

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

TO ERIN

The flowers of the garden may perish forever, An' trees of the forest be blighted for aye, Tho' friends of young manhood, thro' sorrow may sever, Here's one pledge I give you, dear Erin, today; When bigots speak ill of the Gam of the Ocean, Or sneer at thy sons, most valiant and true, I'll keep, darling Erin, a wealth of devotion, Secure in my heart, Mavourneen, for you. Tho' life may be burdened with keenest of sorrow, And no word of kindness be tendered to me, I would not, acushla, e'en wait for the morrow, To lay down my life for the loving of thee. Then raise thy proud head, an' stop the tears flowin', A million stars ready with hearts about an' true, They need but the word, their faces glowin', And each has a place in his heart, dear, for you.

—JOHN S. OMBRY

QUALITIES OF SALESMANSHIP

Charles M. Schwab, in the American Magazine, makes this notable statement:

"Integrity is one of the mightiest factors in salesmanship. If you have a reputation for stating facts exactly, for never attempting to gain momentary advantage through exaggeration, you possess the basis of all successful salesmanship.

"Next to integrity comes personality, that indefinable charm that gives to men what perfume gives to flowers. Many of us think of salesmen as people traveling around with sample kits. Instead we are all salesmen every day of our lives. We are selling our ideas, our plans, our energies, our enthusiasms to those with whom we come in contact. Thus the man of genial presence is bound to accomplish much more under similar conditions than the man without it. If you have personality, cherish it; if you have not, cultivate it, for personality can be cultivated, although the task is not easy."—Catholic Columbian.

THE WINTER EVENINGS

By Rev. Charles Plater, S. J.

The following timely words apply with equal force to our Catholic young men: What about them? Well, they are here. Our clocks have been put forward (or is it back? I never remember,) and we are plunged in darkness when our day's work is done.

Of course there are cinemas and billiard tables and cards. But my point is this. If all the Catholic men and women in England were resolved to make the best use of their evenings this winter, we should be a long way forward towards the conversion of our social problems.

A great number of men and women will be studying this winter. But the important thing is that Catholics should study with enthusiasm. For they have the solution of the problems that distract the world today, and only by study can they master that solution and deliver their message to the world.

No doubt you will read a certain amount this winter in any case. But what will you read? If only sporting papers or the daily press or trashy novels, you will be no wiser next spring than you are at present. You will have wasted your time and helped spoil yourself and deprive yourself of the power of thinking. On the other hand, use this winter well and you will make a great step in advance. You will be wiser, happier, more useful, able to influence others to good. Knowledge is power. Get hold of something this winter onto which your mind can bite.

Know, if you like, a little about many things. But, above all, know a great deal about one definite thing. Master it. Make it your own. Get hold of it. Be able to drive it home to others. Then people will listen to you. They will feel that you are not just repeating other people's opinions. Get hold of a good "baby" text-book, such as Monsignor Parkinson's "Primer of Social Science," and read it steadily, bit by bit. Read and re-read. Be sure that one chapter is well hammered in before you go on to the next. Get to know your way about the book. Carry it about in your pocket and pore over it when you get a spare five minutes. And resolve to give an hour to it on two evenings a week.

If you can get three or four friends to form a study club with you, so much the better. Of course it wants a little pluck and resolution. But anyone can do it if he really wants to. And when you have made some progress you will find it extraordinarily interesting. You will look forward to your study evenings, as so many men tell me that they do. You will find that on every topic the Catholic Church has something definite to say. Your mind will be able to disentangle the middle of foolish and false. You will no longer be taken in by the wordy nonsense of the daily papers. You will form solid opinions and be able to give reasons for them.

Let us all join in a great campaign of social study this winter. Never mind if you do not get much encouragement. Never mind if you find your reading stiff to begin with. Persevere. You are not working merely for yourself. You are working for a great cause. Have patience and you will see the results.

Whenever I go round lecturing I am struck by the great amount of splendid material waiting to be shaped; the intelligent Catholic young men who could do so much if they were encouraged and trained. No one has shown them the way. No one has given them a helping hand, or dropped a spark that would fire their ambition and give them confidence. They simply do not know the value of education. They drift with the stream because they have not been shown how to steer their own course. They are diffident. Some of our best scholars and speakers today had that same diffidence. There was ambition lurking in their hearts, and it was given scope and grew with a vigorous growth. We see the results today.—London Catholic Times.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

If all the good people were clever, And all that are clever were good, The world would be better than ever We thought that it possibly could. But alas! it is seldom or never These two "hit it off" as they should. For the good are so harsh to the clever, The clever so rude to the good.

GOOD MANNERS

Stand by your chair quietly until after grace has been said and the hostess sits down. If grace has not been said and others seat themselves, quietly make the sign of the cross and say your own grace, with bowed head, after you are seated. Take what is offered you, and even if you are not fond of it, eat a little if possible; leave what you cannot eat, but make no remarks about it. Do not forget to say "If you please" and "I thank you."

EVERYBODY LIKES

The boy who never makes fun of old age, no matter how decrepit or unfortunate or evil it may be. God's hands rest lovingly on the aged head. The boy who never cheats or is unfair in his play. Cheating is contemptible anywhere and at any age. His play should strengthen, not weaken, his character.

JUVENILE CRIME

Parents held accountable for children's offenses. It cannot be doubted that juvenile crime is increasing at an alarming rate in our country, especially in the large cities. The juvenile courts are kept busy disposing of all kinds of cases in which young people, boys and girls, are the offenders against the laws of the land. These cases range from petty larceny, for example, to highway robbery, and even murder.

OUR EPIPHANY

The Feast of the Epiphany, which the Church celebrates on January 6, is of peculiar interest to the Gentile peoples. As the name signifies, it is the Feast of the Manifestation of God to His Gentile children. In the early days the Nativity of Our Lord was celebrated on this day and even the Feast of the Epiphany did not lose its glory.

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We derive various bits of biography: "Benjamin Franklin produced electricity by rubbing cats backward." "Andrew Jackson was called Old Hickory because when he was a boy he was a little tough." "George Washington married Mary Curtis and in due time became the father of his country."

Definitions of this and that: "A deacon is the lowest kind of Christian." "The Pharisees were people who liked to show of their goodness by praying in synagogues." "An ibex is where you look in the back part of the book when you want to find anything that is printed in the front part of the book."

FATHER AND SON AS CHUMS

COMPANIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MAN AND BOY WILL RESULT IN INESTIMABLE GOOD

Charles F. Powlish in the Echo

The four-year old son of a friend of mine was once asked what he intended to be when he grew up. He was silent for a moment. Then looking up with great earnestness, he said, "Well, I think, when I'm grown up, I'll hunt around and pick up a lot of sticks and build a house with 'em, and be a father."

BREATHES THERE THE MAN

Breathes there the man with soul so dead Who never to himself hath said, This is my own, my native land; Whose heart hath not been within him burned,

A RETROSPECT

The year 1920 will go down in history as one of those pivotal years that mark the close of one epoch and the beginning of another. Perhaps it is too much to compress into twelve months, the whole process of readjustment from war to peace, but taking the years that followed the Great War separately, 1920 will be found to contain the period of greatest transformation.

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throw a ray of light into family life; they point to homes where parents are unfaithful in their duty to their children, or too ignorant themselves to fulfill these duties. — The Echo.

sweet simplicity in their words to Herod: "We have seen His Star in the East and we are come to adore Him." Through the wondering crowd they pass out of the city of Jerusalem and wend their joyful way to the little village of Bethlehem. The faithful Star points the way and they stop not in their journey till it brightly shines on the stable outside the City of Bread. With childlike faith they enter and kneeling down offer their kingly gifts to Him who is born King of all creation.

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THE CAUSE OF HIS JOY

"Twas eventide. The small lad stood on the bridge slapping his hands vigorously. Beyond the brow of the hill a dull red glow suffused the sky.

"Ah, little boy," remarked the stranger, who was a little near-sighted, "it does my heart good to see you appreciate your cloud effect."

"Yes, sir," replied the lad. "I've been watching it for ten minutes."

Upon the boy's face there appeared a smile of perfect bliss.

"A real poet without a doubt, and do you watch the sunsets often little boy?"

"Sunsets? Why, that ain't a sunset gov'nor, that's the village school-house burning down."

To pray, to give, to suffer—these are the resolutions of my retreat, wrote an old man; see how I can still be of a little use.—Golden Sands.

The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well and doing well whatever you do well, without a thought of fame.—Longfellow.

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