

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

Sunshine.
The power of a sunny soul, a man who carries sunshine in his very presence, to transform the most trying situation in life, to light up the way even in the darkest gloom, is beyond all power to compute.
The world loves the sunny soul, the man who carries his holidays in his very eye; whose face is a pleasure-ground. The magic power of the sunshine man to transform the most trying situation in life is worth more than a fortune in money. There is a great medicinal value also in good cheer. A patient about to undergo a serious operation stands a better chance of regaining his lost health if he is cheerful and optimistic than one who dwells on the pain he is about to endure and who figures out what it feels like to die in agony.

What a wonderful thing it is to be able to carry one's sunshine with him, to cast a glow of brightness and joy upon every condition of life! The power to transmute gloom into gladness, the mirth-provoking faculty, is worth everything to the youths who are starting out to make their own way in the world. They pass through life with much less friction; they carry a talisman that will make them welcome wherever they go.

The determination to be kind and helpful to everyone, to be cheerful and optimistic no matter what comes to us, is one of the noblest of ambitions. The persistent effort to give everybody a lift whenever possible, to make everybody we come in contact with a little better off for the contact, to radiate sunshine, cheer, hope, good will, to scatter flowers as we go along, to enjoy each day, to live the present to its utmost and not to wait for tomorrow before we begin to enjoy, this it is that opens wide the door to happiness.

Happiness is a question of heart and not money. It is mind and heart and not things that make the joy of living.

I know children who are so poor that they have never known such things as toys, as most children have them; they never have dolls or toys of any kind except what they themselves make, and yet some of these children are as happy as the birds. Put them on the street, or in a garret bare of toys, and they will find plenty of things with which to play and to amuse themselves. These children sometimes make me ashamed of the fact that I have not found this same secret of enjoyment in an education or in achievement. They often make me ashamed that they have something which I have not, that they have retained something which I have lost.

I know people, in middle life, who have not a thousand dollars in property or money, in the world, and yet they have managed to hold on to the secret of gladness and joy. They know how to be happy. They are infinitely happier than some rich people who do not look to mind but to things for their happiness.

It is a pitiable object in the world, it is the person who has sinned on life, who has become cynical, and who sees only the crooked, the ugly, the discordant and the bad.

Cheerfulness is a sign of sanity. It is the person who has no laughter, no fun in his nature, the person who becomes morose and melancholy who is in danger of losing his balance.—Success.

Turning Back for Want of Grit.

Most lives are filled with half finished tasks which were begun with enthusiasm but which have been dropped because the enthusiastic beginners did not have enough grit to carry them to a conclusion. How easy it is to start a thing when the mind is aglow with zeal, before disappointment has dulled ambition! It does not take much ability to begin a thing, and we can not estimate a man by the number of things he commences. We do not judge him by his speed at the beginning of the race, it is the home stretch that counts. The test of character is in a man's ability to persist in what he undertakes until he adds the finishing stroke. He must have persistence and grit enough to carry him under the line at the last heat. The ability to hold on is one of the rarest of human virtues. There are plenty who will go with the crowd, and who will work hard as long as they can hear the music, but when the majority have dropped out, when others have turned back, and a man feels himself alone fighting for a principle, it takes a very different order of ability to persist. This requires grit and stamina.

Look out for the period in your life when you are tempted to turn back! There is the danger point, the decisive period. All the great things of history have been accomplished after the great majority of men would have turned back.

Nearly every invention which has emancipated man from a slavery, given him comfort and better facilities, was made possible only by the man of superior grit and persistence. Not one man in ten thousand would have endured the suffering, the deprivation, the heartrending poverty of Elias Howe to make the sewing machine possible. The world owes nearly all its great things to those who have persisted when others have given up. Look out for a man who everybody else calls him a fool for not letting go!

It is pitiable to see a young man with robust health and good education wavering when an obstacle confronts him, doubting whether he will go on or turn back. You may gain a certain amount of success without education, without culture and without brilliancy, but you can not do much without stamina, staying power and clear grit. Grit has always been more than a match for any handicap. The great achievers have ever substituted grit for good opportunity or lack of early advantages.

More young men have achieved success in life, with grit as capital, than with money capital to start with. The whole history of achievement shows that grit has overcome the direst poverty; it has been more than a

match for life-long invalidism.—Sue Oess.

The Young Man's Chances.
Some discontented ones will tell you young men, that the more labor-saving devices human intelligence produces the smaller are your chances of success. This is the dismal plaint of shortsighted, small-souled pessimism. Beware of it.
It was considered a labor saving device to build the steamship, but the steamship has brought the whole world into four very close and compact corners. It was considered a labor saving device to build the locomotive, but the locomotive takes you to the open plains, the fertile valleys and the gold-lined mountain sides, so you can reach the harvests of the Almighty, which, had you had relied on your tired legs, could never have been gained.—Montana Catholic.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

One Secret of Success.

In the opening weeks of the school year the temptation often arises to give up this or that study of the course selected. The work is new, the studies are heavy, and the student thinks that by dropping certain branches there will be an end to the weariness and anxiety which weigh upon her. But unless under the direction of those charged with the guidance of the students work, one should think long and seriously before dropping out of any of the classes.
Patient and persevering effort will lessen the difficulties to be overcome, the hours will gradually adjust themselves and before many weeks the reward of persistency will be reaped.
Fra Albertus gives very good advice sometimes, and here is a bit of his counsel especially applicable to students. He says:

"Everything gives way before the firm persistent thought."

All success comes in the same way—through firm, calm and persistent thought. Opposition grows tired, hate gives way, fury subsides, and the man marches through open gates into the eternal city of fine minds.

"Know what you want to do, hold the thought firmly, and do every day what should be done, and every sunset will see you that much nearer your goal. Violence is transient, hate consumes itself and is blown away by the winds of heaven, jealousy dies, but the righteous thought is a pressure before which malice is powerless."

Success is for those who deserve it, faith will remove mountains of trouble, and nature is on the side of those who put their trust in her. Hubbard speaks of it in faith in self, which is a good thing to have; to win true success one must not forget that "every best gift and every perfect gift is from above."—St. Mary's Chimes.

Gave Her Life Savings.

The greatest contribution ever made to foreign missions, considered from the viewpoint of self-sacrifice, was that contributed by Mary Matthews, amounting to thirty cents. Miss Matthews, who was hopelessly crippled, unable to walk, her body and limbs contorted into hideous shapes by St. Vitus' dance and paralysis, was placed in the county poor farm December 2, 1867, at the age of five years, remaining there until death considerably relieved her from her suffering on March 7, 1865. All the money that was ever given to her during all of the time she was an inmate of the poor house she carefully placed in a little bank, and on her death bed gave this bank into the keeping of Charles Hackett of the Walnut street church, the contents to be used in the work for foreign missions.

No one who ever visited her will ever forget the pitiable condition she presented. Although her body was contorted with pain and shaken with the disease that never allowed a moment's repose on the part of any of the muscles, she was of a very cheerful spirit and of a very religious nature. Very frequently she would be found in the middle of the night singing gospel hymns and her hold upon things divine was so secure that she never permitted herself to be peevish or fretful, notwithstanding she was undoubtedly the greatest sufferer and the most pitiable cripple in all the world.—The Missionary.

First Impressions.

The impressions we make upon others rebound upon ourselves either pleasantly or unpleasantly as the case may be, for we cannot expect to make friends if we are not friendly, or to receive kindness and courtesy if we show neither. When our good qualities are hidden away by ourselves as are diamonds in a mine we cannot expect strangers to know of their existence or be disappointed if they do not display a desire to search for them.

Even in the outside of our homes and the way we keep them as first impressions go a long way. If a house has a forelorn and uncared for appearance, with dirty windows, crumpled curtains and blinds pulled up crookedly and anyhow, we at once come to the conclusion that the mistress of it is careless and neglectful and are not the least surprised that the servant who answers the front door has grimy hands, a soiled apron and a disheveled head of hair. It is just the same with

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Some Boy's Mistakes.

It is a mistake for a boy to think that a dashing, swaggering manner will commend him to others. The fact is that the quiet, modest boy is much more in demand than the boy of the swaggering type. More than one boy has lessened his chances of success in life by acquiring in boyhood a pert, smart, dashing manner, particularly offensive to men of real intelligence and refinement. Modesty is as admirable a trait in a man as in a woman, and the wise boy will find it to his distinct advantage to be quiet and modest in manner.

It is a mistake for a boy to put too high an estimate on his own wisdom. He will find it to be to his advantage to rely on the far greater wisdom of those much older than himself.

It is a mistake for a boy to feel at any time in all the days of his boyhood that it is not his duty to be respectful and deferential to his father and mother. The noblest men in the world have felt this to be their duty not only in boyhood, but when their boyhood days were far behind them. It is a bad sign when a boy begins to show signs of disrespect to his parents.—The Leader.

THE CHILDREN OF ENEMIES.

If the Catholic Church were not one of the most conservative forces in the world, the fact that a daughter of the late Senator Thurman, of Ohio, has become a convert would provoke columns of editorial comment. So far we have noticed, however, none of our esteemed contemporaries appear in the least surprised.

Senator Thurman, as is well known, was scarcely a friend of the Church. Unless we mistake, it was he who urged that it would never do to nominate the late Richard P. Bland of Missouri; as a candidate for the Presidency because his wife was a Catholic.

Now, ten years later the Senator's own daughter is a Catholic. And yet the fact is not startling. Catholics have grown accustomed to such remarkable occurrences.

For instance Luther was a great enemy of the Church. His last lineal descendant is now a priest in this country.

Garibaldi was a bitter enemy of the Church in Italy. His grandson is now studying for the priesthood in that country.

Charles Kingsley was a bitter enemy as his novel, "Hypatia," shows, and as his attack on Cardinal Newman makes plain. His daughter, "Lucas Malet," one of England's most distin-

guished writers, last year became a Catholic.

Those familiar with our early colonial records are aware of the intense hatred of Claiborne, whom history calls "the Scourge of Catholic Maryland." Twice he broke down the government of Lord Baltimore and drove Calvert into exile. One of his lineal descendants is to day one of the well-known Catholic novelists of this country.

The late Anglican Bishop Benson of Canterbury was not a friend of the Church. To-day his son, Father Robert Hugh Benson, is a Catholic priest, a distinguished writer of Catholic historical novels and a Catholic essayist of much note.

So it goes. The fathers hated the faith; the children dared everything in order to embrace it. Surely God ordains the strange happenings of this world.—Catholic Sun.

Church unity through creed revision is a hope that will never be realized by our separated brethren. The great Protestant prerogative of individual interpretation of the Bible precludes an authoritative teacher. Not in man-made creeds is such a teacher to be found, but in the Church established by Christ. If Protestantism, therefore, is honest in its desire for unity, let it seek out this Church. Then and not till then will its present difficulty be forever settled.—Church Progress.



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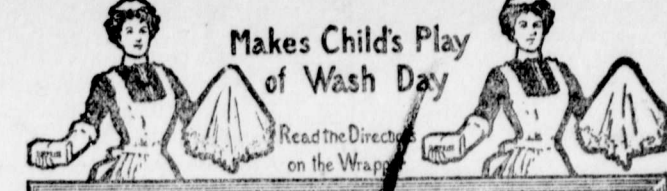
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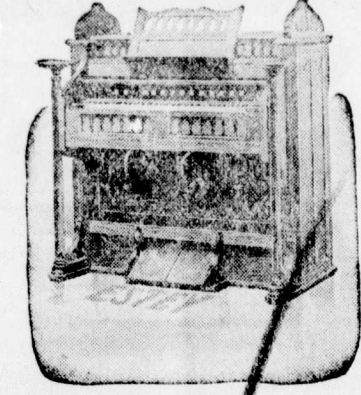
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