

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

BUILDING OF CHARACTER

Did you ever watch the rose bush as it slowly lifts itself from the earth? From a tender shoot it grows and develops; leaf after leaf, stem after stem, branch after branch send forth new buds and leaves, until there is finally rounded out a fully-developed tree. This is the external portion of its growth, its material part, as it were, for it has all the while been storing up within itself qualities of beauty, which, at a certain stage of its life, unfold in the form of deliciously-scented flowers—blossoms of such beauty in form and color, as can never be improved upon by human art. This would seem to be the purpose of the rose bush in the plan of nature—to please the human eye and heart, to add to the cup of human joy, and to arouse, if possible, in the soul of man, some appreciation of God's own beauty. This being done, its purpose in nature is justified. Without these emblems of God's beauty and love, the rose bush would be barren—an eyesore and a failure.

The life of the rose bush is very closely analogous to that of man; different, however, in that maturity of the one is much more rapid than that of the other. Man in his infancy is much more delicate than the tiny rose plant, more precious in its intrinsic value; yet like the latter, he is subject to continuous change. He must grow and strengthen to cope with the struggle for existence, and as he travels the road from infancy to childhood, and on to man's estate, there should develop, as in the rose bush, the qualities, which, later on, will express themselves in the beautiful and attractive blossoms of character; for character is to the man what the scented flowers are to the rose bush.

Change is the law of man's physical and mental development. It goes on from youth to old age, in all conditions of life. The mind is ever active and in its superabundant energies it must be trained, educated and directed in the right channels of conduct, otherwise it would run wild and hideous ways. Man must be disciplined, he has energies, impulses of the animal kind, which are not restrained and brought under the control of reason, would surge forth in deeds that would disgrace the fair name of manhood. Even as the athlete must go through hard and trying exercises to perfect his physical manhood by developing the muscles needed in the conflict, so also the higher faculties of the soul must be trained, even more carefully, in order that they may be fitted to engage in the struggle for eternal life.

The human mind, then, like the body, must be trained in order to bring out the best that is in it. Man must learn, not only how to conduct himself towards his fellow man, but also how to think and act aright towards his Creator. If he has not the prudence to improve himself in these essentials, he must be taught by others. The truth of the familiar saying, "We are never too old to learn," is evident. Man is constantly meeting new experiences and acquiring new knowledge. The young are taught by the old, and the old may learn from the young. Those in high places may receive salutary lessons from the lowly. The illiterate may be masters to the learned. Even the little child, who has much to learn, may be an instructive book to the thoughtful. The rough knots of human character must be pared down and smoothened with the oil of refinement, in order that the individual may fit into his allotted place in the fabric of social life. In other words, the individual must be subjected to discipline, whereby mind and heart are trained and strengthened to follow joyfully the way of Christian life.

What is discipline? It is the curbing of one's evil tendencies, the suggesting of elevating ideals, the encouraging of all that makes man more manly, more Christian, more God-like. To discipline, then, is to eradicate evil habits from the soul,

and foster into a manhood, strong and healthy, both morally and intellectually. Discipline may be administered in ways as varied, almost, as human nature itself. At one time it flows from the gloved hand of sympathy and kindness; at another it takes the form of a casual suggestion. In some cases it produces its best results by gentle advice; but while the strong hand of right should always rule with firmness, it should rarely resort to the methods whose chief results is severity.

To discipline, then, is to arouse and train the dormant faculties of the soul, to cultivate them and evoke their latent possibilities, so that they may blossom forth into a rich and vigorous activity. To discipline is to evoke all the good qualities of the individual, and curb and subdue his evil inclinations. Hence it follows, that discipline does not concern adults so much as it does the young. Little hope, indeed, can be entertained of training the burly oak to assume any other form than that which it now has. It is with the young whose innocent and plastic souls are capable of receiving impressions, that discipline is chiefly concerned, and therefore disciplinary methods, worthy of the name, should train the child to right action, should point out clearly the difference between right and wrong, and stimulate the individual to do what is right at any cost.

The will is the great lever with which disciplinary methods must deal. The resultant of all the habits of the will constitutes character, which is the power of self-direction. When the intellect is trained to recognize the good and the will to choose it, then we have strong character. The end of all discipline is character. If a boy be trained to have a clear conception of duty and stimulated and encouraged to perform that duty conscientiously, then the method by which he was trained was the correct one; at least for him. He possesses within himself a force which expresses itself in right action. Opportunities there are aplenty on the road to manhood by which a boy can prove of what stuff he is made and, if when the occasion arises, he has not the moral courage to follow his conscience, he confesses himself a coward. He lacks the quality which is the very groundwork of true manhood. But if, when put to the test, he sees the right and conscience never fails in presenting it and strikes out boldly towards the goal, however strong the influences to the contrary may be, then he is in reality not a boy, but a man in moral strength and character.

The Catholic Church is the great guardian of youth. She is a kind mother to her spiritual children. Her centuries of rich and varied experiences have given her the right to speak with authority, for no society knows human nature better nor the weakness of youth and the temptations to which it is subject. Neither can any institution boast of such multitudes of pure and noble men as the women have marched under the banner of the Catholic Church throughout the centuries. Hence in Catholic homes and educational institutions should be found the safest and most salutary principles of discipline.—Catholic Union and Times.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

A MAY DAY MIRACLE

BY EILEEN HOLDEN

"Oh Mary, we crown thee with flowers to-day, Queen of the angels, Queen of the May."

This was sung as a circle of violets was placed upon the head of the statue of Our Blessed Lady. The words echoed in Lola's ears as she left the church. She had helped to make the crown of violets, during which she offered up a fervent prayer to the Blessed Virgin to make her mamma well. When she went home she related the events of the ceremony to her mother. Now, Lola could always tell things well, and her mother could almost imagine herself there in reality.

"Good-bye, Brother Horse!"

No doubt with the majority of men the strongest tie between them and the animal world is that which has bound them to the dog. Naturally less intelligent than the dog, and far less demonstrative in signs of attachment to his master, the horse still has won for himself a very noble place in the heart and life of man. In the poem, familiar to some of us in our school-days, "The Arab's Farewell to His Horse," there is sounded a cord that has stirred to tears more than one boy and man whose love for the horse is a part of his very life.

It's born in you or it's left out of you. There are those who care no more for a great piece of music, or for a canvas whose colors a Raphael might have mixed than they do for the wild sweep of the wind or an advertisement on a billboard. The symphony, the painting, awaken no response. To multitudes the dog and the horse are in the same category as the pig and the goat. They are simply animals. With others since their earliest remembrance, there has lived an unchanging hunger for the ownership and companionship of horse and dog. They would go without their meals, deny themselves a score of other pleasures at any time if only they could satisfy this hunger.

There are men who dream about their horses when away from them as they dream of absent friends. This is the way they were born. A motor car can no more take the place with them

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"It must have been lovely, dear," she answered: "I wish I had been there, for it may be the last May day I shall see."

"Oh, no, mamma; nothing is impossible to God. He can cure you. Don't you remember the instance of the woman in the Scriptures, who touched His garment and was cured of a disease that was pronounced incurable? And, mamma, I did more than touch the hem of His garment when this morning I received Him into my soul, with only one purpose in view—that He might make you well. Have faith, mamma dear. And you know you can see the procession this afternoon," added Lola; "it is to pass down this way."

Two hours later Lola wheeled the invalid chair up to the window, and they pressed their faces against the pane, watching the procession slowly winding down the street. It consisted of nearly three hundred children and their pastor. First came the altar boys, bearing lighted torches, then the priest with the Most Blessed Sacrament, the little girls, dressed in white, with veils on their heads, strewing flowers and singing hymns as they went. It was a beautiful sight.

Suddenly, as the procession was passing by Lola's house, her mother exclaimed, as she arose from her chair:

"Why, Lola, I have strength—I can walk! Our dear Mother has helped me!" and, taking Lola's hand, she fairly flew down stairs to watch until the procession was out of sight. When the crowds had dispersed and Lola and her mother returned to their home, they both knelt before their little bed-room altar and offered up prayers of gratitude to Our Blessed Lord and His Holy Mother for the miracle that had been performed.

Then, gathering Lola in her arms, her mother said:

"Dearest, our Blessed Lady has helped me. Through her Divine Son she has wrought a miracle, by curing me of an affliction from which I have suffered for years. It was due to you, Lola; you have been so persistent in prayer, offering up Communions, novenas, and rosaries for my recovery."

"I always knew, mamma, Almighty God would make you well if I had the right faith and kept on praying and hoping. And I feel so happy now to have my dearest wish granted, on this glorious May-day."

That night Lola's mother was awakened, to hear her child singing in her sleep:

"O Mary, we crown thee with flowers to-day, Queen of the angels, Queen of the May."

LOVE OF THE HORSE

It was a custom of the great saint of Assisi to speak of the birds as his little brothers and sisters. In the story of this St. Francis we frequently hear such phrases as "Brother Fish," "Brother Hawk," "Brother Ox." Among the earliest acts of his self-renunciation was the selling of his horse to provide the money needed to restore a neglected sanctuary. Loving as he did every living thing, it requires no stretch of the imagination for us to hear him, as he parted with his faithful servant, saying,

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of the horse than the memory of a fireless cooker could supplant the remembrance of the old home kitchen and the loving mother who prepared the meals. It is this inherent love for the horse that burns in many a man's blood that makes him smile at the prophecy of a horseless age.

The motor car will take its place as a permanent feature in the world and pleasure of men, but so long as human nature remains the horse will abide as one of the joys and satisfactory delights of mankind. When the railway supplanted the stage-coach no remark was more common than "the day of the horse is done." His best day many of us believe is yet to be. In spite of our friends the motor car manufacturers, the horse is coming back. Never were there so many in the world as now. Not a few who gave them up years ago are buying them again.

No, Brother Horse, your place is assured among men, because men were so made that they will never let you go. May the day of your slavery to hard and inhuman masters some time end! And when all things are made new, unless you are there to share that golden age with man—that age unmarred by deed of cruelty or wrong—some of us will cherish your memory so long as memory lasts. Another saint, earlier than the Italian Francis, tells us that in his holy visions he "saw heaven opened, and beheld a white horse, and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True." Only such are worthy of thee, noble friend!

NO PRIEST, NO OPERATION

I remember a good Catholic doctor was lying dangerously ill. His brother practitioner, one of the most skillful in the city, came to perform a serious operation. "Wait a minute," said the Catholic doctor to the other, who was prepared to begin operations. "I expect the priest every minute."

"Oh," said the other, "we don't want one of those black coated gentlemen about us! He will only disturb you and put the fear of hell into you. We shall get on much better without the priest."

The Catholic reply was, "No priest, no operation."

At that moment the priest entered; whereupon the irate operator retired, muttering that he would not be responsible for the consequences. The consequences were that when he returned in so wonderful a state of content and happy resignation, that it gave him every chance to make the operation successful—as it was, and indeed as, of course, it might have been, whether or no. But ever afterward when that doctor was called to a Catholic patient his first question was, "Have you sent for the priest?" And if he had not, he would say, "Well, send for him and then I'll cure you." Doctors are beginning to realize this fact nowadays and act up to it. I wish it were better known.—From the Lenten Pastoral of Bishop Chisholm, of Aberdeen.

RENTERS DRINK NAUSEOUS

THROUGH RESTORING NATURAL PHYSICAL CONDITION

Drunkenness is coming to be regarded in its true light. It is a disease—a diseased condition of the stomach membranes, and sufferers should be pitied and helped instead of blamed or punished.

The drink habit takes hold quickly. Alcohol inflames the stomach and quickly brings about a diseased condition of the nerves and membranes of the stomach that creates an unbearable craving, and unless the patient is helped, his desire to stop is powerless.

Read what one devoted girl did for her father.

Silver Lake Ont., Jan. 30th. You may remember sending me a treatment of Samaria Prescription. I have administered it all and since the third day, Father has not taken a drop of any kind of liquor and looks a new man. I please accept my heartfelt thanks. May your company ever prosper in the good work it is doing.

Have withheld by request. Samaria Prescription stops the craving, restores the shaking nerves, builds up the health and appetite and renders all alcoholic liquors distasteful, even nauseous. It is tasteless and odorless and can be given either with or without the patient's knowledge in tea, coffee or food. FREE TRIAL PACKAGE of Samaria with booklet giving full particulars, directions, testimonials, price, etc., will be sent in a plain sealed package to anyone mentioning this paper. Correspondence sacredly confidential. Write to-day. The Samaria Remedy Company, Dept. 11, 142 Mutual Street, Toronto, Canada.

SEX PROBLEMS

Dr. James J. Walsh

To-day people are clamoring about physical standards in marriage. This problem is easily solved by giving the examples of Athens and Sparta. In Sparta the cripples and weaklings were killed a few weeks after birth. As a result the armies of Sparta were the greatest fighting machines of the age and a great physical nation. Athens produced the finest intellectual race.

Weaklings have given us the greatest of ideas and some of the most wonderful work ever accomplished by man was performed by a cripple and persons who in their childhood were kept on earth only by the mother's love. They claim the person must be born right. Some of the greatest scientists, musicians and authors were weaklings.

"Too much thought is being given to sex problems. The theatres, newspapers, novels, and women's club are occupying themselves. We wonder what the result will be. The knowledge of sex proves a suggestion to the young people. It is most dangerous to them. There will be an increase in avart proportion. "There is a way of getting a better class of plays at the theaters, by refusing to attend the bad ones. You can be sure of the theaters. Three-fourths of the attendants at theaters are ladies. If they will refuse to attend these sex plays within two weeks there will be no more of them. The ugly sex problem plays will be no more if the good women will stay away. We may have good news papers by refusing to accept the bad ones.

"The child should not receive the knowledge of sex. They must be taught to deny and build up character. They do not want more knowledge of sex problems and suggestions but discipline. This is a new superstition among a certain class of people of the day, to teach them more about sin and they will be better. What we need now is discipline and self-denial among the young men and women. Strikes in the schools prove that discipline has been broken down by some social evil.

"The old generations were not too ignorant about the minds and bodies to look at and solve the problems in the proper way. We must encourage self-denial and discipline to properly solve the sex problems."

What art thou, O human life? Thou art the way of life and not life itself. We must traverse thee without dwelling in thee, no one dwells on a great road; we but march on through it to reach the country beyond.

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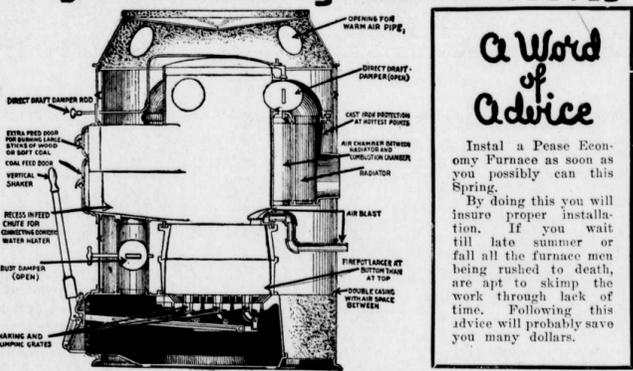
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For 36 years the Pease Furnace has led in Furnace construction, but our new "700 Series" Furnace is even an "improvement on the best." The heat radiator is now constructed of Copper Bearing steel that enables it to resist the corrosive action of gases, and makes a "Pease" Furnace last from two to three times as long as those in which just ordinary steel is used.

The large clean-out doors enable one to clean out the furnace in a few minutes—at any time, whether the fire is going or not.

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