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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

Catholic Columbian.

If a young man has no ambition to be somebody and to do something worth while, he will barely amount to anything. A will to succeed is the first step towards success, then there must be energy, judgment, skill and perseverance. But the foundation is the purpose. Without it there need be no expectation of achievement.

Disappointment in Young Men.

Editor of Chats, Sir,—I admire your faith in young men. Week after week you keep after them to encourage them to make the most of themselves, having confidence that your advice will fall on fertile ground. You do not lose hope in them.

I must confess that I have not your trust in them. My experience with them has been disappointing. I have found almost all those of this generation that I have had dealing with, shiftless, easy-going, selfish and self-indulgent. They lack stamina. They are not animated by a masterful purpose. They coddle themselves. They are slaves of their stomachs. They can't fast. In Lent, they haven't the grit to be abstemious enough and to take wearisome exercise enough to preserve their physical integrity.

What is your confidence in them based on? Be frank—what is your experience as to them? For instance, how many of them have, to your knowledge, started a bank account in answer to your reiterated appeals to them to be thrifty and to save up their earnings? How many of them have gone to night school or taken up some course of study, in response to your suggestion? How many of them have begun a systematic course of reading? Lately you offered to procure information concerning vacant public lands for any one wanting a free homestead from the government. How many of them asked to be directed to a good farm?

Recently, too, you urged those among them who had little prospects of remunerative employment, to apply for work in the government service. How many of them wrote to the U.S. Civil Service Commission in Washington for instructions concerning the examinations for positions?

How many of them have taken up stenography, or electricity, or anything else in answer to your suggestions. How many of them have made up their mind to get married as soon as they can support a wife and find a suitable sweetheart, and have decided to make love to none but Catholic young ladies?

What have you to say of them that is good, founded on actual experience?

DOUBTING THOMAS.

In reply to the above letter it may be said that this department has abundant evidence to show that its administrators have not been wasteful and that its counsel has been widely fruitful. Our young men have good will. They have noble instincts, gentle inspirations, moral courage, and a fair measure of fortitude. Their religious training is certain to develop their conscience. They have every incentive to a high ambition. They look forward to a useful career and to the enjoyment of a Catholic home of their own. Perfection cannot be expected, especially at the start. This department knows that its young men have benefited by it. It likes them and they like it. It is sure that, taken as a class, they are on the right road, going forward and upward to all that is good.

Two Worlds.

"We don't live in the same world," said a man of his next-door neighbor. "He lives in one that is getting worse all the time; he says so. The rich are getting richer and the poor poorer, and all kinds of ruin here and there are weakening. Fraud and corruption are increasing everywhere. Old-fashioned honesty and old-time religion are dead, and as for the young people of this generation, they are all headed toward destruction. My world isn't bound in that direction. It has sin, sorrow and evil enough; that is sure, but it is fighting against them more bravely than ever before. It is a wiser, freer, more humane and better world than it was one hundred years ago."

Details.

"He is good at planning, at organizing, at starting movements, but he hates details," said one, speaking of a brilliant leader who had just dropped into other hands a project he had inaugurated with much enthusiasm. "He has no patience with minutiae."

But minutiae makes up the greater part of our life, and it is along the line of detail that success must be wrought out if at all. It is pleasant to outline great undertakings, it is easy to work while novelty and enthusiasm last, but it is the power to hold on when these are gone, the patience that presses forward through days when inspiration gives place to drudgery, which really amount to anything.

Unfortunately a distaste for details is considered by many a mark of a great mind. They "want to do something worth while," they say. But as the enterprise which show as a grand whole in the distance are all found, on near approach, to be made up of toilsome trifles, one task after another is abandoned in disgust and weariness. There is really no higher task than that of being faithfully commonplace, of doing bravely and conscientiously the common everyday duties which win no applause, attract no notice, but which yet must be perfectly, painstakingly done or bring loss and disaster. God gives no life a claim to exemption from details.

Mottoes of a Great Merchant.

Herbert Whiteley was the greatest retail merchant in London. He went to London a poor boy, with no other capital than a determination to win. He did win many millions, and was a God-fearing man. He claimed to have achieved success through resolutions always adhered to: Save the small earnings; they will make large ones. Never fail to fill an order after you have taken it; keep your word.

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Never say "I'll try," but "I will." Never hint for excuses, good or bad. If you have an idea, stick to it, use it, make it pay. You must either conquer or be conquered.

How to Keep Resolutions.

Good resolutions are made in sincerity and with a certain glow of self-approbation. In carrying them out, however, we are apt to find them irksome, and to invent some excuse for setting them aside. The excuse in many cases is soon forthcoming, and the resolutions are thrown to the winds. To provide against this result, we ought to cultivate firmness of will until it becomes a distinctive feature of our character. We ought to be slow in binding ourselves to any self-imposed duty; and before doing so, we ought to weigh all the obstacles that are likely to interfere with our fulfillment of it. But we should have no motive of convenience or interest to prevent us from carrying out to the letter the resolution we have taken.

The Smart Boy's Opportunity.

In these days farming is becoming more and more a science. It is the smart boy who stays on the farm instead of going to the city. And it is well known that when proper methods are employed the present yield will be doubled. There is not much prospect that in the next century the doctrine of Malthus will be exemplified by seeing this nation lacking for food.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

He Couldn't Conceal it After Fifty Thousand Years.

A man never knows when he is covering up his tracks; he never knows how long they will stay covered or who will come on his trail. Up in Canada, where they are digging for the new Toronto waterworks, the diggers found in the blue clay 70 feet below the water line the footprints of a gentleman who had tramped around that way some years ago. The geologists disagree as to the age. The geologists disagree as to the exact time, some holding that the freshening of the footprints indicates that it was only fifty thousand years ago, while others believe that the totemal prints indicate that it has been about one hundred thousand years since the gentleman passed that way. Not that the gentleman or to us, nobody had to sit on the fence there and wait for him fifty thousand years, even if he did happen to be late.

Describing this wonderful expose of a gentleman who quit staying out too late at night at least forty nine thousand nine hundred and ten years ago, City Inspector W. H. Cross says: "The man was over a hundred years old; he could follow one man the entire way. This is really discouraging to people who don't want other people to know where they are going, where they are or where they have been. Here this Canadian gentleman kept his trail covered for a period long enough to build the Panama Canal and Baltimore's new union station, and yet after fifty thousand years of concealment is discovered and exposed at last. Which teaches us that we, too, may make our lives sublime and departing leave behind us footprints in the sands of time—footprints that

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Who is it? Just a Friend. Who is it that scatters clouds away? Who thickly heard his night-time cry? When turns the night-time into day? When sorrow comes? A friend. Who is it that binds the wounded heart? From all your troubles and despair? Who is there to do his part, And more, too? It's a friend. Who is it that will your trials share Until the very end? From all your troubles and despair? Who is there to do his part, And more, too? It's a friend. Who is it that in joy or strife You always can depend? Who's it that will give his life If need be? It's a friend. Who wants to help you all he can? To make of you a perfect man? To make of you a friend? It is the Truest Friend.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

The Apostolate of a Choir Boy. He was a lad of but ten, gifted with so sweet a voice that he was called upon to sing most of the solos in the parish sanctuary choir. The five-long day he went about singing and bringing joy and sunshine to every one. To the people in the neighborhood he was known by no other name than that of "the Little Nightingale."

Not far from his home there lived an old shoemaker, a man who frequented the tavern more than the church. One day during catechism class the liturgical book of the teacher conclude instructions as follows:

"Children, look around you and see how many souls are being lost because they do not know God, because they do not serve Him—in a word, because they live as beasts, without prayer, without religion! Choose one of these souls and win it over to the good God, Jesus, the Divine Victim, asks this of you from the depths of His tabernacle."

"By what means shall you succeed in making this conquest? Pray to Jesus. He will give you the best weapons for this spiritual combat. To the attack, then, my children, and carry the fort by whatever means the good God may suggest to you."

Louis—such was the Little Nightingale's name—felt his heart beat with ardor, and he whispered to himself as he thought of the old shoemaker, "Here is my man." Then after a moment's reflection on the mode of attack, added, "That's it! I shall capture him and give him as a prisoner to the good God."

From that day on he made it a point to stop at the cobbler's shop every morning on his way to school. "Good morning, Father Awl," he would say in his sweet voice to the shoemaker, who was known to every one by this sobriquet. "Good morning, Little Nightingale. Sing me something."

Such was their daily greeting. Then Louis would spend about ten minutes in singing some hymn which he had prepared for the occasion, and in adroitly asking explanations of phrases here and there which he said he did not understand. Invariably he took his leave with the exclamation, "What a shame, Father Awl, that you never go to church! It is there that you can hear me sing my best."

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Our Queen of May. With the coming of the May-time Catholics all over the world gather around the shrine of the Blessed Mother of Christ in order to honor by a public demonstration her immaculate purity. This noble ideal of the spotless virgin has a profound influence on all the faithful. It fortifies their soul against the lower inclinations of nature. It uplifts their hearts. It keeps their imagination from bad thoughts. It strengthens their will to live by the aid of grace in the friendship and service of God.

Devotion to Mary, therefore, is a sign and a safeguard of innocence. A Catholic who daily invokes her protection is likely to be clean of speech, decent in action, modest, reserved, watchful of his eyes, high-minded, and fond of the company of the good. "Tush, tush, my child. You know that I have no time to go to church." "The cobbler thought he could put off the boy with this worn-out excuse, but he was mistaken."

And without appearing to notice the old man's emotion, he continued: "I thought that there couldn't be much wanting to make you a really good man, and that you would be willing to give your Little Nightingale the happiness of seeing you at Mass on Sunday."

"You are a good Little Nightingale." "Yes, I shall go to Mass. But you must pray for your old friend, for he needs it badly."

And then departed, leaving the cobbler to make his peace with God. The following day the old man, beaming with happiness, approached the altar and received his loving Saviour for the first time in thirty-eight years. "Thenceforth he lived as a model Christian, and he never wearied repeating to those who were willing to listen: "It is to Little Nightingale that I owe all the happiness of my old days."

And you, dear young reader, can you not do as much as Little Nightingale? How many souls there are to be saved? How many are waiting for you to lead them to God! And you can do it so easily. A little act of kindness, a fervent prayer to Jesus in the tabernacle, some slight sacrifice, an offering to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, or one of its kindred societies. Who can enumerate the many means at our disposal for capturing souls and being real missionaries?

To the attack, then, without delay! —P. F. Q., in Catholic Standard and Times.

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