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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

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Now that the long winter evenings have returned, our young men should put them to some good use.

Exercise the mind actively. Produce something worth while. Don't drift along or vegetate.

One of the predecessors of Cook and Peary in Arctic exploration was Dr. Elisha Kent Kane.

Here he broke down in health. For a long time it was thought he would not live, but he made a gallant struggle, and at last left his bed, though without much encouragement from the doctors.

But he was not to die yet. Elisha, if you must die, die in the harness," was the call of his father that nerved him to go into the city and take his place with others who were facing obstacles bravely.

He declared he would make his mark in the world; now he was resolved to make the world forget that he was a sick man.

Compelled to give up his dream of becoming a civil engineer, he entered the medical college and studied to such purpose that before his graduation, and while he was only twenty years old, he was appointed a resident physician in the Pennsylvania hospital.

His appearance was insignificant, and his heart disease was evident to all because of the "bellows sound" which accompanied his breathing after an unusual exertion.

He was still an undergraduate when he became one of the senior resident physicians. His care to take advantage of every opportunity to fit himself for his duties made him an acceptable practitioner.

At the hospital, in the rare intervals when he was not on duty, he devoted himself to investigation in an obscure technical subject and accomplished what might well have been a year's work for a strong man able to give full time to it.

The results of his investigations were stated in his graduation thesis. This thesis was considered such a remarkable document that its publication was requested.

After his graduation, he became a surgeon in the U. S. Navy and circumnavigated the globe. He had jungle fever in Africa, typhoid fever in Mexico, and an attack of lockjaw, from all which he recovered only so far as to be a chronic invalid, never free from pain.

But he refused to be cast aside. Still he looked about for an opening for telling services. He saw his chance when, in 1850, in response to the appeals of Lady Franklin, Congress voted to send an expedition in search of her husband, Sir John Franklin, who had not been heard from since 1845; it was feared that his entire party had been sacrificed in a search for the North-West Passage.

Dr. Kane asked to be sent as surgeon of the expedition, and his request was granted.

Then, at thirty years of age, he began the service for which he had been unconsciously preparing, but he did not begin it in his own strength. The years of suffering had shown him his need of God, and he had long been an earnest Christian.

Well for him that he was, for many times before he returned from the frozen north he was in the midst of perils which he could not have borne alone. Referring to the second expedition, of which he was commander, he wrote: "A trust, based on experience as well as on promises, buoyed me up at the worst of times."

He never doubted for an instant that the same Providence which had guarded us through the long darkness of winter was still watching over us for good, and that it was yet in reserve for us. . . . to bear back the tidings of our rescue to a Christian land."

That rescue was accomplished by a relief expedition.

Not long after his return from the Arctic, Dr. Kane died in 1857 at the early age of thirty-seven at Havana, Cuba, where he had gone for his health. He had crowded into his few years a long life and made his name forever memorable as an intrepid pioneer in the frozen regions around the North Pole.

Believe in Victory. Optimism has its market value. Nothing hard, nothing that costs struggle, sacrifice and effort would ever be accomplished if some one did not believe in its possibility and hold it to be worth all it might cost.

A doubter is a traitor to his own cause; he has no power to put down difficulties or push forward enterprises. "This is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith," says the apostle John, and it is true of the material world as well as of the spiritual. The doubtful are not the conquerors; the half-hearted never succeed.

Why Worry. There is a Chinese saying: "The legs of the stork are long, the legs of the duck are short; you cannot make the legs of the stork short, neither can you make the legs of the duck long. Why

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worry?" If we would confine our efforts to those things which we can change and let other things alone we should be more often at peace.

No Little Enemy. "There is no little enemy," is one of Benjamin Franklin's nuggets of wisdom. Any enemy, any evil, may at some crisis overturn all our defenses, unless we look well to it.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS. On Vocations.—A Word to Catholic Youth and Their Parents.

Doubtless the word vocation sounds new to a young man's ears. Not so the expression teacher, priest, even to the great mass of youthful manhood the word job is an ever familiar term.

Considering the wants of the Church and how frequently her noblest children are drawn from the simple and quiet homes of the laboring man the writer asks this question—parents, what about your boys' and girls' future career?

To what nobler career than that of a religious can your son or daughter aspire? Surrounded as we all are with trials, worries, sickness, sorrow and temptations of every kind, the first concern should be to carry out the one great purpose of man on earth—Seek ye first the kingdom of God, etc., and as He has blessed you, make unto Him a suitable sacrifice for all His blessings.

Often has the writer met an aching heart confessing that God's holy will was not followed because of ambitious and worldly parents. Again has he seen sadness overspread a bright and happy life, simply because a fond mother wanted her son to be a lawyer when that son wished to be a priest.

Many a girl does he know who lives a life of continual "blues" because she could not find the means nor the good will of her parents to enter the religious life.

After long years of religious life and priesthood the writer knows whereof he speaks. What hope has the blighted life of a man who should be at the altar; not in a banking house, not clerking or railroad? How sad the look in the once bright eye of that young stenographer and typist; there is a longing she cannot express till a kindred spirit comes across her path.

A nurse in the Sisters' hospital, a teacher garbed in simple serge and modest veil, was her vocation, her call, but no—a fond father had other views; hence the sad, sweet face on its daily journey to and from the office; the far distant look on that noble young man's brow. He hopes, he plans and all goes down to sorrow and the shades of eve find him on his lonely tramp, thinking, meditating on his vocation, his call to a higher, a holier life. The worldly minded father and mother seek in vain the physician's advice, the fresh air penicils, etc.; all fail, one and only one cure is at hand.

Your boy, your girl must answer the call, must carry out his or her vocation. God wishes their young hearts. Are they spiritual wrecks living in fear, buffeted by every adversity and at any moment a prey to despair? (God forbid.) Young man, young woman, do not despair. You feel that on your dear Lord wants you to be one of His chosen ones, and your future happiness depends on your following this innermost longing, this continual desire, this your vocation, in a word, call to the life of a religious or the priesthood. Should you neglect this call you must answer for not responding to grace. Learn to realize that amid all the sacrifice of the religious there is a feeling of sweet calm and quiet rest. There is no duty and quiet rest. direct your work, your very actions are unselfish, given as they are to God and for souls. There is nothing higher or

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Will I Once More be a Little Irish Boy? I am only eighty-nine, and they tell me I am dying. And I hear the loved ones sobbing 'round my bed.

Will the old oak tree so grand, under which we loved to stand. And gaze with awe upon its towering height. Still spread its cool sweet shade o'er the swings our young hands made.

Will the old ditch, and the style, where we rest when after toil. Be still there as it was in ninety-eight. Will my mother proud and strong shout still the old, old song.

Will the school house be the same, on the old plot in the lane. And the trysting place alongside the parish well. And the old moth-eaten seat where the boys and girls would meet.

Will the black and the linnet sing o'er the grave of Emmet. And Oh! tell me will I once more be, a little Irish boy?

Will the round tower and the mill not far from Vinegar Hill. Across the bridge whereon our names we cut so keen. Have still their meadows sweet where high grew Ireland's wheat.

Will the little three-leaved shamrock fresh and green. Will the faith our country spread and for which her sons and daughters die. Sustain me now as judgment's drawing nigh. Oh! shall I then find rest with those loved ones and Oh! tell me will I once more be, a little Irish boy?

Just as the bell tower chimed forth the midnight hour. The old man's soul sped on to stand its test. Around his throne above where everything is love. Stood with him those he loved the most and best.

And pleading strongly there in sweet and fervent prayer. They that he had given peace and joy. And his angel smiling speaks. Father this is he who seeks To become again, a little Irish boy. I. W. KINSELLA. G. P. O., St. John's Newfoundland.

EMPTY HOUSES AND BAD TENANTS.

Pleasant reading for Catholics, the present uses of some of the great and historic churches of Paris. At a moderate rent, and in some cases none at all, these sacred edifices may be obtained for the sanctuary of the Jesuit Church of St. Pierre is now the Salon of an American woman.

At the Church of the Sacred Heart, the dancer Loie Fuller and her company of brazen, shameless women have until lately been rehearsing for their coming American tour.

According to the report we read, the scenes that took place within that erstwhile House of God quite equals the revolting accounts of the doings in the churches at the time of the French Revolution.

As the light poured in through the beautiful stained-glass windows, squads of barefooted and bareheaded women are seen pinning upon a platform erected in the sanctuary before the altar to the wild accompaniment of sensual music.

Artists, composers, literary men are there as spectators as well as critics. The titled and idle rich are present to enjoy the rare show; a revel in the House of God. It is all very serious and it is advertised and chronicled as such.

The company will shortly appear here. They need American dollars to keep up the infamous thing in Paris. We wonder how many Catholics will go to see them! It will all be done in the name

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of Art, and surely our Catholics who have the price must be artistic. Let them stay away. Let them follow up the vile thing from its beginning in the Church of the Sacred Heart in Paris and protest, at least by their absence, against the sacrilege and the immorality of it all.

It is a sin and a shame for Catholics to attend many of the shows running at this moment in the New York theatres. What shall we say of Catholics who will attend this one?—The Monitor (N. J.).

What We Stand in Need of.

More books and fewer banquets. More thinking and less drinking. More work and less talk. More self-forgetfulness and less self glorification. More constructive and less criticism. More real sociability and less whist. More simplicity and fewer "airs."

More recreation and less mere dissipation. More study clubs and fewer social clubs. More real recreation and less mere dissipation. More study clubs and fewer social clubs. More helpful, hopeful conversation and less gossip. More emphasis on manners and morals and less on money. More simplicity and less smartness. Larger outlooks and smaller grudges. A greater desire for social usefulness than social prestige.

These are a few of our needs. Others may easily suggest themselves to any thoughtful Catholic.—Sacred Heart Review.

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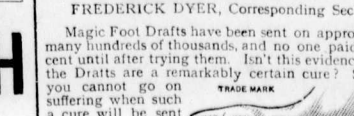
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