

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE JOURNEY

The easy roads are crowded; And the level roads are jammed: The pleasant little rivers: With a drifting folk are crammed. But off yonder where its rocky, Where you get a better view, You will find the ranks are thinning And the travelers are few.

Where the going is smooth and pleasant, You will always find the throng. For the many, more's the pity, Seem to like to drift along. But the steps that call for courage, And the task that's hard to do, In the end result in glory For the never wavering few.

—EDGAR A. GURST

THE CURSE OF CONCEIT

The easy opportunities of knowing the lives and achievements of God's saints, as well as the facilities which modern education, traveling, literature and social intercourse provide for the acquisition of general knowledge, should have the salutary effect of making us more conscious of our own individual shortcomings, limitations, and unimportance. Conceit, a consequence of ignorance and insularity, ought to disappear. We shall hasten its departure by not only thus contrasting the worth and attainments of others with our own spiritual and intellectual poverty but also by remembering that mankind nowadays promptly detects and ruthlessly unmasks all mere pretension. The fools' paradise so long and so complacently inhabited by the conceited is doomed. If the latter will persist in regarding themselves "like unto gods" their only chance of homage lies with an asylum audience. Though some men of sense, through a praiseworthy desire to be inoffensive, may conceal their amusement or pity behind a serious countenance, yet their vision penetrates through all the sham show of those who pathetically believe that they are otherwise than they really are. The majority of on-lookers are less kind; some of them are cruel. Not long since a raucous rustic bold, who doubtless never heard an accomplished singer, egregiously volunteered his vocal services at a ship's concert. The impish assembly, taking gay advantage of his conceit, were vociferous in their mock applause whilst he, poor fellow, was visibly delighted and next day buttonholed some passengers to elicit fresh adulation.

O wad some power the giftie gie us To see ourselves as other see us! It wad frae monie a blunder free us, And foolish notion.

Many such simpletons as the pseudo-singer strut life's stage and arouse animosity, derision, or receive the cold contempt of silence; sometimes arrayed in the pomp and circumstance of a little brief authority, they ride the high horse of officialism, digging the hooves of power deeply into hearts of subordinates, condescending to sycophants, deferential to those they fear or from whom they hope for favor. Of course position must be respected and invariably will be with helpful loyalty when dignity is graced by amiability and humility of heart: "Have they made thee a ruler? Be not lifted up; be among them as one of them." (Ecc. 32-11). Others, as foolish as they fly in the fable which resting upon the hub imagined that it moved the chariot, fancy that they revolve the wheels of progress whereas their worthless weight is but an impediment. Some too, like Aesop's jackdaw, preen themselves with borrowed feathers only to be stripped of same and like the bird learn "Had you been contented with what nature made you, you would have escaped the chastisement of your betters and the contempt of your equals." The clown of conceit induces some to assume the manners and be suppliant of the deference due to the Senators in the land. Also how many devotees of private judgment, spurning legitimate authority, pit their puny intellects against the strength, wisdom, and centuries-old experience of the Divine Church: "Whoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall not enter into it." The sophistic cranks of humanity, preferring to hold to their own opinion rather than yield to the triumph of truth and thus endure what they deem the ignominy of defeat, ingloriously guard their castle of conceit by ill-temper, disdain or tyrannous tactics. Belittled in the eyes of disputants, who behold the shame and shallowness of it all, they remain the victims of their vanity and vulgarity.

Does not the cure consist in availing of mere common-sense; in noting that those upon whom we endeavor to impress our importance are shrewder and probably far better informed than ourselves; that they see the grotesque difference between the ideal and its fulfillment? The conceited are very foolish to forget that others are well aware of their silliness. Let us, docile in spirit and in chastened mood, emerge from the clouds of conceit and, entering upon the same world wherein holy, wise, learned and useful souls dwell, recognize what dwarfs we are in comparison. The study of the saints especially will puncture our pride, will instill that we have not the monopoly of wisdom, the privilege of infallibility, nor the most successful

ful methods. Above all else, conceit must fly before the lowliness of the omnipotent and omniscient God Who bids us learn of Him to be meek and humble of heart. Calvary will ever bring us to our senses. —Southern Cross.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

ROOFS

The road is wide and the stars are out and the breath of the night is sweet And this is the time when Wanderlust should seize upon my feet. But I'm glad to turn from the open road and the starlight on my face And leave the splendor of out-of-doors for a human dwelling place.

I never have known a vagabond who really liked to roam All up and down the streets of a world and never have a home. The tramp who slept in your barn last night and left at break of day, Will wander only until he finds another place to stay.

If you call the gypsy a vagabond I think you do him wrong. For he never goes traveling but takes his home along. And the only reason a road is good, as every wanderer knows, is just because of the homes, the homes, the homes to which it goes!

They say a life is a highway and its milestones are the years, And now and then there's a tollgate where you pay your way with tears.

It's a rough road and a steep road and it stretches broad and far, But it leads at last to a golden town where golden houses are.

—JOYCE KILMER

GENTLENESS

Of all the gifts to be prayed for, next to grace, tact and gentleness in manner are the most desirable. A brusque, shy, curt manner, a cold indifference, a snappish petulance, a brutal appearance of stolidity, antagonize and wound, and rob even really kind actions of half their value. It is worth while to do a kind thing gracefully and tactfully. There is a certain propriety of demeanor which never makes a mistake, which guards the feeling of a loved one as carefully as a mother cherishes her little delicate child. In time, such tact becomes natural, and one who has it makes others happy without trying to do so.

PROMISES OF OUR LORD TO BLESSED MARGARET MARY

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state in life.
2. I will establish peace in their families.
3. I will console them in all their difficulties.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, more especially at the hour of death.
5. I will shower down abundant blessings in all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart a Source and boundless Ocean of Mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection.
9. I will bless the house in which the picture of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the power of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Persons who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, and they shall never be effaced therefrom.
12. I will grant the grace of final repentance to all those who shall communicate on the first Friday nine months consecutively. They shall not die in mortal sin, nor without having received the last sacraments, for My Divine Heart will become their secure refuge at that last moment.

A CANDID CRITIC

An amusing story it told of a late Shah of Persia. He had an idea that he was a great poet and was in the habit of reading his verses to his courtiers, who listened politely and praised without stint. After a while, however, the Shah appointed a new poet laureate, and found him a man who disdained to flatter. On one occasion the sovereign read to him one of his new poems and demanded his opinion of it.

"Shall I tell the truth, your Majesty?"

"Most assuredly," answered the Shah, having no doubt but that the truth would be very complimentary.

"Well, then, I must say that I can not see any poetry in the lines you have just read."

The Shah, much insulted, cried out to those standing near. "This fellow is a donkey. Take him off to the stable immediately!"

After some time the Shah who really valued the laureate's opinion, produced a new set of verses and ordered his unfavorable critic to be again brought before him.

"Here are some new verses," he said; "I will read them to you,"—which he did. After he had concluded the laureate started for the door.

"Where are you going?" asked the Shah.

"To the stable, your Majesty."

It is said that the Shah was won by the simple frankness of his laureate and heartily enjoyed the joke, but read no more verses.—Ave Maria.

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the 9:45 p. m. train, daily except Saturdays, from Yonge St. Station. Canadian Pacific agents will gladly make your reservations and supply you with any information you require. They are fully qualified to offer a "second to none" service to the public.



Answers for last week: Upper picture, Presentation of our Lady, Nov. 21. Lower picture, Gospel Sunday before (23rd after Pentecost)



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