

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN. HELPS AND HINDRANCES TO SUCCESS.

By Denis A. McCarthy.

Good advice, according to an old riddle, is something which everybody needs, which everybody gives, but which nobody takes. Young people stand especially in need of good advice...

Experience is a dear school, says the adage, but fools learn in no other. Every young man is more or less foolish...

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.

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.

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 butcher, or a tailor, because his father before him was one.

But boys are not always the best judges of what line of work they should take up. Some boys have a way of liking this to day and that to morrow, and something else, a week from now.

For young fellows just beginning to work, this habit of "jumping the job" is one of the most dangerous. A rolling stone gathers no moss.

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.

Anything that tends to weaken a boy's will, and disintegrate his character should be vigorously excluded from his scheme of life if he wants to succeed.

Avoidance of tobacco and drink will insure the average youth a sound body and a clear head. It will be a saving to him not only in money, but in time and nerves.

One risks little in being, and much in not being, indulgent.—Shakespeare. Be constant and courageous, and rejoice that God has given you the will to be wholly His.—St. Francis de Sales.

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"...

There are other things which help to keep a boy's feet planted in the pathway to success, but it is hardly necessary to speak of them to a Catholic youth—such, for instance, as a clear tongue free from profanity and obscenity and a clear heart which "thinketh no evil."

Every Catholic boy must necessarily come into contact with men who are full of speech and foul of life. Nasty blackguards who take pleasure in retailing filthy stories and jokes are to be met everywhere—in factory and office, workshop and store.

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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 most delicate 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 not care for books. We know of no more eager devotees 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. They hear the pictured trees rustle in the wind; the waters run and ripple, the water lilies are really afloat; the mischievous elf 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 closer and more real, the oxen plowing and the mule team in the field, and the railway cars, and tooting trumpets, and gingerbread and Noah's ark 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 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 recruit our jaded mental forces.

"Those who read good books do a most excellent work, and confer a lasting 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 no 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 (name). He didn't subscribe for a Catholic newspaper (said he didn't need it). After a 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 wonders 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.

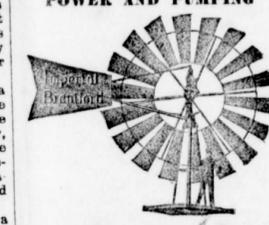
They do things swiftly in the West, even to building churches. When Father Ryan of Salt Lake paid his first visit to the mining camp of Rhyolite, Neb., of which he had been appointed pastor, he met with a warm reception from non-Catholics as well as Catholic miners. With his customary zeal, Father Ryan 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 camp.

We are put into our times, not that the times may mould us, but that we may mould the times! Ways? Ours? 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 Robertson 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. Who nourished it and gave it strength on its pilgrimage? The priest. Who will 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 remember a single gift 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 treasures of Heaven. He opens the door; he distributes the gifts of God. If you want 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 Blessed Virgin could not call her Divine 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'Aras.

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