a certain community

into the educated and uneducated, we are speaking relatively to a certain aggregate standing which has established itself in that community.

Taking the general standard which will fit in with the condition of those who are likely to read this answer, we may say succinctly that the accomplishments which make up an educated man may be enumerated under five heads: Knowledge, judgment, talent, taste and manners.

(1) Knowledge means the perception of facts, truths or realities as they can be exercised. (2) Judgment means a right estimation of these facts, truths or realities in themselves, and in relation to each other. (3) Talent means the power of the faculties to acquire and retain knowledge and to add to it; and then to apply it practically to action or production. (4) Taste means the perception not merely of things in their useful aspect, but in their ornamental aspect, so as to embrace or adopt what is beautiful, and to avoid and repudiate what is ugly. (5) Manners means the regulation of one's actions according to the standards of taste, so as to present oneself agreeably to others.

A man begins to be an educated man as soon as he possesses something of these elements. —The Monitor.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

SPLINTERS FROM THE CROSS
Little headaches, little heartaches,
Little griefs of every day,
Little trials and vexations,
How they throng around our way!

One great cross, immense and heavy,
So it seems to our weak will,
Might be borne with resignation;
But these many small ones kill.

Yet all life is formed of small things,
Little leaves make up the trees,
Many tiny drops of water,
Blending, make the mighty seas.

So these many little burdens
Pressing on our hearts so hard,
All uniting, form a life's work,
Meriting a grand reward.

Let us not then by impatience
Mar the beauty of the whole,
But for love of Jesus hear all
In the silence of our soul.

Asking Him for grace sufficient
To sustain us through each loss,
And to treasure each small offering
As a splinter from His Cross.

—Pittsburgh Catholic

LEARN TO BE KIND

The business girl—in fact the average girl—regardless of her calling, would do well to pause a moment occasionally and ask herself: "Am I playing fair with others around me—am I kind and thoughtful, and do I extend to those persons the little everyday courtesies I myself like to receive?" If she can answer in the affirmative well and good. She is setting a worthwhile example for even disinterested observers, but if she has to admit that her's is a rather hazy conception of the Golden Rule, then she certainly should read just her code of deportment in order to make a bit brighter or better the lot of some less fortunate friend or co-worker.

True, not all appreciate the little kindnesses or courtesies shown them. Indeed, it all too frequently happens that those for whom we spend ourselves—put ourselves out in many ways to ignore our good intentions; but even admitting this truth, we should not become embittered or declare that gratitude is found only in the dictionary. On the other hand if we would know what real happiness is, we will be quick to forgive, and eager to reach out a helping hand to some less favored soul whenever the opportunity comes our way.

Somewhere at some time or other we ran across the following quotation: "Give to the world the best that you have and the best will come back to you." Golden philosophy this! We all know the contagion of a smile—how the pleasant, kind friend or co-worker puts us at our ease and draws out the best that is in us, and also we know how quickly our disagreeable, "crabby" moods are reflected in others—how we receive back from the world just exactly what we give to it.

Learn to be kind and considerate and do a good turn whenever the opportunity presents itself. Then wisely forget all about it. Do not look for results. The "results" will remain down deep in our own hearts, for we all know that making another human being feel braver or happier brings an indescribable, lasting joy to ourselves. —Catholic Transcript.

HOW A WISE FATHER MADE EFFICIENT HOUSE-KEEPERS OF HIS GIRLS

Three daughters in a certain household are able to use some very practical experience that they gained between their school graduation and their three respective marriages. Their father, very practical in his ideas of raising daughters as well as in his business dealings, suggested that each of the girls be given her share of the household supervision. For one month, Eliza, the eldest daughter did the marketing, planned the menus, paid the bills and whatever else concerned the smooth running order of the household. The following month Alice, the second daughter,

not so domestically bent, had her turn, and finally Elsie, the youngest of the three. The whole plan gave the mother some time for relaxation although she was often called upon to give advice.

Domestic science as it is taught in our schools and with the magazines bubbling over with helpful suggestions girls as a rule enjoy cooking. Of course grownups cannot expect them to retain their enthusiasm unless they have encouragement.

The kitchens should be made attractive, modern and sanitary, and furnished with the tools necessary to do efficient work. For example, a vegetable and fruit set, costing 50 cents, will peel without waste, and without soiling the hands, core the apples into ribbons for ornamental fruit salads, etc.

It is easy then to teach the girls the little things that help to make cooking more interesting. They should be taught to use freely old newspapers to clean the stove, and spread over the table to save so much washing, to keep rice, sugar and all the spices in some sort of a container labelled to save hunting through paper bags to find what they want. That the dishcloth should be kept sweet and clean, as well as the dish towels should also be borne in mind.

In fact, we should impress upon the girls' minds the truth that cooking is a profession, and in order to be proficient in it they must be serious and practical, it with care and patience. —The Echo.

READING

Taste in reading is not regulated by the seasons. That summer is the time for reading light books is a popular fallacy that has been exploded. Those who devote the summer months to frothy fiction to the exclusion of serious worthwhile books, exist only in the imagination of the credulous reader of book-seller's advertisements. A peek into the suitcases of the average vacationist will reveal either no books at all, or books that have stood the test of time and been approved by millions.

Recently we were privileged to explore the contents of a summer library. It was the property of a man of affairs who wisely elected to spend his vacation in a camp in the mountains. The library was small. It consisted of four books, but those four books represented perhaps the best selection of suitable books ever assembled together. They were the Bible, the Imitation of Christ, Foulard's Life of Christ, and a volume of Shakespeare.

Communing with such authors in the woodland quiet, beneath the open heavens, with the towering mountains shutting off the outside world, is a vision that any vacationist may contemplate with longing. Yet in changed circumstances it is a dream that can be realized by everyone who goes on a vacation. No one need complain of the expense of such volumes. And as for the mental effort of reading them, it will be found much less than the fatigue experienced in wading through pages of tiresome summer novels.

What drives so many to trashy books is the unwarranted suspicion that good books are tiresome, difficult to read, and unentertaining, that they are for the intellectual, and unsuited to the taste of the common everyday reader. Good books are nothing of the sort. They are refreshing, easy to read, and fascinating. If they were not they would have long since been left to gather dust on library shelves.

They are not written for college professors or bespectacled bookworms, but for all mankind. The only reason they deserve the titles of "good" is that very many people have found them out, appreciated them, and passed them on to their friends. The good books of the world have made their reputation not in the minds of scholars, but in the power of appeal to the average man.

The good things of life come to some early and to others late. The power of enjoying them depends on the ability to appreciate, to understand and to grow. Books are the great educators of mankind. But no one ever became cultured by light "summer" reading. But millions of whom, some of the greatest men and women of the world are examples, have received their inspiration from reading good books. And many a one has been put in the way of following their example by a vacation enforced or voluntary.

The sickbed offered St. Ignatius the book from which he drew the inspiration to become the founder of a great religious order. A summer afternoon in a garden gave St. Augustine the opportunity to acquire the book that served as the turning point in his life. A vacation at the seashore and the mountains with a few good books will furnish not only genuine refreshment but religious and cultural inspiration that may change for the better the whole tenor of our lives. —The Pilot.

There are many futile things; but the most absolutely futile thing of all is to grumble or even to fall into the state of inarticulate grumbling known as peevishness. It is an insubordination of the brain which interferes with the smooth working of the machine. The man sluttish because he isn't co-ordinated.

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