

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE CHANCE TO SERVE

The chance to serve; let it not pass for youth or age in any mood; We see ourselves in a glass In those whom we give shelter, food.

The chance to serve, though sad or gay, Whatever be its final cost, Of all the chances on life's way Is far too precious to be lost.

The chance to serve; who does not know That heroes to this task were born? And, be they calling high or low, They help the needy and forlorn.

REAL APPRECIATION.

He was standing at the end of the bridge looking out across the water in the waning afternoon, a large, unkempt man with cowhide boots, smoking a disreputable pipe.

At first there seemed something curious about a man clad as he was, making comments on sunsets, and so filled with enthusiasm of what he saw, taking the first chance come into confidence over the matter.

To return to the man on the bridge. As I reflected on the incident I found myself envying the unknown. Fortune had evidently not poured gold into his lap.

The idea is old; the legend of Eyes and No Eyes, yet it is endowed with unconquerable youth. It makes all the difference in the world whether one sees or merely looks at things.

A very hard specimen of a Roman coachman was driving two tourists about the City. As they passed the new Palace of Justice, he turned around and examined the multi-tudinous details of that elaborate structure and on its cost.

Some years ago a new hotel was built in the Ludovisi quarter in Rome. On holiday afternoons I always saw a crowd of country people looking at it.

The tourist who takes a late afternoon walk in Tokio will always find a number of Japanese in the gardens of that delightful city; and poor people, coolies, rickshaw men, laborers who have finished work in the outskirts and are going home to supper.

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As I watched the holiday crowds on Washington Street, surging along like some gigantic centipede, aimless, sightless, absorbed in what "he said" or "she said," I wonder if we have gained so much after all. We have parks and gardens for the people and they are given over to the machines playing ball and nurses pushing perambulators.

The more I see of the blindness of nine out of ten around us, the amount of joy and beauty and life interest that goes for naught for them, the more I think of that unkempt man with the disreputable pipe, who stood at the end of the bridge and asked me with exultation in his eyes: "Ain't that a corking sunset?"—A Looker On in Boston Pilot.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

WILLIE'S DIRTY FACE

When I rise in the cold morning, Ere my shoes I start to lace, Mother calls: "Now, Willie, darling, Don't forget to wash your face!"

And as true as supper's ready, Papa says I'm a disgrace, And he sends me from the table Out to wash that same old face.

But there comes a rest at night time, When I slowly climb the stairs, And I kneel down at my bedside To receive my evening prayers.

THE WELL OF ST. BRIGID On the southern side of Loch Lomond is the Well of St. Brigid, renowned all over Ireland for its health-giving waters.

To get to the well it was necessary to pass over ground belonging to the estate of a country landowner. One year when the pilgrims to the holy well were very numerous, the owner of the ground suddenly closed up the path that led to it, declaring no one should pass over his land without his permission.

So the well was unvisited for three months, and loud were the lamentations heard on every hand. Though the owner of the estate told no one why he had barred the way to the well, yet he thought he had good cause to do so.

One morning he had found some of his fences torn down and thrown into the lake, his corn trampled under foot and destroyed, and so much damage done to his crops that naturally he blamed the pilgrims.

He was very angry and at last made up his mind that he would drain the well into the lake. So one clear moonlight night, armed with a spade and a gun he started for the well.

Imagine his amazement to find the lake and well and surrounding ground brilliantly illuminated, as if myriads of candles and lamps were alight.

Then as he stood wondering what this night light could mean, he was further surprised to see a most beautiful maiden slowly rising from the lake. The maiden was clothed in a long flowing white robe, around which was knotted a blue girdle, and sparkling jewels shone over her garments.

THE LITTLE PETITIONER Half hidden among fig and pomegranate trees near the great and well fortified city of Trent, lies the sunny village of M—. In the fall of 1915, the pastor of the village was giving instructions to a group of small boys in preparation for their first Holy Communion at Christmas.

One evening, therefore, he concealed himself behind the curtain which separates the sacristy from the sanctuary, that he might observe unseen what little Vigilio was doing. Softly, on tiptoes, he came tripping along, knelt down beneath the sanctuary lamp and prayed in a whisper, "Padre nostro che siete in cielo—"

Then the boy arose, and dragging one of the vesper stools up the altar steps, climbed upon it, placed his little hands on the altar and bending towards the tabernacle said, "Come, my dear Jesus, I must speak to you. Come out, I have some very important matter to settle with you; come—O come!"

THOSE IRISH LADS! OH, SUCH FAITH!

After the armistice was signed, the "Wild West" 91st Division—in which I am serving—passed through several Belgian towns and over the frightful battlefield of Ypres to Rousbrugge, Belgium. We were then beyond the battle zone and quartered in a town that had suffered little material damage from the war; only a few hostile aeroplanes had flown over the town and dropped a few "eggs" on the buildings of Rousbrugge.

Our billets were an index to the good fortune of this little Belgian town; instead of spreading our blankets on a floor that was neither warm nor soft, we enjoyed the luxury of sleeping in real, soft, warm beds.

I was billeted with the pastor of Rousbrugge, a priest who, before the war, occupied a position as director of studies in a flourishing city of Belgium. (At his own request I shall not mention his name.)

GOOD EXAMPLE It would seem to be an implicit acknowledgment of the divinity of the Catholic faith that non Catholics are quick to detect and condemn the misconduct of Catholics.

At the time this incident occurred, I was stationed at Waton, Belgium. I had learned to speak English fairly well—I have often thanked God for the opportunities of doing good that the knowledge of English has afforded me.

WASHINGTON'S CATHOLIC RELATIVES On Washington's Birthday, it is interesting to call the roll of the living members of his family who profess the Catholic Faith.

STAINED GLASS MEMORIAL WINDOWS AND LEADED LIGHTS B. LEONARD QUEBEC: P. Q. We Make a Specialty of Catholic Church Windows

THE RIGHTEOUS POLITICIAN There was a delicious bit of humor in the reply of Clemenceau to the women of France who demanded a voice in the affairs of their country.

CECIL CHESTERTON AND CATHOLICISM In a preface to the "History of the United States," by the late Mr. Cecil Chesterton, which has just been published, his brother Mr. G. K. Chesterton, speaks of Cecil's conversion from Socialism to the Catholic Church.

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Roman Church. It is notable, in connection with the general argument, that while the deeper reasons for such a change do not concern such a sketch as this, he was again characteristically amused and annoyed with the sentimentalists, sympathetic or hostile, who supposed he was attracted by ritualistic and emotional mysticism.

It is curious how any one, acquainted with the straightforwardness of the man, could question his motives, but then there must always be some sinister reason or a hidden mental weakness, which had hitherto escaped the notice of friends, to account for a conversion to the Faith in which Dante and St. Thomas gloried and which Marshal Foch is not too great to practise with all the simplicity of a child. It has ever been thus.—America.

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