· CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

WHEN CAN A MAN DO HIS BEST ?

The twentieth century has been proclaimed as the age of the young man. Certainly it has become an era of opportunity for him. In no prior century has the man in the thirties figured so large and so much in public life. In what other period would the metropolis of New York City have chosen a man of thirty-four for its

What is true of the headship of Business, industry, commerce have man on the springtime side of forty has been well advanced beyond the status possible at that age in the

grown the superior knowledge of youth, so he is able to see his errors, He was and he has as yet not acquired the stubbornness of age, so he is ready to acknowledge his mistakes and correct them.

But now comes Professor Bishop, of Fordham, with a message of hope them all out ing him so. or more years. It is all very well for bigger tasks than was the wort of past generations, but the world has eed of the men who have crossed the line of middle age. Says Dr. Bishop:

The life of a brain worker should

things, but in the forties his achievements should be bigger. He is still preparing for his real work as he on to two-score and ten and to

three score years. This, after all, is undoubtedly the sum of human experience even in this

But the dog exceptional man who is really prepared for life before middle age. It is then, with brain stored and its or something, and what will Missus or something. When, and he rightly guessed that known as the meatless day throughout the great part of civilized European Control of the civil authorities. to do his best work .- Catholic Columbian.

SERVICE

How wonderfully beautiful life would become if all our service were willing service; if we were not haunted by the depressing thought that there was always something just before us waiting to be done that we would find not only difficult, but pressing; if we were not always, or nearly always, drawing back from the new or rather the old demands made upon our time and strength with the feeling that we were being driven to our task by some unkind power that delighted in using the scourge of "duty" to force us into would draw back.

The very struggle we are making against the inevitable daily round both necessary and unnecessary tasks weakens us; the burden grows that the birds ever sang joy into our hearts; even the sunshine grows dim as we come to see it only through the clouds we have permitted to gather so thickly over our way, when God never meant that there should not be great rifts in them for it to shins through all the

dreariest paths. The secret of much of our depression, our struggle with fate, as we sometimes call it, lies more often in our physical than in our spiritual condition at the first. But after a time these weary nerves of ours be-gin sending false messages to the orain, telling it things that are not Just because we have worn these nerves into rebellion we must pay the penalty in a weariness of body and soul that robs life of all its beauty for a time. Service ceases to be a gladness. Even service to God horn of its power to make us glad, and we go to our highest duties with lagging feet and heavy hands. This should not be, and yet it is not always a fault, but sometimes unavoidable misfortune that comes to many. The hope that underlies all such conditions must always come from a faith in the ultimate good that will come to us in spite of all that the past and the present have brought and are still bringing us of discouragement and what we call defeat, if we hold fast to a determina tion to trust to the greater knowl edge, the stronger love, the perfect justice that understands the underlying causes, and sympathizes with us when our service is rendered not feeble, or shorn of its meed of glad slink ness that would have made it beau-

There are briers besetting every third. path, but in it the tangle roses may bloom and will if we look for them. to God or man. And some day we will reach the line where the briers cease to grow, where the sun is not

night. And then, if never before, will we come to know the joy of "serving" Him with gladness.-Catholic Bulletin.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

"MEDDLESOME MATT"

By H. E. Delamare

A little boy with a very sulky face was bemoaning, perhaps for the hundred thousandth time in his short life, the fact that his mother should have had a special devotion to St. Matthew and named him after 6,000,000 people is true also in most that great apostle. Why in the other spheres of human world couldn't he have been called victims had declared be had seen activity. The man in his thirties Robert, or George, or Arthur, or any has been sought, has been pushed other name in fact. Not that there forward, has had opportunities thrust was any great objection to plain upon him. He has elbowed out in Matthew, but it lent itself so pain any cases the man of more years. fully to his tormentors, who were usiness, industry, commerce have constantly calling him "Meddlesome called for young men, and the average man on the springtime side of forty been jeering at him in that way, and he felt angry and sore about it. Even mother was always reproaching time of his fathers or of his fore-him for being so meddlesome and putting such uncharitable interpre-man, who always passed that wa ster of thirty-odd has borne his responsibilities well. He has out grown the superior knowledge.

He wasn't meddlesome, he wasn't uncharitable, Matthew kept saying to himself, he only just wanted to help people or to prevent their doing wrong. Meddlesome Matty, indeed. Well, when he was older he'd serve them all out for teasing and misjudg-

And banging the door behind him, the world to use the energy of the younger men and to trust them with stroll, anxious to get away from his unappreciative family. He hadn't gone far when he heard the dismal howls and angry barks of a little white dog, whose silky coat was still damp from a recent bath, and who was standing just inside the gate of consist of forty years of preparation and forty years of useful labor." a beautiful garden, evidently anxious to get out into the street. to get out into the street.

He marks out a new curve on the efficiency chart. The zenith of effective it is that they won't attend to you," tiveness is not at forty, but beyond. cried Matthew, pityingly. "They The man of thirty-odd can do big must hear you, and yet they won't

But the dog was already across the hands, exclaiming :

Never mind, I'll catch him," cried heart did beat as he waited!

Matthew. 'No! No! Don't run after him, that will only make things worse,; let me call him," cried the maid. But Mat was already racing after the little dog, who, overjoyed at what he evidently considered a good game of round corners or crossing the most crowded thoroughfares, fairly held their breath, expecting to see either dog or child, or both, run line when we wavered and draw back.

over and crushed to death; and at last, in a very muddy street, which had just been heavily sprinkled, a bicycle did just catch Matthew as he was stooping to pick up the dog and sent them both rolling over in the too heavy for the tired brain and mud, only escaping by just a few feet body to bear, and we forget that the flowers ever bloomed at our feet. Needless to say what both dog and boy looked like when Matthew finally carried the little Maltese back to its owners, who greeted him with bitter reproaches for "not minding his own usiness."

Mat returned home very crestfallen earnestly hoping his family wouldn't hear of the adventure, but, of course, they did, and once more he was

teased and reproved. A few weeks after his last adventure he was roaming about in the Central Park waiting for a comrade of his, when he heard voices, and advancing noiselessly, spied out four boys hiding behind some bushes and evidently planning out something to gether-something wicked, of course, thought Matthew, or they would not be doing it so secretively. So, with infinite precaution, he advanced still nearer, thankfulthat all the boys had backs towards him and were, therefore, not likely to catch sight of him. 'He's always out at that time, for he goes to dinner at 7 o'clock, so we can do it all before he comes back," one was saving.

That's true. Then, if we get there by a quarter past, we're sure not to neet him, for he's a most punctual

fellow," put in another.
"Where is the house exactly?"
asked the tallest of the boys.

people are down at the beach for the week end. So let's all be there this evening by a quarter past seven sharp. We'd better go singly so as not to attract attention, and just slink around to the back of the house. I know a window where it will be easy enough to get in," said a

"Suppose he's shut and bolted it?"

suggested the first speaker.
"That's no odds! There's no win-

darkened, nor the stars hidden by different directions, while Mat, in his turn, hid behind the densest bushes, even come home for the holidays, his heart beating wildly with excited and when he did so, he was so his heart beating wildly with excitement. He wished he could have changed and had grown into such a seen the boys' faces, to be able to tall, manly, noble-hearted fellow that describe them, but he had been too his parents' hearts were full of

he had heard was sufficient! Now it so happened that of late Matthew had made friends with a seminary and study for the priest-hood. stout, good-natured, but rather stolid and dense policeman, who had confided to him that he and his pals had vainly been trying to catch a gang of boy burglars who had been breaking into many stores and residences of late. They were so clever over their burglaries that little clew had been victims had declared he had seen four lads of about fifteen, or thereabouts, scampering away just before he discovered that his store had been robbed.'

"Four lads, of fifteen or sixteen!" that just answered to the description of these boys Mat had overheard, and, wild with excitement, he hurried home and watched eagerly man, who always passed that way about 4 o'clock. When he arrived, the boy could hardly tell him his story, he was so excited, and even the stolid policeman was quite eager over the news.

'Splendid!" he exclaimed, "we've got them this time sure enough, and you're a real sharp youngster to have managed to hear all this without their knowing it. Maybe you'll wheel by get a reward, for every one is eager to have the young scamps arrested It's 4 o'clock now, so I have plenty of time to warn the Chief, and he'll see to their being caught all right," he added, looking at his watch. But now, kiddo, you run home, for it's best you shouldn't be seen talking to authority of the Church as a weekly me in case one of them should have spied you out as they walked away.' So Matthew hurried indoors, his

heart beating with exultation. at last, he was going to be vindicated; now all his tormentors would see that he was not simply meddlesome and suspicious, but that his sharp eyes and ears and cleverness at take the trouble to let you out. It's too bad, but never mind. I'll open the gate for you," and he was just the gate for you," and he would get in the papers and doing so when a something the gate of the gate for you, and he would get in the papers and the gate for you, and he would get in the papers and the gate for you. passes on to his fortieth year, and then he really begins. The curve is drawn higher and higher as he goes on to two some on to two some or the two some or two some or the two some or two some or the two some or two so and he was so excited that he could scarcely eat his dinner, and as soon out! He's just been washed and will as it was over he hurried out and went to hide behind a dense bush in the yard of the house that had been age of the young man. It is the street, and the woman wrang her designated. He could hear a rust "Oh! he'll get run over, or stolen, then, and he rightly guessed that should avoid the day already so well statesman."—Dr. Henry Jewett. ling and whispers every now and

> It was getting dusk, but not dark It was getting dusk, but not dark enough not to distinguish what enough not to distinguish what Fridays. Why should they not make were doing, when one by one the four boys assembled at the back of the house, each carrying strange looking parcels which they deposited against the wall, while the tag, tore hither and thither, up one one who had boasted that he could street and down another, whisking break in to any window, cleverly unbolted it by slipping his knife between the sash and pushed it open noisedodging cars and automobiles, and barking with delight, while all the the other boys were following suit, while pursued by the panting, per-spiring Mat- Time and again people their hiding place and arrested them

"But we're doing no harm! We're only going to give a chum of ours a surprise party for his birthday!" ex-claimed one of the boys, who, to his horror, Matthew recognized to be the fellow-Catholics will not complain eldest of his own brothers.

that," sneered one of the detectives. Church and once for the State : "One doesn't go to parties by breaking through the back of the house. Peter and one day for Casar.' You come to the police court, you tioning Peter reminds the writer young scamps, and you can give an young scamps, and you there." And account of yourselves there." And violently protesting, the four boys ago, he continues, "it would have seemed a wild forecast if any one and that Catholics in England rounded by a whole troop of trium. phant policemen carrying the parcels, which were expected to be conclusive evidence of their gilt. To the utter astonishment of the police, the boys were discovered to be the son of the Mayor, one of the sons of the Chief of Police, and two eldest boys of Mr. Upton, one of the most respected citizens of the city, and as to their parcels, they contained all manner of good things in the way of cakes, fruit, candy and such like. The boys again related that they had wished to sur-prise one of their comrades, who proved, the lads were released with many apologies.

But, of course, the parents had in sisted upon knowing what had led to asked the tallest of the boys.

"Southwest corner of Lincoln and Fourth street, a small dark brown bungalow. He's alone there just now, you know, because all his people are down at the beach for the propers and brown at the beach for the propers and brown as the beach to the propers are the propers and the propers are the propers are the propers are the propers and the propers are the propers ar both parents and boys can easily be imagined. The papers were full of the affair, with great headings of "Meddlesome Matty at his tricks again," and so, although he was much talked about both in the press begins at no beginning, he works and among his friends, it was in no way as the hero he had expected to be. Indeed, so painful did the little of honor. But all these things fall boy's life become in his native town, into place, and life falls into place that his parents thought it kindest, as well as wisest, to send him far away as a boarder in a school conducted by Jesuit Fathers, who would be conducted by the conducted by the conducted by the con with the thorns, but the perfume of the hidden flowers clings to them when they are used in loving service to God warden and the condensation of the hidden flowers clings to them when they are used in loving service the word; we mustn't let a soul sustant the condensation of the conden overcome his faults, even if this last And who would have imagined lesson had not cured him forever of that the calm and radiant presence his meddlesome, suspicious spirit.

For a year or two the boy did not much afraid of being detected to get thankfulness, and they were in no within sight of them. Surely what way astonished when he soon afterwards esked permission to go to the

Father Matthew Upton became zealous pastor and distinguished preacher, specially noted for his un tiring charity and love of his fellow When giving instructions to men. children he always insisted particu-larly on the necessity of kind thoughts and kind interpretations of our neighbors' actions, and to illustrate his subject he often told with a laugh of the adventures of his hood, when, as "Meddlesome Matty," he had gotten into so much trouble through his tendency to rashly judge the conduct of others.-Young Catho lic Messenger.

ABSTINENCE

ENFORCED BY CIVIL LAW

In the interests of economy the English Government has imposed abstinence from flesh-meat, once a week. Reflecting on some of the difficulties created by this edict, a in the London Tablet writer

To Catholics it is strange to see how often a complete turn of the brings the children of those people who so violently objected to our practices back to the very thing their fathers reformed away. Our Lent, for instance, was denounced by the first Protestants as an abomination of Popery. . . So too with this meatless day. Imposed by the self-denial, on the day our Lord died, that too went as Popish superstition, when the first Protestants went picking and choosing in the old religion. And now, with no religious idea, but from motives of practical economy in our crisis, a meatless day comes back under the authority of the State.

The Tablet approves the idea, indeed it rejoices to see the wisdom of the Church emulated by the State. The Catholic Church has always taught this discipline," says the "The only objection a Catholic might urge to the new law concerns the day chosen." Thursday has been suggested, and even an-

comment further :

ope. The civil authorities who chose Thursday could not be ignorthat their meatless day, and so simplify the situation for the many Cath olic citizens of the British Empire To the Protestant surely it can not much matter which day is chosen, Thursday or Friday; and it matters to the Catholic. But perhaps the idea is that it does matter to the Protestant, that he would rather abstain, since abstain he must, on any day of the week except the one which might seem to make him conform to Popery. Were the avoidance of Friday confirmed it could not be accidental, and would seem to contain a touch of deliberate Protestant prejudice.'

Still, the writer believes that his dest of his own brothers.

"Party, indeed, we know all about two days a week—once for the We should abstain one day for Peter and one day for Cæsar." Menthat "Peter has dispensed us from had said that Catholics in England would be eating flesh meat on Friday by Church law, and abstaining on Thursday by State law.

And then he recalls that the English Government had appointed a meatless day each week, back in 1559, when the Book of Common Prayer provided a list of days of fasting or abstinence, including "all the Fridays in the year," except when Christmas Day fell on Friday. So the Government had its law already made at hand :

The new rule is a curious proof happened to be alone at the house on how completely the old religious his birthday, and had planned to legislation is forgotten," says the his birthday, and had planned to legislation is forgotten," says the have everything ready on his return home and give him the scare of his first on all subjects of the English life, followed by the time of his life. Crown, remains as the standard for The story seemed a plausible one, one of the many religious sects, and and after the parents had been sum-moned and the truth of the thing appoint a day of abstinence, does not even remember that it has already done so."—Sacred Heart Review.

> RELIGIOUS FEELING STIRRED BY GREAT WAR

Herbert G. Wells, the English writer, has not had much to do with religion, but what does he write now? Let me quote a little: "Religion is the first thing and the last

And who would have imagined of the Lord would have been seen in

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the pages of Bernard Shaw? Amid all the bitter irony and satire of Shaw's thought and spirit, amid all his irreverence, the strange and pathetic figure of the Saviour has recently appeared for a moment. am ready to admit," says Mr. Shaw, "I am ready to admit that, after con

templating the world of human nature for nearly sixty years, I se has been suggested, and even announced, which causes the Tablet to the way which would have been found byChrist's will if He had undertaken We might well ask why the State the work of a modern, practical

> THE POPE'S PERSONAL APPEARANCE

In a letter to his people, the Archbishop of Avignon, France, gives this description of the personal appearance of Benedict XV.

Allow me to tell you in the first place that you have not the slightest idea of our present Holy Father's personal appearance if you have formed it from the various common pictures circulated of him. They are not true portraits. To judge from them one would imagine Benedict XV. to be frail and delicate and in indifferent health. But it is

really quite the contrary.

His face betokens both strength and energy. His countenance is, no doubt, grave and serious, but when he speaks it becomes illuminated with a beautiful smile, which makes it kind and benevolent. His forehead is high, his look calm and penetrating, and his entire personality is surrounded by a singular distinc-tion which is shown in the Pontiff's manners and conversation, and lends additional grace and charm to the great kindness of his disposition. It is really this combination of kind ness and distinction which is the characteristic of his personality and the secret of the irresistible attraction which he exercises over those who approach him."

He who helps the wicked is bound to repent of it before long.

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