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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN. THE WELL-GROOMED MAN re the passports to s CHARACTER, PRINCIPLES, AND IDEALS. CAMPANA'S ITALIAN BALM What sort of men do we want our children to turn out ?-- that is the first question. A hundred people would give a hundred answers according to the limited standpoint of each. The busi-ness man would say : "I want my son to become a successful merchant;" the cultured man would say : "I want my son to become a perfect gentleman;" the religious-minded man would say : "I want my son to become an upright Christian;" the Catholic would say : "I want my son to become a model Catholic." 25c at your druggist's. 35c by mail. Free sample of B. G. West & Co., 176, King Street B. Toronto.

On the contrary, the life of a man of character is a decided unity—some-thing knit firmly together into a con-sistent whole—not rigid or elastic necessarily, but still a unified structure.

necessarily, but still a unified structure. The man of character has his impulses, and his circumstances too, both of which try to dominate him just as in the case of the "other fellow." But his atti-tude towards both is different. It is the attitude of a master, not of a slave — a dominating, ruling, directing attitude, which uses both impulses and circum-stances as amenable to his own pur-poses, and makes them his tools. There is a calculation, a deliberateness about him which the creature without char-acter has not got. He may be a good man or a bad man, but he will be masterfully good or bad. He may in-dulge his evil impulses as the "other fellow" does; but if so, it is with de-liberation and set purpose. He may also restrain his impulses; but if so, this will not be out of a weak fear of being caught, or a dread of unitesant All this is good as far as it goes, but it is too narrow. A more comprehen-sive view would be this : "I want my son to become intellect-ually well-informed and clever, conually well-informed and the citer, con-scientious and morally upright, sanely religious, strong and healthy, energetic and enterprising, cultivated in taste This is a fairly good summary, but it This is a fairly good summary, but it does not quite meet our requirements. What we want is something more radi-cal-some sterling thing or other which lies at the root of the best in human na-ture, and embodies it. Our boy may be-come a very Hercules of physical health and strength, and yet a perfect dolt. He may be as clever as the devil—and ent as wicked. He may be as good as

He may be as elever as the devil—and yet as wicked. He may be as good as gold and pious as a saint, and yet a flabby helpless creature. He may be the pink of aesthetic refinement and yet a sensual libertine. He may be a perfect genius and yet as fantastic as a goblin. The best qualities in one line man of character is a man ruled not by impulse or circumstances but by inter-nal motives—in short, his life is domin-ated by principles. These principles may be good or bad, right or wrong. But there they are; and it is due to their presence that he is what he is, and consistently what he is. That is what may be discounted or even cancelled by some glaring disability in another-the head of gold and the trunk of brass and the legs of iron and the feet of clay—a bundle of disparities rather than a man. onsistently what he is. That is what

consistently what he is. That is what we mean by a man of character. What then is a principle? A prin-ciple is some pregnant idea relating to conduct, grasped firmly by the mind, The first thing, therefore, we look for is a certain balance of parts-everyis a certain balance of parts—every-thing in its proper weight and measure. There may be corruscations of excel-lence besides—now in this direction and now in that; but these do not count for much unless there is a substantial building up of the main structure memory to a man. These must have branded in consciousness, brooded over, elevated into a standard of action, and applied habitually to circumstances as they arise. A principle means some-thing more than a rule. By a rule we building up of the main structure proper to a man. There must be no glaring deficiencies, at least so far as training can prevent them. We look first for the substantials in each departgenerally mean some cut-and-dried positive enactment defining in clear terms what shall be done and what shall terms what shall be done and what shall not be done under certain circum-stances. Its application is rigidly according to the letter; and it is only necessary to understand what the rule says in order to execute it. Given this intelligence, and the disposition to obey, the rule works just like a slot-machine-put in the coin, and out comes the cigarette or stick of choco-late. So in like manner, whenever the circumstances contemplated in the rule arise, it is merely a matter of implicit obedience to carry it out. If under un-usual circumstances the execution of and for the substantials in each depart-ment—a fair equipment of knowledge, a fair intelligence, a fair judgment, a fair amount of moral strength and stamina, of energy and enterprise, of refinement and culture in due proportion to the status to which our family belongs—a relden mean at heart in accurate shatus to which our family belongs—a gelden mean, at least, in every part. This is so far pretty obvious, but it does not go deep enough. The thing we really want is character.

THE MEANING OF CHARACTER. obedience to carry it out. If under un-usual circumstances the execution of the rule becomes impossible or unad-visable, the rule is broken, even though advisably and justifiably. It is quite otherwise with principles. A principle is some great general idea to be under-stood according to its spirit, and to be applied with discretion. If circum-stances arise under which it is de-sirable to leave the principle aside, the principle itself is not broken. For it is of the nature of a principle to be But the word needs defining. In common parlance we speak of all sorts of character—some of which we cer-tainly do not want. We speak of good and bad character, strong and weak character, stable and unstable character, odd character, and no character In this we are quite etymological with-out knowing it. For originally the word meant merely the mark impressed on a coin or seal indicating its nature and value, and distinguishing it from the principle itself is not broken. For it is of the nature of a principle to be discretionary in its application; and the laying of it aside is in fact nothing else but the bringing of some other and more radical principle to bear on the case, to which the more subordinate principle must give place. This point will engage our attention more in de-tail in the sequel. At present it is enongh to have indicated it. We may add that principles and rules can shade off into one another; and that the same ers, and thus in this applied sense others, and thus in this applied sense character comes to mean marked in-dividuality. Experience shows that people can be good and bad, weak and strong, with or without a marked individuality—and therefore with or without character. Now the end and aim of our training is not merely to make our children good and strong, but to ensure and develop in them a character which shall be good and strong. Parents and trainers of the young are of course fully alive to the idea of turning out off into one another; and that the same maxim can become either a principle maxim can become either a principle or a rule according as it is conceived rigidly in the letter or elastically in the spirit—or again, according as it is applied mechanically or with deliberatheir subjects good and strong; but often enough they plaster goodness and strength on from the outside in the the structure underneath. Plastive discretion.

## THE MEANING OF IDEALS.

of the structure underneath. Plas-tering will last no longer than the wall which it overlays; if the wall be of mud it will be preserved for a time by the veneer; but before long it will crumble away, and down comes the house plaster and all. What we want is strong walls of cut-stone which need no plaster, and will stand till the day of doom. And this solid cut-stone struc-ture spells " character." I define character (in the sense re-quired) as life dominated by principles. The terms are pregnant. Life com-prises thoughts, words and actions ; but the question is, how are thoughts words and actions determined ? Directly and mmediately they spring from the spon-taneous vitality of the of the different qualities which we have come across in our living fellow-men, which we admire and would fain initate and which we gradually join together and construct into a whole. However it comes about, the resultant ideal is always reducedle to a contain type of and actions determined? Directly and immediately they spring from the spon-taneous vitality of the organism; but what is the ulterior cause which sets the organism going, and determines its direction and results? The man of no character thinks, speaks and acts just as the impulse sciesshim, whether for good or bad; or it there he anything of reasoned motive It comes about, the resultant ideal is always reducable to a certain type of *character* — and character, as we have seen, is life dominated by principles. So in the end it comes to this. Our ideal reduced to definite terms, is sciences him, whether for good or bad; or if there be anything of reasoned motive behind, is determined by chance or cir-cumstances rather than by any reflex and stable purposes. If there is any con-sistency about his life, this is due simply the there is the base or Ma cir-

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nothing other than the group of prin-ciples which we have set our heart upon as the guiding standards of our life; and the pursuit of our ideal is nothing else than the cherishing of these prin-ciples and their assiduous application. It is this second item to which we must attach the chief importance. There are plenty of people whose minds are filled with ideals, and those often of the most exalted kind. But they never get beyond the stage of adnothing other than the group of prin-

is a calculation, a deliberateness about him which the creature without char-acter has not got. He may be a good man or a bad man, but he will be asserfully good or bad. He may in-dulge his evil impulses as the "other fellow" does; but if so, it is with de-liberation and set purpose. He may this will not be out of a weak fear of being caught, or a dread of unpleasant consequences, but out of deliberate policy and set purpose, because he has an object in view. In other words, the man of character is a man ruled not by impulse or circumstances but by interthey never get beyond the stage of adner of several years' standing," was the somewhat whimsical, if flippant, answer ment is to be given to persevere—unless the ideal is something manifestly im-possible : and then it should be humbly watered down.

So now we have reached the answer to our first question— 1. The end and aim of training is

missed.

for her to recognize it.

(generically) to produce men of char-acter, and (specifically) men of the best and noblest character which circum-stances and the capacity of the subject

stances and the capacity of the subject will allow. 2. Character is life dominated by principles, as distinguished from life dominated by mere impulses from within and mere circumstances from without. 3. Principles are ethical concep-tions deeply rooted in the mind, ele-vated into standards of conduct, and consistently annlied to life.

consistently applied to life. 4. A collection of principles cover-ing all departments of life constitutes an ideal. A man of principles is there-fore a man with an ideal. 5. There cannot be character with-

5. There cannot be character with-out some ideal, but there can be an ideal without character. To be effec-tive, an ideal must not be merely pictured, admired and longed for. It must be embodied in a set of definite principles dominating life, and then it will result in character. 6. The great business of training therefore is, first, to lay before the child the best and noblest possible ideal; secondly, to get that ideal stamped into his mind in the concrete form of sound principles; thirdly, so firmly to establish the habit of acting according to those principles that it according to those principles that it will last for the rest of his life.-From The Examiner, Bombay, India.

# OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

THE STORY OF MARGARET'S COAT. "O dear, I suppose I'll have to wear this coat another winter. For father is sick and Ed is out of work. But I hate

the old thing !" Margaret picked her coat off a chair, held it out for inspection, and then threw

it down again. Just then the door opened and her

Just then the door opened and her mother came into the room. "Looking the old coat over, dear?" her mother remarked ; and Margaret heard a sigh float over to the window where she stood. "I had hoped to see my daughter wearing a new coat, this winter," her mother went on to say, in her gentle voice, as she walked over to the window and laid a caressing arm around her daughter's slim waist. around her daughter's slim waist.

"Never mind, mother s shin waist. "I'm going to brush up the old thing and with new cuffs and collar, I think we can be chums again for another year,



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"Oh! You're not going to have a new one, then ?" exclaimed Helen, withmother had scarcely finished her remarks new one, then? "Contained Heien, with drawing a step or two and viewing her companion with some curiosity. She longed to ask the reason, but something in Margaret's manner forbade further discussion, and the subject hastily dis-miced mother had scarcery inished at the door. "Helen Ober wants me to go coasting with her, mother." she said; not forget-ting at the same time to give her father an affectionate smile of greeting. "Do you want me for anything ?'

missed. One day Margaret went home from school to find her coat lying across the foot of the bed, so transformed that she scarcely recognized it. Brushing and pressing will do much for the shabilest of gaments: but Margaret's coat had "No, dear ; everything has been at-tended to. Go and enjoy yourself. You need not hurry home; supper is planned and ready to set on the table," encour-aged her mother.

"Thank you, mother dear. I'll be back in good season," was the merry

duties !" Suddenly Margaret's lips straightened Suddenly Margaret's lips straightened into a line of determination. "How thoughtless I have been !" she ejacu-lated, as she puiled her arms hastily from the coat, tossed it upon the bed, took a clean white apron from the drawer and tying it as she went, hur-ried into her father's room, where she found her mother steeping quietly

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" Not after you spent so much patient labor over it, mother dear," was the low-ing rejender. "I don't believe I ever shall prize another coat as I have grown to prize this," she continued ruefully, vicution remnants of her tors coat. viewing remnants of her torn coat.

When Margaret stood arrayed in the when margaret scool arrayed in the new coat, which in due time took the place of the old ene, she still insisted that it was not half so dear. " Mother sewed her love into that old ene, you know," she said fondly.

### Easter Decorations.

was the coat. Margaret's face was sad, indeed, when she returned home, half an hour later, to tell of the unfortunate party. "My dear old chum is ruined, mother, and I had grown to love it so!" she cried. "I thought you hated the 'horrid old thing,' her mether said, with an odd little smile; for she had heard her daughter's passionate outburst several weeks previous, although Margaret herself had not been aware of it. "Why not decorate your church or house for Easter when the cost is so small ? We are giving special prices until Easter. Easter Lilies plain, 50c. a doz.; Easter Lilies frostod, 75c. a doz.; Fleur de Lis, 50c. a doz.; Apple Blosson and Violet bunches, 45c. a doz.; Apple Blosson and 10e. each; large fancy chickens, 56c. a doz. Write at once the Brantford Artificial Flower Co., Box 45, Brantford, Ont. 1588-2



pressing will do much for the shabbiest of garments; but Margaret's coat had received even more attention. Tears sprang to her eyes as she thought of the many hours her mother must have spent over it to give it the attractive appear-ance it now presented. Seams had been taken, much of its length removed, col-lar and cuffs of soft gray beaver, a fur that had once adorned a coat of her mother's had been added; and altogether, Margaret's "old chum" had undergone such a change that it was difficult, even answer. Margaret, always a ring-leader in all athletic sports, started her sled down the hill slope with a bright challenge to the rest to follow, and then the race was on. "Look out, Margaret ! the fence !"

"Look out, Margaret! the fence!" All too late came the warning call. Margaret's sled flew on. Toward the foot of the hill it bounced over a "thank-you-marm" that sent it over the fence and left Margaret hanging by her coat collar, from one of the pickets. But the pretty fur was torn past repair, and so was the coat. Margaret's face was sad, indeed, when she returned home, half an hour later, to tell of the unfortunate ending of the anticipated coasting party. such a change that it was difficult, even "How poor mother much have labored over this!" she mused. "How did she ever find time to do it, with all her other

found her mother stepping quietly about with a tired look upon her patient face that swiftly brightened into a smile



"I have come to thank you, mother dear, for making my old coat so present-able," she said, tenderly kissing her mother's pale cheek. "I'm not at all sure that a new one would have pleased "I am glad that it pleases you, dear. It was a great disappointment not to have been able to give you a new one, her mother answered, "but doctor's bills

her mother answered, "but doctor solids must be paid, first, and" — "Not another word of apology, mother, mine," continued Margaret, stepping to her father's bedside, and re urning his her father's bedside, and re urning his tender greeting with a fond smile. "If I cannot make a little sacrifice for father cannot make a little scrince for lather I am not the right sort of daughter. I wonder I have not thought of making myself useful, before,' she ran on, stop-ping a minute to straighten the sheet before she took the duster from her mother's hand and began to step lightly from table to cheil in her affort to put from table to chair in her effort to put into execution her newly-formed resolu-

tion. The days that followed were busy ones In her father's sick room

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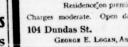
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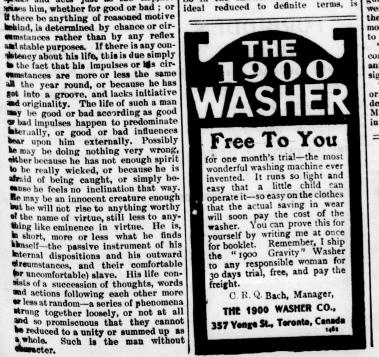
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all right." " My brave little daughter !" was the mother's loving comment as she turned away, and left Margaret to rejoice that away, and left Margaret to rejoice that she had been able to keep from her mother the bitter disappointment that a young girl feels so keenly when obliged to forego some long-anticipated pleas-

ure. Her naturally sunny nature did not leave her long in the dumps, however, and before the day was over Margaret had put aside all disagreeable thoughts of the old coat she had to wear another

winter. At school, as usual, the girls had be-gun to talk over the new clothes they gun to talk over the new clothes they were going to have ; and as a group of them were discussing this subject, one morning, before school had been called to order, Margaret joined the group. "Margaret is going to have a new coat, she told me so a long time ago," announced Amy Acton, as she caught

sight of her.

sight of her. "Is it going to be long, or short, loose, or tight-fitting? Do tell us, Margaret, dear," coaxed Helen Ober, encircling Margaret's waist and peering archly into her face.

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she proved a veritable sunbeam. "Margaret is getting to be a very capable little nurse," her father renarked one day, after one of her cheer-

ing visits. "Yes, a great change has come over the child, of late," the mother made answer, as, with a tender light in her eye, she watched from the window, the lithe young figure tripping down the street to meet one of her schoolmates. 'Yes, Margaret certainly has changed,"

her father assented. "She has been taking a load of care from me, for the last few weeks. It must have been a great disappointment to the child not to have a new coat, this winter, although she met it as bravely as a woman would have done. The

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