

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

Is it too late? Nay, nothing is too late.

Till the heart shall cease to palpitate.

Cato learned Greek at eighty; Sophocles at ninety.

Wrote his grand Oedipus and Simionides.

Bore off the prize of verse from his compeers.

When each had numbered more than four score years;

And Theophrastus at four score and ten.

Had but begun his Characters of Men.

Chaucer at Woodstock with the nightingales.

At sixty wrote the Canterbury Tales.

Goethe, at Weimar, toiling to the last.

Completed Faust when eighty years were past.

What, then—Shall we sit idly down and say

The night hath come; it is no longer day?

The night hath not yet come. We are not quite

Cut off from labor by the falling light.

Something remains for us to do and dare;

Even the oldest trees some fruit may bear.

For age is opportunity no less

Than youth itself, though in another dress;

And as the evening twilight fades away

The sky is filled with stars invisible by day.

H. W. LONGFELLOW

WHAT INTERESTS YOU MOST?

Have you ever squeezed asked yourself, "What are the things I am most interested in?" It is a question you might find worth putting—especially if you have to confess that you have not been succeeding in your chosen vocation as you had hoped you would.

That vocation ought to be about as interesting to you as anything could be. Is it? Or do you look upon it merely as a means to the necessary end of earning a living?

Are you more interested in the amusements of your leisure hours?

Are you so interested in let us say, the theatre or the "movies" that you go to the theatre or "movies" at every opportunity, perhaps stealing time from your work to do this?

Are you so interested in dancing that you count that week lost which does not see you in attendance at two or three dances?

I sincerely trust that self-examination will not compel you to acknowledge yourself among these poor people dominated not exactly by unworthy interests, but at all by events interests hardly worthy of anything resembling enthusiasm.

And, on the other hand, I trust that self-examination will not show you to yourself as belonging to the equally numerous group of people who are really interested in nothing whatsoever.

If you are one of these luckless wights, bestir yourself to develop a keener interest in something—most of all in your work. And bestir yourself likewise to gain a keener interest in your work if your life is motivated by obsessive interests outside it.

Otherwise you will always lag, always be outdistanced. Life's winners are those—and only those—who sense the delight of constructive achievement and find voice in their work above all things as offering them a sure means for constructive achievement. —Catholic Columbian.

CHARACTER AND REPUTATION

Character represents what you are; reputation, what others think you are. The one is internal, personal, subjective, while the other is something that comes from without; it is strictly objective.

At times these two qualities are interchangeable. This happens with a good man universally admired, or a bad man universally despised. Such cases in the concrete, however, are rare; since the very best men have their enemies, while the worst are loved by some one.

The importance of the distinction lies in the fact that many persons direct their energy to building up a reputation, obvious of the poor foundation upon which they labor. Their efforts are devoted to deceiving the outside world with regard to their real nature; endeavoring to conceal their failings and to expose their apparently good qualities to the gaze of others. Such a process usually succeeds to some extent, depending chiefly upon the kind of people whom they wish to blind. Thus, a politician, a business man, often will do to construct a reputation for probity and uprightness, while at the same time he may be the veriest weakling, needing but an opportunity to expose the sham that surrounds him.

Character is something deep. It springs from the innermost soul. Good or bad may flow forth from the tapped well. Whatever the product may be, it forms character. There are in every community men who are rotten within but in some way or other have succeeded in rearing the structure of a respectable reputation. This is the shield behind which they send forth their poisoned arrows to pierce many an honest soul or to hide their shame. The reputation itself may be based upon

apparent honesty, candor, cleverness or even religion. In every case the result is the same; depravity within, fairness without, after the manner of the proverbial whitened sepulcher.

It is well to remember that God cares naught for your reputation; the opinion others may entertain of you, of your work or your worth, means absolutely nothing to Him. Character is the sole basis upon which you must stand or fall; character, pure, true and unblemished. Persons eager and yearning for notoriety, or as it is called today, publicity, often prostitute character to base selfishness. The man worth while is the one who, in spite of adversity, misrepresentation or calumny, still retains his independence of character and remains the captain of his own soul. This nothing can take from him, for it depends upon himself alone. —Catholic Bulletin.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

STICK TO IT

Stick to it, boy.

Through the thick and the thin of it

Work for the joy

That is born of the din of it.

Failures beset you,

But don't let them fret you;

Dangers are lurking,

But just keep on working.

If it's worth while and you're sure

Of the right of it,

Stick to it, boy, and make a real

fight of it.

Stick to it, lad.

Be not frail and afraid of it;

Stand to the gad

For the man to be made of it.

Deaf to the sneering,

And blind to the jeering,

Willing to master

The present disaster.

Stick to it, lad, through the trial

and test of it,

Patience and courage will give you

the best of it.

Stick to it, youth.

Be not sudden to fly from it;

This is the truth.

Triumph may not far lie from it.

Dark is the morning

Before the sun's dawning,

Battered and sore of it

Be not more of it.

Stick to it, even though blacker

than ink it is,

Victory's nearer perhaps, than you

think it is.

—EDGAR A. GUEST

THE KIND OF A LAD THAT EVERYONE ADMIRES

About one boy in fifty will remain after the feast and, of his own accord offer to help clear the things up or to wash the dishes.

Do you know this Fiftieth Boy?

There are forty-nine boys who are seeking jobs; the job seeks the Fiftieth Boy.

The Fiftieth Boy makes glad the heart of his parents.

The Fiftieth Boy smooths the wrinkles out of his teacher's forehead and takes the worry out of her mind.

All the grouches and sour faces brighten when they see the Fiftieth Boy coming, for he is brave and cheery.

The Fiftieth Boy makes a confidant of his mother and a companion of his father, even though he does not like to.

He does not lie, steal nor tattle, because he does not like to.

When he sees a banana peel on the sidewalk, where it is liable to cause some one to slip and fall, or a piece of glass in the road where it may puncture a tire, he picks it up. The forty-nine think it's none of their business.

The Fiftieth Boy is a good sport. He does not whine when he loses. He does not sulk when another wins the prize. He does not cry when he is hurt.

He is respectful to all women and girls.

He is not afraid to do right nor ashamed to be decent.

He looks you straight in the eye.

He tells the truth, whether the consequences to him are unpleasant or not.

He is not a "sissy," but he stands up straight and is honest.

Forty-seven out of the forty-nine like him.

He is as pleasant toward his own sister as toward the sisters of other fellows.

He is not sorry for himself.

He works as hard as he plays.

Everybody is glad to see him.

Do you have that kind of a boy at your house?

If not, don't complain, there are not enough of them to go around. —The Echo.

THE QUALITY OF BEING GRATEFUL

"There's one nice thing about Martha," she is appreciative of everything you do for her. It is always "I thank you," or "you are so kind," or "how good you are," no matter what you do for her."

These words fell upon my ear one day in a railroad car. I do not know who the Martha referred to was, but I do know that she was a person who had the good quality of being gratefully appreciative of all the kindness shown her. It was interesting in what the other one of the two women seated behind me said, and it was this:

"I suppose that Esther is just as appreciative as Martha, but she never says so. That kind of appreciation isn't very satisfactory is it?"

"It certainly is not," said the other woman. "To my way of thinking appreciation that never finds expression in a single word is not much better than no apprecia-

tion at all. Give me the spoken word when it comes to appreciation!"

Silent appreciation of what others do for us is truly of little value. It warms no hearts. It gives no pleasure. Often it creates a kind of heart hunger. Many mothers know what that heart hunger is. They never know it more keenly than when their children show no appreciation of what mother does for them. The unspoken word is never more unardonable than when it fails to give expression to the gratitude due a mother or a father. Unfortunately the mother who can say of her children: "They never speak a word of appreciation no matter what I do for them."

The mother who can say this must experience a great deal of heaviness of heart. She is being deprived of that which is her due, of that which should be given to her gratefully and joyfully. The unspoken word of gratitude or appreciation may be classed with the sharp utterances of those who continually say disagreeable things, but who "mean well." One is about as excusable as the other. "They don't mean anything by it," is the poorest excuse that can be offered for ill temper and unkind ways, and to give a person credit for "feeling grateful" when not a word of gratitude is ever spoken is a feeble excuse for a serious omission.

I can say this of my children: They always appreciated what their mother did for them and they told me so. That made the doing for them easy. And they keep on showing their appreciation by being so good to me now that I am old. There is nothing they are not willing to do for me."

The unspoken word did not obtain in that home. It should never obtain in any home, nor will it when the appreciation is all that it should be. There is an old song beginning with these lines:

"For the word you did not say
My heart it goes a-hungering."
—Catholic Columbian.

CANADIAN NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

Franciscan Convent,
964 Dorchester St. West,
Montreal, January 26, 1922.

To the International Travel Agencies,
Thos. Cook & Son, 526 St.
Catherine St., West, Montreal.

Gentlemen: You are organizing this year a new Pilgrimage to the principal sanctuaries of Europe, on the occasion of the XXVth International Eucharistic Congress which will take place in Rome during the next month of May, and also on the occasion of the Oberammergau Passion Play.

I have been in a position, last year, to notice, through personal experience, while Director of the Franciscan Pilgrimage "Lourdes-Rome-Assise," the power and the exceptional influence of your organization: all the doors, as though by enchantment, open themselves before Cook's Agents; the special convenience of your numerous offices which allow all your travellers to settle definitely while travelling, any business which might happen during a long voyage—the facility with which you comply to the legitimate desires of the members of your voyages, who, for certain reasons, wish to modify, even during the journey, the regular itinerary; the excellent choice of hotels and vehicles that your extended ramifications allow you to offer to your travellers. Our pilgrims also had but pleasure and congratulations for you on account of your broadness of mind, the loyalty that you have displayed while interpreting the clauses of the voyage contract; the perfect honorability, the obliging politeness and the thorough devotion manifested to them everywhere by your Agents, and in particular the two "Couriers" especially in charge of our pilgrimage which accompanied us since our arrival in Liverpool up to our embarkment in Antwerp, who were continually at our disposal to render us every possible assistance. I am happy to have an occasion to give you here a public testimonial of my satisfaction as well as that of my 70 pilgrims.

While conferring upon you the title of "Pontifical Travel Agencies" authorizing you at the same time to place on your documents the proper coat-of-arms, the regretted Pontiff Benedict XVth, although not wanting to suppress other appreciable activities, certainly had in mind to grant to you a special testimony of his benevolence, giving the same time to the travellers and Catholic pilgrims a certain guarantee that whenever they trust themselves to your Agencies, their choice was certainly clear and sure. I sincerely wish the most complete success for your pilgrimage of 1922 and I associate myself to you with all my heart and spirit.

Kindly accept, Gentlemen, the homage of my devoted sentiments and the assurance of my high consideration.

(Signed)
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