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## CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

Set yourself carnestly to see what Set yoursell cardesoly to so what you were made to do, and then set your-self carnestly to do it; and the loftier your purpose is, the more sure you will be to make the world richer with every be to make the world richer with every enrichment of yourself. - Philip Brooks.

### Lost Opportunities.

"Don't be a rounder," says the Catholic Citizen. "Don't be a sport. Don't be perennially festive. Don't go in for 'a good time' as your main ob-ject. The wages of sin is death. The wages of these things is lost concernation. bad habits, impaired health and vages of thes ties, vulgar tastes."

#### Fight until the End.

Life can be made a success. It is not a question of climbing above poverty; a question of climbing above poverty; it is a question of understanding life. So many of us have been lured away and fascinated by what turn out to be phantoms and false gods! We have had to wheel back and begin over again and fight along against tremendous odds, and yet with all that life can be made a success—for success consists in doing right, in doing the best you can with what you have, of years of experience, of sorrows, of chances, of joys and of hope. Fight until the end. The High and Beautiful.

Nothing is more conducive to pro-gress, and more helpful in keeping one up to high standards, than taking one's bearings now and then, and making, as it were, a fresh start. Whatever a man's occupation or profession may be, his chances of attaining marked success in it are ten to one if he makes up his mind at the outset that, at least once a year, he will will make a thorough study of himself and his methods from the standpoint of an outsider.

It is easy to promise ourselves, when starting out in life, that we will never lower our ideals, that we will always go onward and upward, and that we will ever be found abreast of our times, in sympathy and co-operation with the leaders of progressive thought. We do not dream of the constant vigilance that must be exercised in order to keep our ideals in sight; we do not count on all the influences from without and within against which we must struggle if we would remain true to the high beautiful aspiration of youth .-Success.

#### The Power of Initiative.

There are a few qualities which are rarely, if ever, absent in the man who accomplishes things. One of these is the power of initiative, the will and transmute thought into energy to transmute thought into action. If James Watt had been content to talk about the "green idea suggested to him by the sight of steam ouring out of the spout of a teakettle, our modern steam engine would not owe its existence to him. If Fulton had satisfied himself by vaporing about his plans to build and launch a steam-boat, the "Clermont" never would have steamed its successful way up the Hudson. Had Franklin merely talked about his theory of electricity, he never would have succeeded in chaining lighting. Nor would any of the other chaining great achievements in art, science mechanics have been realized, if the first crude idea that presented itself to the mind of the originator had not beeu seized and acted upon.

#### Silence is Massive.

Keep still. When trouble is brewing keep still. When Slander is getting on his legs, keep still. When your teel-ings are hurt, keep still till you remy pocket against the day when I could look it over without agitation and with-out tears. I was glad I did. Less and less it seemed necessary to send it. I was not sure it would do any hurt, but

The Stamp of Superiority.

of nobility, the divinity of the mind. The writer has a friend who has been

A Few Brief Thoughts for Busy Men Good manners are worth a great deal to a young man who wishes to succeed in life. For many of our most success ful business men they have been more capital than the money they started with.

stamp of superiority upon everything

"First impressions are lasting" is an old proverb. A gruff, uncouth manner has often ruined an otherwise gifted young man. Kind, gentle man-ners-manners that come from the heart and not merely the head—will win their way to any heart. Good manners refine the character,

and make it more harmonious, more in tune with the manner that God wishes

to exist in all things. He is a successful man who radiates the sunshine of cheerfulness and help-ful encouragement among his fellow-men, in whose presence men feel better and are lifted nearer to the most per-fect of Men. Cheit is the model of a fect of Men. Christ is the model of a true gentleman.

Are You Capable ? The world asks two questions of those who knock for admittance at the door of success: "Are you capable ?" "Are you genuine ?"

Most of us already have our places in life; we are working away in such lines as we happen to secure. We may lose our positions by incompetence, or we may hold them by doing good work, or we may secure promotion by de-veloping capabilities which fit us to grasp the opportunities that come to

us. It is not luck, it is not favoritism which push forward those who advance There are exceptional cases, but the overwhelming majority advance by doing good work and by developing, the there work

doing good work and by developing, through experience in their work, capabilities for better things. Some of us feel that we know all we need to know in the positions we hold; but there are things outside of the duties of our position that are worth knowing; for instance, there are ac-complibutents to be accuired. Aside knowing; for instance, there are ac-complishments to be acquired. Aside from that matter, what is well done may be still better done. The teacher who holds an appointment and who does a teacher's work passably well, can by some effort obtain a reputation for excellence and progressiveness. What excellence and progressiveness. What a contrast there is between the carpen-ter who does his work like an expert cabinet maker and the ordinary slovenly

carpenter; between the printer whose definess and celerity put him ahead of his fellows and the ordinary slouchy typesetter of uncertain habits and agi-

with all my heart.

' I would like something better.'

tating propensities. The instances might be multiplied The instances might be multiplied touching every line of work and every avocation of life. To the good work-man, to the capable teacher, to the well-posted lawyer there comes—be-sides the rewards which better work obtains the rewards the world, both obtains-the respect of the world, both on the business and the social side. The rewards of good work are good wages, certainty of employment, independence of character and - honor among men. Certainly these are objects well worth taking greater pains to acquire.

We will estimate that it requires 75 per cent. of energy to become an ordinary carpenter, an ordin-ary teacher, an ordinary steno-grapher, an ordinary lawyer; and that an exertion of 25 per cent. additional -have patience." "Patience! I have a great deal," said Antonio, "but if only I knew Eng-lish I could do ever so much better, energy will make one an excellent carpenter, an expert stenographer, a strong

penter, an expert stenographer, a strong teacher, an able lawyer. Is not the extra energy worth while? Failure to be genuine is a flaw of character which comes largely from the "Knew English !" exclaimed Teresa "Knew English !" exclaimed Teresa laying a dish down on the table as she was in the midst of wiping it. "What will you say next, I wonder ! Who has put these foolish ideas into your head ?" "They are not foolish, Teresa," put in Agnese. "I wish I could learn English, too, and then some day I could be a maid to some English lady, or serve in a good shop, perhaps, and it would be very nice indeed to speak English." cover from your excitement at any rate. Things look differently through an unagitated eye. In a commotion once I wrote a letter and sent it, and wished I had not. In later years I had another commotion, and wrote a long letter; but life had rubbed a little sense into me, and I kept that letter in my pocket against the day when I could look it over without agitation and with

they kept a carriage with very sleek horses, and a coachman who did all kinds of odd jobs in turn with driving Tereasa as Agnese helped her to clear away the dishes and prepared to wash them up. They had all been so hungry that they had eaten their meal in sil-ence. "You, Tonio, I mean," she added. his employers about in the carefully his employers about in the carefully kept carriage. Teresa earned well in those days, for the Antibaldis were generous and stinted themselves so as to give their servants good wages and

which

That, a

keep the dear old carriage in they took a daily trottata. The "Yes, I had to work on. The padrone said I must," answered Antonio. "Ah, it's bitter to be poor and have least, was a consolation to them, quite least, was a consolation to them, duite making up, in their estimation, for slender meals, watery soup, and the twisting and turning of the Marchesa's wardrobe. The latter was effected by a small dress maker who came by the o work as hard as I do just for the little get.-What is it ?" and the boy I get.-What is it ?" and the boy frowned as he pushed back his chair from the table. "Nothing !" " Don't be sugrateful, Tonio ; there are many her sugrateful, Tonio ; there

"Don't be ungrateful, Tonio; there are many tar worse off, who have no work and who have not enough to eat and drink as we have. Let us be thank-ful for what we have." "I am not," said Antonio. "I should white hair. Teresa was always advised

like to be richer and not to have to work, and if that can't be to have differby her master to put by something for a rainy day, and she usually promised that she would do so, but her promises ent work to mine." "That's just what I say," remarked Agnese, "and Teresa calls it discon-tent—and perhaps it is. Just imagine how pleasant it would be to be able to were never kept for long, for if the money was ever put by in the saving bank it was soon withdrawn. She had a whole host of impecunious nephews lie late in bed in the morning, and not and nieces who, many of them, tool to have to go to work all day, running advantage of their aunt's generous nature and susceptible heart to get all to have to go to work all day, running errands for the padroda, matching things and doing all kinds of odds and ends, and with what hope? Well, later on to be a work girl, and sit stewing in the heat or shivering in the cold." "We have all our work to do in the world," said Teresa, "and it matters much more how we do it than what it is." that they could cut of her, while with others there was genuine want, which her little money was the means of very

greatly relieving. And so it went on year after year, Teresa working harder and harder so as to have more money with which to help her people. She begged the Marchesa not to get another kitchen maid when Vittoria it is." "I don't think that at all," said Antonio. "I think it matters very went away to be married, but to let

much indeed. There's the young Englishman on the third floor opposite —see what a life he has! and he is just her do all the work and have the extra wages, and as they agreed, her work was increased. Then one day she received the news my age—what a difference to my lot ! All the work he does is to paint a little that her eldest son at Prato was ill of in the galleries to amuse himself, ride on his bicycle all over the country, and

typhoid fever, and scarcely had she reached the house before she heard have servants to wait on him. They are very rich, so Giuseppe tells mo, and besides this beautiful flat here, that he was dead, his wife being also down with it. A few days after, the white-robed mortuali had carried away they have a great castle in England leo's coffin in the dimness of an autumn evening. That of the wife soon fol-lowed. The two children, Antonio and they have a great castle in England and no end of money." "The English are rich, yes, I know," said Teress, " and it is a good thing for us that they come here to spend some of their money, for we should fare badly here in Florence without them, Agnese, were then totally unprovided for, and so it was left to Teresa to see what she could do, for all the other members of the family were too poor, or pretended to be so, to move a linger and also the Americans, who have often to help them. Meanwhile the old Marchese Antistill more. I welcome the forestiere

"You always look at things in a differ-ent way, Teresa," said Antonio in an irritated voice. "I don't care who baldi died, and his wife, with her sister, left Florence to go and live in Sicily, where all their relations were, and so it came to pass that Teresa could hardly have left at a more con-venient time. The Marchesa gave her comes here or who does not. I have to grind on at my work for poor pay, and that is all. The signorino is rich and must be very happy; I ar poor and very miserable." "Che-che," said Teresa. "Don't a little sum of money in reward for her long and faithful service, and she es-tablished herself, with Antonio and "Che—che," said Teresa. "Don't talk nonsense like that. I think there's many a boy who hasn't half as nice work as you have among the beautiful flowers all day—" "Giving them water and tying them up and carrying them here and there— fine work, certainly!" said Antonio. Agnese, in the two little rooms in which we first found them. Though some years past seventy she worked on, going out by the day to cook or clean, and not refusing any work, however menial, which brought in a little money with which to make a home for her grandchildren. They "That's just and reasonable enough,' said Teresa, nodding her head, " and 1 were an anxiety to her and she watched over them with great concern, making them the subject of numberless prayers am not at all against such thoughts as those. It is well to keep eyes and ears open, and if there was a chance and Communions, of mortifications, and visits to shrines and holy places, for for you, say, at some office or shop, there is always the possibility of a place Teresa, though not particularly well instructed in her religion, held firmly with a strong unchanging faith to the if you apply early enough. A fine, tall boy like you will get on, no doubt Church, which she knew could do so

much for her and hers. Teresa could not read or write, for she belonged to a past generation which had not the education which is scattered far and wide in these days but she was not stupid, and as for a bargain in the market, why, as the fruit and vegetable vendors said among themselves in admiration, there was not her equal to be found easily in

Florence. TO BE CONTINUED. IMITATION OF CHRIST.

AGAINST VAIN AND WORLDLY LEARNING.

would be very nice indeed to speak English." "I think both you children are quite "I think both you children are quite

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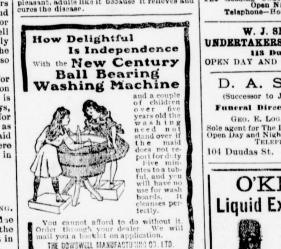
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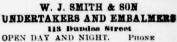
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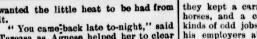


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was not sure it would do any hure, but in my doubtfulness I learned to reti-cence, and eventually it was destroyed. Time works wonders. Wait till you can speak calmly, and then you will not need to speak, maybe. Silence is the most massive thing conceivable, some-times. It is strength in very grandeur. OUR BOYS AND GIRLS. STORIES ON THE ROSARY BY LOUISA EMILY DOBREE.

The Ascension of Our Lord Into Heaven THE POWER OF HOPE.

"I wish I were rich," said Agnese Vari one January evening as she sat with her grandmother in the little room which served as kitchen by day and When a man feels throbbing within him the power to do what he under-takes as well as it can possibly be done, and all of his faculties say "Amen" to and all of his faculties say "Amen" to what he is doing, and give their un-qualified approval to his efforts—this is happiness, this is success. This buoy-ans sense of power sputs the faculties to their fullest development. It unfolds the n ental, the moral, and the physical forces, and this very growth, the con-sciousness of an expanding mentality, and of a broadening horizon, gives an added satisfaction beyond the power of words to describe. It is a realization of nobility, the divinity of the mitd.

Antonio's bedroom by night. "When I was your age I often wished it, too," said Teresa, Agnese's grand-

"Oh, dear me, how discontented I used to be !" continued Teresa, laying

down the spoon on the table, for she had been stirring the polenta for their had been stirring the polenta for their evening meal, which, now it was quite cooked and steaming hot, looked very tempting indeed both to her and to Agnese. There was a great brown loaf of casalinga (household) bread on the table, and a little wicker-covered flask of thin red wine called acquarello. "Yes," continued Teresa. "I was always longing for this or that, and never put my whole heart into my work, as I was dreaming of all the beautiful things I wanted." said Antonio. He was in a very back humour that evening, and that some-thing unusual had upset him was very evident to his grandmother, who had quicker perceptions about a good many more things than Antonio had any idea

The writer has a triend who has been of inestimable assistance to him in his work, who has from boyhood made it a rule of his life never to let anything pass out of his hands until it is done to a fasich and has required the last touch a finish, and has received the last touch things I wanted."

more things than Antonio had any luca of. She did not answer, but took up some stockings to mend, drawing the little cheap lamp near her to be able to see better, and as she did so she gave a sigh. Life, which was so very hard to her, was very long and she often felt a little weary of it, though she knew well where to obtain help to bear things I wanted." "And you never got any of them ?" "Never-not the things I wanted then," said Teress, a smile coming over her wrinkled old face, from which grey her wrinkled old face, from which grey hair was drawn and plaited into a thick knot at the back of her head. "But it has been all for the best. I can see that now. Ah, here is Tonio," she added, as a tall, slight lad, very like his sister, came in and flung himself on a chair close to the small charcoal fire which was nearly spent, as, the evening meal being cooked, there was no more use for it. the burdens that seemed to weigh very heavily on her old shoulders. This last winter they had been pressing last winter they had been pressing even heavier than usual, for it had been a very cold winter indeed, and altogether Teresa had found it difficult to find enough money lor their simple

mad."

pass out of his hands until it is done to a finish, and has received the last touch of his best effort. It doesn't matter to him that people are in a hurry, or that others about him are fretting and fuming — he can not be induced to slight his work. There must be the stamp of completeness and superiority upon it before he lets it go. During many years of extensive correspond ence with him, the writer has not re-ceived from him a hurried or slipshod letter or note, or one which was not well balanced and accurately punctu-ated. People envy this man his super-ior power to do things, but this is the result of always doing his level best in everything he has touched. He will not guess at a thing, and he insists upon absolute accuracy, and in doing everything to a complete finish. The effect of this habit upon this man has been most remarkable; his char-acter is solid and substantial; there is not a false note in his make-up; everya chair close to the shart charcoar me which was nearly spent, as, the evening meal being cooked, there was no more use for it. It was quite early in February and bitterly cold in Florence, for the tra-montana was blowing hard, and people said that this weather might even end in snow. But the Varis, who were poor, had to be very careful about spending a soldo more than was neces-sary, so the fire was economised as much as possible, Teresa raking up the ashes in her scaldino after the meal was very, she felt the old blood in her veins 

mad," said Teresa, taking up the dish again. "Ah, young people were not so in my young days! We were quite content to know our own beautiful lan-guage," she continued, speaking as she always did with a strong Florentine accent, which was certainly not pretty. said Teresa, taking Attend to my words, which inflame the heart and enlighten the mind; which excite to compunction and afford mani-fold consolations. Never read anything that thou

nayest appear more learned or more wise.

"Well, well, you have no money to spend on learning English, so you may as well be content. Then, too, you think the rich are always happy. You Study rather to mortify thy vices ; for this will avail thee more than the being able to answer many hard questions. When thou hast read and shalt know many things, thou must always return to one beginning.

as well be content. Then, too, you think the rich are always happy. You are quite mistaken. They have their cares and their troubles, too. I can assure you, for was I not thirty years cook at the Marchesa Antibaldi? and their rich relations had their share, with the eldest son blind, and then the Contesino Felicita's marriage. Dear me, when I come to think of it all !'' and Teresa sighed. "If they have their troubles they have no end of the pleasures of life,'' said Antonio. He was in a very bad humour that evening, and that some BONE

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