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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN. HELPS AND HINDRANCES TO SUCCESS.

By Denis A. McCarthy

Good advice, according to an old rid-dle, is something which everybody needs, which everybody gives, but which nobody takes. Young people stand especially in need of good advice yet they are the ones above all others who do not take it. Of course there exceptions; but it is safe to are exceptions; but it is sate to assert that the average young fellow just starting out in life, find, good advice inksome, and the person whom he suspects of wanting to give him good advice, he will steer clear of, as much as massible.

as possible.

Experience is a dear school, says the Experience is a dear school, says the adage, but fools will learn in no other. Every young man is more or less foolish and every young man before he grows very old is a pupil of the school of experience. He scorns the advice that would keep him from making costly mistakes, but if he is at all teachable, the mistakes make a deeper impression upon his mind than any advice could ever do.

Some men go on making the same mistakes, over and over again, all dur-ing life. If they make the mistake of drinking too much, for instance, someime in their youth, they keep on making that same mistake until they die. Such men are confirmed fools who will not learn even in the dear school of ex-

Older people who imagine that a boy must always follow their advice down to the smallest detail are as unreasonable in one way as the boy is in the other. Everybody is gifted with individuality. Everybody is gifted with individuality. Things seem different when viewed from different standpoints. The course of action that seemed right for you may not seem so, and indeed may not be so, for me. If men did not pursue each his cwn course the world would grow sick with sameness. There would be no new thing, no initiative, no discovered the seement. no new thing, no initiative, no discovery, no invention, no improvement. Boys therefore, should not be forced by older people to follow exactly the manner of life prescribed for them. There should of course be an insistence on essentials, but in other things there should be liberty. A how should be should be liberty. A boy should be allowed to follow his natural bent if that bent is not toward immorality.

In choosing a trade or profession for a boy, some attention should be given to the lad's own tastes. A boy should not be forced to be a grocer, or a batcher, or a tailor, because his father his father because his father his fore him was one. To compel a boy who has a longing for open air work to spend his life in a factory is a great injustice. Conversely to send a boy to farming or team driving who has a crack with tools and an inventive turn of mind in the way of mechanics, is very wrong. Many a life has been wasted utterly by being forced into the wrong groove. A man's life, a man's career, is an important thing, a precious thing. Consideration should be given by parents and guardians to this matter. with tools and an inventive turn

But boys are not always the best judges of what line of work they should ladge of what the object was a way of liking this to day and that to morrow, and something else, a week from now. Such young fellows need advice, and if they will not take it voluntarily, they ought to have it thrust upon them. They usually have not character enough to stick at anything. Their fathers ought to select some one calling and set them to it, and keep them to it, for when a youth has a weak character and when a youth has a west character and a wishy-washy disposition, when he is what is termed "a quitter," steady work along any line is the best thing, the only thing, for him if his character is to be strengthened and his will

For young fellows just beginning to work, this habit of "jumping the job" is one of the most dangerous. "A is one of the most dangerous. "A rolling stone gathers no moss," and a young man who is here tc-lay and what is needed by such volatile youths. It is not the brilliant youth that wins in the world. It is the fellow who keeps at a thing long enough to make some impression upon it.

America spells opportunity. Great things are in store for the American boy to day and in the future as in the past; but there must be struggle before there is attainment. The price must be paid; the work must be done. Very few fortunes are acquired suddenly, and as for that which is far more to dealed them fortunes are not to ly, and as for that which is far more to be desired than fortunes, namely, the reputation for honesty and integrity, that is not gained in a day's time nor in a week's time. That is attained only by years and years of self control, of fair dealing, of a life lived in the open, in all men's sight, free from stain and represent

arette smoking is ruinous to the system, and that it has disastrous effects upon the mind. Scarcely a day passes that one may not read in the newspapers ac-counts of boys and young men driven insane by the habit of cigarette smok-

The drinking of intoxicants is another habit which a boy desirous of success should be careful not to form. This habit is evil in itself for a young man whose character is in the formative period, but it is worse still in that it leads to other and grosser habits Around the habit of drink clusters a whole host of vices ruinous to soul and

Avoidance of tobacco and drink will insure the average youth a sound body and a clear head. It will be a saving and a clear head. It will be a saving to him not only in money, but in time and nerves. He will be more self-reliant when he is not dependent on the cigarette or the glass to soothe his nerves or rouse his spirit. Without those false friends he is bound to do clearer, better and more energetic to be wholly His. — St. Francis de work. His healthy life will express it-

self in his conversation, in his dealing with others, and in his work. And his associates, even those who themselves have these habits, and who may scoff at him occasionally for his "eccentricity" in being free from them, will respect

him secretly for his abstinence from things which are in no way helpful. There are other things which help way to success, but it is hardly neces-sary to speak of them to a Catholic youth—such, for instance, as a cleato keep a boy's feet planted in the pathyouth—such, for instance, as a clear tongue free from profanity and obscen-ity and a clear heart which "thinketh no evil." One of the greatest curses of American life is impurity and nearly every Catholic boy must necessarily come into contact with men who are foul of speech and foul of life. Nasty black guards who take pleasure in retailing filthy stories and jokes are to be met everywhere—in factory and office, workeverywhere—in factory and office, work-shop and store. But the boy who is wise, the boy who has respect for we-manhood, the boy who remembers that the Blessed Virgin is his Mother, the boy who wants to grow up to be a decent Catholic man, will try not to listen to them, will try not to take pleasure in them if he is compelled to hear them, will above all things keep his own tongue from offending in this way. Even from a worldly motive this is the Even from a worldly motive this is the only safe course, for impurity is a destroyer of health, mental and physical as well as spiritual. And a sound mind in a sound body is absolutely essential if a boy is to succeed in the strenuous busi life of to-day .- The Christian

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

The Curiosity of a Little Boy. Little things and little people are often responsible for great results, and maybe you do not know that the discovery of that important instrument, the telescope, may be traced to the curiosity of a little boy, and this is how it came about:

The little boy I am telling you about was the son of an optician who lived in Holland. He and his sisters loved to play about their father's work bench and often they amused themselves by looking at the sea through the little smooth concave glasses which their smooth concave glasses which their father used in his work.

Now, one day, it happened that the boy, while playing with two of these glasses, chanced to hold them before this eyes in such a way that the face of the cathedral clock seemed very near. This surprised him greatly, for the

clock was so far away that he could scarcely see the hands with his naked For a while he stared at the clock

and then at the glasses, each of which he tried in turn, but the clock was as far away as ever, and so it remained, far away as ever, and so it remained, turn them as he would, until by chance again he held both up together, when, lo! as if by magic, the church stood beside him.

"Oh, I know, I know!" he cried aloud. Its the two together." Then in great joy he ran to his father and told him of his remarkable discovery.

His father tried the glasses in his turn and found that the boy had spoken the truth when he said he could bring the great church clock nearer.

the great church clock nearer. the great church clock nearer.
So this was the way people learned
that putting a concave and a convex
glass together in just the right position
would make distant objects near. would make distant objects near.
Without this knowledge we should never have had the telescope, and without the telescope we should have known little of the sun, moon or stars.
So, if you ever have a chance to look through a telescope and see the wonders it has to reveal, just remember the little boy who once lived in far off Holland.—Catholic News.

Innocence. Innocence is purity and simplicity of heart. It is a lovely virtue and one all should cherish. Look at little children in their plays; how beautiful they are; all innocence and loveliness. young man who is here tc-ray and a somewhere else tc-morrow begets no confidence on the part of employers. The virtue of "stick-to it iveness" is what is needed by such what! whole nature. You might say that children are almost angels; for what whole nature. You might say that children are almost angels; for what are angels but pure and innocent spirits? And little children, are they not pure and innocent? How beautiful to be like angels! Our Saviour said to His disciples, when He was on earth "Amen, I say to you, unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." So we see that not only every true hearted person in the world loves innocence, but God, greater than all, delights in it. The Blessed Virgin too, loves innocence and simplicity more than anything else; and for these virtues little children, when they die, will go to heaven. There is so much intrinsic beauty in innocence, that every one is constrained to love it; and any one person who possesses devoting the second of the open, in all men's sight, free from stain any one person who possesses devotion to the Blessed Virgin loves it also, for she was innocent from the time of her boy's will, and disintegrate his character should be vigenced and from ter should be vigorously excluded from his scheme of life if he wants to succeed. Cigarettes, for example, should be dropped, because it has been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that eigenvectors. This shows how much God loves innocence and purity. much God loves innocence and purity.-True Voice. A Word to The Boy Who Smokes

A word to you, sonny—you little twelve or thirteen year old boy who is smoking cigarettes on the sly. What do you want to be wien you grow up—a stalwart, healthy, vigorous, broad shouldered man, or a little, puny, measley, no-count, weak-minded dude? If you want to be a man, strong like a man, with hair on your face, brains in your head, and muscles in your limbs, you just let those eigarettes Cigarettes. brains in your nead, and masses your limbs, you just let those eigarettes alone. If you want to be a thing pitied by your folks, despised by the girls, held in contempt by the fellows, keep

right on smoking.-Hustler.

GIVE A BOOK.

Here is a charming contribution to the literature of gift-giving from the pen of Most Rev. E. J. McCarthy, D. D, the new Archbishop of Halifax, N. S. In The Suburban, of Halifax, His

Grace writes:
"A book from a friend is one of the dearest of gifts. It implies more thought and care in the selection than most gifts. It is a tribute to the soul and the intellect, whereas even the daintiest and rarest kinds of other gifts, at the best, but minister to the personal adornment or the animal appetites of men. And as for children, it is a mistake to suppose that they do it is a mistake to suppose that they do not care for books. We know of no more eager devorees of literature nor keener critics than children. They go right to the heart of things. They pore over every word and every line, extracting meaning and passing comments that would surprise Plato and delight Shakespeare. It is all real to them. Tooy hear the pictured trees rustle in the wind; the waters rua and ripple, the water lilies are really afloat; the mischlevous elfs orank in the woods the water lilies are really afloat; the mischievous elfs prank in the woods or take their ease on the topmost pinnacles of the swaying reeds and rushes. There is the giant with his terrible club and enormous maw and there is clever and courageous Jack, ready to outwit and kill the monster in defense of poor soffering humanity. And there is Bethlehem and the stable all full of straw, and a poor little Baby—and His mother looking down upon Him and St. Joseph; and the air full of angels, and the oxen turning their mild eyes round from the turning their mild eyes round from the

stalls to gaze on the Baby too.
"Dolls, and railway cars, and tooting trumpets, and gingerbread and Noah's arks are good enough in their way, but they don't last like these picture books as the children call them. When they tire of all else, they come back to their

tire of all else, they come back to their books over and over again.

"It is the same with children of a larger growth. When everything else fails, we can read. And taking more than a holiday view of the matter, there is nothing in the world more necessary for us than to read something worth while; to take in information and instruction while we rest and tion and instruction while we rest and recruit our juded mental forces.

"Those wno read good books do s most excellent work, and confer a last ing benefit on themselves; but those who spread good books abroad do a work of Christian charity as those who spread bad books do a moral injury to society, whose extent and influence it is impossible to trace, as it is frightful to contemplate. We need urge to further on intelligent readers the moral necessity of not forgetting good and useful literature during this blessed season of giving and receiving.

And Yet He Wonders.

He was a Catholic (in name). He didn't subscribe for a Catholic news paper (said he didn't need it). After while he married, and still he didn't subscribe for a Catholic journal. His children grew up without reading or ever seeing a Catholic newspaper, and now he worders why he has to spend twenty four hours a day trying to keep his sons out of the clutches of the law. Catholic Home Companion.

A Quickly Built Church.

They do things swiftly in the West, even to building churches. When Father Ryan of Salt Like paid his first visit to the mining camp of Rhyolite, Neb., of which he had been appointed pastor, he met with a warm reception from non Catholics as well as Catholic from non Catholics as well as Catholic miners. With his customary zeal, Father Ryan began a canvass of the parish. The result was that he was able to erect, within fourteen days, a church, costing \$3,000. Three Masses were celebrated on Christmas Day, which were well attended by the members of the came. bers of the camp.

We are put into our times, not that the times may mould us, but that we may mould the times! Ways? Customs? They exist to be changed. The Tempora and the Mores should be plastic to our touch. The times are never level with our best.—Anna Rob ertson Brown.

Honor and Pray for the Priest Honor the priest. Who received your soul as it entered on its spiritual life by baptism? The priest. nourished it and gave it stren its pilgrimage? The priest. prepare it to go before God? The priest—always the priest. And if the soul should die by sin who will call it back to life and give it rest and peace? Again the priest. Can you peace? Again the priest. Can you remember a single gits of God without seeing by its side a priest? Of what use would be a house of gold if you had no one to open the door for you? The priest has the key of the treas ures of Heaven. He opens the door; he distributes the gifts of God. If you went to confession to the Blessed Virgin or to an angel, could they absolve you? No. Could they give you the body and blood of Jesus? No. The body and blood of Jesus? No. The Blessed Virgin could not call her Di-vine Son down into the Host, and were one thousand angels to exert their power they could not absolve you from one venial sin. But a priest, no matter how humble he be, can do those things. He can say to you, "Go, your sins are forgiven you." — Cure d'Ars.

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