

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

It is only now, after, passing through the long, hard school of years, only now, when my own hair is gray, that I understand how you felt.

I must have been a bitter trial to you. I believed my own petty wisdom, and I know now how ridiculous it was, compared to that calm, ripe, wholesome wisdom of yours.

Most of all, I want to confess my worst sin against you. It was the feeling that I had that you "did not understand."

When I look back over it now, I know that you did understand. You understood me better than I did myself.

And how patient you were with me! How full of long suffering and kindness.

And how pathetic, it now comes home to me, were your efforts to get close to me, to win my confidence, to be my pal!

I wouldn't let you. I couldn't. What was it that held me aloof? I didn't know.

I wish you were here now, across the table from me, just for an hour, so that I could tell you how there's no wall any more.

I know now how I could make you happy every day. I know how you felt.

It took a good many years for this prodigal son—and all sons are in a measure prodigal—to come to himself.

I know what a rich and priceless thing, and one least understood, is that mighty love and tenderness and craving to help which a father feels toward his boy.

And it is he that makes me want to go back to you, get down on my knees to you and ask you to hear, me Dad, and believe me.—From Commerce and Finance.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

A LITTLE WEE PUP A little wee pup with his soul in his eyes Owns me for his lord and his master;

KEEP STRONG AND HEALTHY It is impossible to feel active and energetic when the bowels are clogged from undigested food.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) He'd trudge uncomplainingly numberless miles So long as we traveled together.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) My little wee pup with his soul in his eyes Barks fiercely at sight of a stranger.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) FRIENDSHIP Friendship may be likened to a bed of steadily glowing coals, which emits a constant, gentle warmth.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) FRIENDSHIP (continued) Everlasting friendship does not come by accident.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) FRIENDSHIP (continued) There must be similarities of ideas and tastes, so readily sensed when kindred spirits meet.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) FRIENDSHIP (continued) Friendship rises above the little difficulties and misunderstandings, overlooks the little failings of a friend.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) FRIENDSHIP (continued) For an example of real friendship witness the meeting of boyhood chums after years of separation.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) FRIENDSHIP (continued) Trifling occurrences all, but friendly associations make them dear to the hearts of these world-wise men.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) FRIENDSHIP (continued) A LETTER TO DAD I am writing this to you though you have been dead thirty years.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) FRIENDSHIP (continued) I feel that I must say some things to you, things I didn't know when I was a boy in your home and things I was too stupid to say.

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PERFECT PRAYER

The Liguorian tells this refreshing little anecdote redolent of the sweet faith of the Isle of Saints:

A young woman spending the summer at an Irish seaside place, used every evening to pay a visit to the Church, and there she always noticed the bent figure of an old woman, kneeling, with her eyes fixed on the tabernacle.

They were moving, but she had no book in her hand, and her rosary beads always remained on the seat in front of her, to be taken up and passed through her fingers only as she left the church.

After a day or two, the visitor always looked out for the woman. The sight of her inspired devotion in her visitor, and gave her, too, a certain feeling of confidence in her own prayers.

One evening the two were leaving the church together. The young woman approached the bowed old figure, and told her that she had noticed her every evening, and offered her her prayerbook, saying:

"You might like to have this, it has many beautiful prayers." The old woman looked at her, with a smile on her kindly face and thanked her but said: "It would be of no use to me at all, alanna; I never learned to read—even if I had the eyes for that now. I just pray my own prayers.

Sure, the Lord knows me well after all these years, and I just talk to Him, and I know He loves to listen." —Catholic Transcript.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS (continued) FRIENDSHIP (continued) I feel that I must say some things to you, things I didn't know when I was a boy in your home and things I was too stupid to say.

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automobiles and pedestrians, of two men in an auto, by several men in another auto, imperiling a number of innocent citizens, was set forth as follows: "It is a terrible, terrible thing. It is a sad condition which ought to command the attention of every law-enforcing agency in the city to the end that their every energy be directed to the cleaning out of these nests of organized outlaw and murderers."

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