

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

SECRETS OF SUCCESS

An excellent production entitled "Secrets of Success in Life" has just come to hand, published by a well-known editor of a publication for boys, Mr. Walter Wynn, who edits "The Young Man," in London. Such works are eminently helpful to all engaged in the struggle which modern competition forces upon all of us, no matter what our age, position or ability, and Mr. Wynn makes no trouble at all about his belief that material success in the world need not necessarily be gained at the expense or sacrifice of spiritual good. Religion, he says, is an incentive to the active life.

No matter how badly you may have fared in your battle with the world, or how long you may have looked upon and dwelt in poor circumstances, this editor tells you that you need never despair—that success can still be yours, and that the more surely so, if you will allow your mistakes of the past to guide you in your new attempt to scale the summits of success.

"I strongly advise you," says Wynn, "to be ready for the other world when you are called upon to enter it; but in the meantime it is very important that you live in this one and it may surprise you to know that when you were born into it, your work was born with you. Your head was fitted up with a perfect set of unused tools and your body was made splendidly and in such a way as to carry them about with you wherever you went. It took myself twenty-five years to realize this truth and it is only when you have said, 'I will find a way or make one,' that you know your own real worth." And the teacher goes on to quote the famous lines of Goethe:

"Are you in earnest? Seize this very minute; What you can do, or think you can, begin it!"

Mr. Wynn recommends every young man to "reverence his intuitions," that is to say, to enquire into the recurring ideas, which, for the most part of youths and young men, exercise the mind at stated periods. Also, while enquiring into the value of such ideas, it is well, he says in effect, to study and carefully weigh the value of the advice or direction which our candid friends are wont to give us when criticizing our efforts after achieving success and, above all, our methods. In such matters, it is always wise, he says, to study failure, and to welcome it as our best teacher. The world is not run as a game of chance called luck; for luck is a fool's word; weak men wait for the opportunities which they call luck; strong men make these opportunities, however, and so control their luck.

Every young man who indulges in those fits of despair which so often move men who wish to succeed, should, says Wynn, reflect wisely on the words of a man who was well known to the world of his time as a preacher. He said:

"Young man, remember when you consider your adverse circumstances as against the fair lot of others, that you are on a level now with those who are finally to succeed. You will find that those who in a generation from now are the great citizens and philanthropists of the country, the big men of their age, are now on a level with yourself, not an inch above you and in straitened circumstances now. The poorest young man among all young men who live is equipped as only the God of the whole universe could afford to equip him."

This witness, says Wynn, tells the truth; the blakest soil give the fairest flowers and poverty of circumstances is not a calamity, nor is adversity less than a blessing, as

Napoleon himself, and for his own account, once declared; for poverty and defeatism are that mysterious dawning of the soul that always survives and overcomes obstacles. And then the editor goes on to show the "economy of concentration"—how it economizes in physical strain as much as in mental effort; how it strengthens both the memory and the understanding and in every way helps the decisions of the judgment; how, above all, it promotes the true sanity in respect of all work, namely, in the matter of non-division of one's own labor, or in other words, of not attempting to do more than one thing efficiently and properly at the same time. The man of "many irons in the fire" may appeal to the sense of the heroic in men as well as to the love of the adventurous and the romantic; but it is, after all, the "one-horse" man who achieves the permanent in the hunt for success in life. But concentration is a necessary condition of real success and it is the outcome of will, a love of reaching the truth of things and faith in oneself. "I go at what I am about," said a great writer, "as if there was nothing else in the world for the time being"; and this is the true spirit of really successful endeavor, says Mr. Wynn.

Though this writer does not make any mention of it, we may recur to a remedy often practised by successful beginners, when they find themselves confronted by temperamental obstacles, such as timidity in going forward, or in attempting some work which they think to be above their strength. It was the habit of a great preacher, Father Burke, in the beginning, to try to overcome his timidity, or what we call bashfulness, by writing out on a piece of paper the reasons why he should have no reason to fear. Thus, he would reason the matter out with himself on paper; would repeat the arguments to himself and finally end up by repeating them aloud; the effect of this remedy upon the nervous system was (the Dominican admitted) what is called "suggestion." To fight melancholy, to fight the disposition to grieve, to fight the tendency to too much self-inspection even, is as much the duty of a man (says Wynn) as it is his duty to combat the evil as real as any tonic and physicians are known to advise, or the disposition towards laziness or inclinations towards dissipation. It was in such a spirit that John Wesley declared that he dared no more rest than he dared curse or swear. Enthusiasm, like concentration, is essential to success in whatever we undertake, though it is pretty obvious that the one quality includes the other. And Wynn emphasizes the lesson so often lost to youth—namely, the price of success and happiness in life must be paid and that price is—Work. In this principle alone resides the only hope of achievement, and no man has ever been exempt from the inexorable law of working in order to obtain.—N. Y. Freeman's Journal.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

LET US FORGET

When the small boy hailed his little playmate next door and caught up his cap to run out for their usual morning together, an elder member of the family said tenderly: "What! Going-out to play with him again? I thought you quarreled only last evening, and were never to have anything more to do with each other. Funny memory you have!" Jimmy looked a little abashed, dug the toe of his shoes into the carpet, and then flashed a satisfied smile as he hurried away. "Hat Roland and me's good memories to forget with, we're good forgetters."

Ever since Saint Blase has been invoked in cases of throat trouble.



Little Miss MAIDEN CANADA Registered

Here's a dainty Tid-bit—pure and delicious.

To be good forgetters of some things is a very valuable aid to happiness, neighborliness and Christianity. The best course one can possibly take with the little wrongs and differences that arise, and one's own resentful resolutions regarding them, is to forget them as speedily as possible.—St. Paul Bulletin.

STICK TO IT

Too many of the young people of today will begin a task, no matter what it may be, from the preparation of a Latin lesson to the wedding of an onion bed, do perhaps half of it, then stop and begin something else, and probably never think of it again. It is a mistake for parents to allow such proceedings on the part of their children, but it is also a mistake for the young people to allow themselves to form such habits.

Boys, don't be quitters. Persevering people are the ones who win the golden laurels of success. The great men of our country, our lawyers, our statesmen, our inventors, and many of our Presidents have achieved their greatness and built up their characters and reputations by persistently keeping at whatever they undertook. A person can never become a great writer or an orator without much perseverance in pursuing his vocation, and by setting high, and working for his aim in life.

When you have a lesson to be learned, keep at it until it is mastered. When you have a task set before you, stick to it until it is finished. Don't be a quitter.—New York Sun.

BOYS THAT SUCCEED

"A new boy came into our office today," said a wholesale grocery merchant to a wife at the supper table. "He was hired by the firm at the request of the senior member, who thought the boy gave promise of good things. But I assure that the boy will be out of the office in less than a week."

"What makes you think so?" inquired his wife. "Because the very first thing that he wanted to know was just exactly how much he was expected to do."

"Perhaps you will yet change your mind about him." "Perhaps I shall," replied the merchant, "but I do not think so."

Three days later the business man said to his wife: "About that boy you remember I mentioned two or three days ago. Well, he is the best boy who ever entered the store."

"How did you find that out?" "In the easiest way in the world. The first morning after the boy began to work he performed very faithfully and systematically the exact duties assigned him, which he had been so careful to have explained to him. When he had finished he came to me and said: 'Mr.—, I have finished all the work. Now, what can I do?'"

"I was a little surprised, but I gave him a little job of work, and forgot all about him until he came into my room with the question, 'What next?' That settled it for me. He was the first boy that ever entered our office who was willing and volunteered to do more than was assigned him. I predict a successful career for that boy as a business man."—Catholic Bulletin.

SAINT BLASE

The saint whom we honor on the 3rd of February was the Bishop of Sebaste, in Armenia. He was arrested by order of Licinius, in the year 316, and cruelly put to death. His only crime was his refusal to honor the pagan gods.

The story is told that on his way to prison he met a poor woman bearing in her arms a child who had swallowed a fish bone. The distracted woman laid the child at the foot of the bishop, who painfully lifted his mangled hands and blessed him. The little fellow jumped up and cried for joy, and the mother kissed the feet of the holy man, and bathed them with her tears.

Ever since Saint Blase has been invoked in cases of throat trouble.

THE MOTHER'S EXAMPLE

Christian mothers have a dignity and position in the family they should recognize. The very center from which radiates good or evil influence in the home is the mother. What she is may be taken as an index of what the family either is or will be. True to the cares of motherhood, scrupulous in the performance of household duties, exact in the observance of her religious obligations, she moulds the lives of her children in the ways of love and justice, says the Boston Pilot.

Too often mothers forget that theirs is a sublime mission. They are oblivious to the immense good to be accomplished by the force of their example. They do not realize that the plastic mind of the child is open to impressions which are bound to be lasting. If these are lofty and ennobling the soul of the child will be grooved from infancy and mature age will find him obedient to the voice of conscience, just to his fellow men and loyal to his religion.

Christian mothers will not leave to others what they themselves should do. Realizing that the child is a most sacred trust, they will bend every effort to educate him in the fear and love of God. To shirk this duty is a matter of grave concern, and one that may be sorrowful fruits in later years.

Not only is the mother's influence felt in the care and attention bestowed upon the child, but many an

indifferent husband has been converted to zeal for God and religion by the inspiring example of a true and devoted wife. Evil example on the part of the wife has, likewise, brought many a husband to the very depths of degradation.

That mothers reflect upon their great dignity and realize the place they occupy in the eyes of God is the exhortation of His Holiness Pope Benedict XV. In a recent address to Christ as mothers in whom the husband or son may fail to admire a perfect conformity in her whole life and what she asks from them. Let Christian mothers reflect that by their words they are but sowing the good seed in the hearts of their children, but that if the seed is to live and bear ripe fruit, it must be developed by the light and warmed by the heat of good example.

THE FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION

By Father Abraham Ryan In "A Crown for Our Queen"

Forty days after the birth of Jesus, His blessed Mother accompanied by Joseph went up to the Temple for her purification and His presentation.

Unless as Mary was there was no real need for her compliance with the ceremony of purification as there had been no need of our Lord's subjecting Himself to the rite of circumcision. They complied with the requirements of the law in order to leave us an example of obedience. And besides the mystery of her Motherhood and the divinity of the child were in this way to remain unrevealed. Mary the child of the Temple reenters its gates a Virgin Mother bearing in her arms the everlasting God. Joseph carried the turtle doves as humble offerings. Never had God received such homage in heaven or on earth as when Mary presented her child in the Temple. It was an infinite offering and the little Christ gave to His Father in that hour infinite homage.

Into the Temple, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit came the aged Simeon, a just man and devout, who had been waiting for the consolation of Israel. For it has been revealed to him that before death he would see with his own eyes the Lord's Christ. Mary he had known in the days of her childhood. He had been present at her presentation. A great joy filled his aged heart. He took the child in his trembling arms, and blessed God. And then his voice arose in song: "Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word in peace. Because my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to the revelation of the gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel."

Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary the Mother: "Behold this child is set up for the ruin and resurrection of many in Israel and for a sign that shall be contradicted; and thy own soul a sword shall pierce that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed." Simeon read in prophetic vision the whole future history of the child and he tells it to the Mother; for she is to be involved in it—to be part and portions of it. Anna the prophetess also entered the Temple and gave thanks to the Lord. There were listeners in the Temple—but they did not understand Simeon's song and prophecy and Anna's blessing. The wondrous beauty of the young mother, the resemblance between her face and that of the child anointing in her arms, the gentleness of Joseph; all this attracted their attention; but though they were almost touching the mystery of mysteries they knew not how. How often are we face to face with the supernatural and it passes us by unheeded? Are we not surrounded by mysteries, sacraments, facts above nature filling all hours and somehow we seem blind to their presence? Are we not dwelling in the awful eternity, whereness of God from first to last of life half the while heedless of the mystery?

So they in the Temple—the lookers on—in the day of Mary's purification and Christ's presentation stood in the shadows of the supernatural; but they went there with merely passing wondering remarks upon Mary and Joseph and the child. And Mary went her way; the sharp point of the sword of sorrow entering her heart; but as day follows day it will sink deeper until her soul shall be transfixed with sorrow. The Mother of the victim must also be a victim. "The Man of sorrow" must have a mother of sorrow. Few of the joys of their lives, but countless and intense the pang. She saw, in spirit, every footstep of Christ until the nailing of the feet on Calvary. No wonder that the sorrowful hasten to the Mother of Sorrows; She can compassionate our sorrows every pang because she suffered them all. And where the Mother of sorrow is with her will be found the Man of Sorrows; Mother and child together. Seven great mysteries of sorrow divide the days of her life. On the second day of February, Holy Church who is also a virgin mother, keeps the feast of Mary's purification. But all the days of all the years our beautiful Church holds festivals of Purification. The Bride of the Lamb forever, her mission is to purify the world of error and sin. The gates of her temples are ever open that those who may need to be purified may enter and be cleansed. The ceremony of purification never

ceases. At the baptismal font—from the pulpit, in the confessional, on the altar the purifying power is always active.

Blessed are they who needing to be purified come in imitation of Mary, who, though not in need of it went up to the Temple in obedience to the law. And then to each of us the Saviour with the gentleness of a child and the mercy of a God will be presented. Once He presented Him to the Father; but now her love is to present Him to sinners in the hours of their purification.

PROFANITY

Profanity is not an accomplishment although ignorance has so often grinned at it that some reckless thinkers believe that they do not measure to their full height until they have learned how to pollute their speech.

A gentleman is never profane; for he will not disregard the rights of others by abusing their ears and shocking their sensibilities.

It is said of General Grant that when he was in the field one of his staff officers approached him to quote a volley of half-drunken and wholly profane language used by a soldier. The officer prefaced his purpose by remarking "Are there any ladies around?" "No," said Grant, "but there are gentlemen." Needless to say the story was like Macbeth's amen—it stuck in the throat of the would-be entertainer.

Profanity has become a public nuisance. It crowds the street. It never strikes itself with the thought that the bark of a mad dog is far more musical than the bray of an ass. It never considers that it is a trespasser on the sidewalk.

When an officer (as sometimes happens) whose purpose it should be to see that peace is preserved so makes inroads through profanity upon the good order of society, a fine should be a promise of a discharge from public service.

When the stage volunteers to insult its patrons by believing that they think profanity to be wit, the people owe it to their own respectability, not to say education or decency, to let the stage know that it is a long cry from originality to vulgarity. A drivelling idiot can be profane, but true wit is the thought of genius.

In a Catholic, profanity is detestable. The tongue that touches the Holy Eucharist should never be as an adder's fang tipped with poison. When the stage volunteers to insult its patrons by believing that they think profanity to be wit, the people owe it to their own respectability, not to say education or decency, to let the stage know that it is a long cry from originality to vulgarity. A drivelling idiot can be profane, but true wit is the thought of genius.

The question here presents itself, what should we do when we hear the name of our Lord profaned? Of one of the readiest and most eloquent rebukes possible is for a man to quietly and reverently take off his hat in veneration, and so he will punish the defamer and make ready atonement for the insult given to our Divine Master.—The Parish Monthly.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

What's in a name? Not much, any more, says the Brooklyn Tablet. Thomas Mulry, president of the Emigrants' Bank of New York, tells of going to the Tombs prison and seeing an Irish Catholic name over a cell, stopped to speak to the prisoner. Judge of his surprise to find the owner of the name a typical Jew of New York. Indignant, Mr. Mulry said: "Say, friend, don't you know that the two races, the Irish and the Jew, are the only ones in New York that are suffering from prejudice? Why did you give an Irish Catholic name. It is an injustice to the race!" "That's so," said the Jew. The next time I am arrested, I will give a good Yankee name."

SOMETHING LACKING

An English Protestant dignitary, writing some years ago in a high church periodical on the past and present condition of missionary efforts in India, found little hope for Protestant missions unless they could enlist the help of a body such as the Christian Brothers. Dr. Gore, the well known Anglican Bishop of Oxford, pays a hearty tribute of admiration to the Brothers and to the other Catholic teaching institutions in his recently published book "The War and the Church."

"You know that many besides Macaulay have reproached our English church for lack of self sacrifice, and have contrasted it with the Church of Rome, in which they have seen altogether more of the same heroic spirit which belongs to soldiers. They have not denied us the glory of kindness and goodness and faithfulness and all the circle of domestic virtues; only they have not seen in us the school of the heroic spirit—the school of sacrifice. Now, in part, these reproaches belong to an older day. . . . Nevertheless there is truth in the reproach aimed at us. . . . The Roman Church has been magnificently helped in the maintenance of religious education on its own lines, because it has been able to draw upon a vast store of voluntary sacrifice. Men have been found in multitudes who felt that they had the vocation to be teachers for Christ's sake and His little ones, and who, without hope or prospect but their work and their faith, have given themselves

for teachers, wanting nothing for it but their barest living. There is hardly anything in modern Christendom nobler or more successful in attaining its end than the institution of the Christian Brothers, and the women's teaching orders do not fall

behind them. Why have we never struck anything like this store of deliberate and joyful sacrifice, with all our talk about the supreme importance of religious education? There has been something lacking."—Truth

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