CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

plentiful pardon, our souls overflow with And

Our hearts are half broken, dear Jesus, With the joy of this wonderful night!

We have waited so long for Thee, Thou art come to us, dearest, at Oh, bless Thee, dear Joy of Thy

Mother,
This is worth all the wearisome past!
Thou art come, Thou art come, Child
of Mary!
Yet we hardly believe Thou art

come;—
It seems such a wonder to have
Thee, New Brother! with us
in our home.

evermore.

On Eternity's jubilant shore. -REV. W. FABER

CHRISTMASTIDE AND CONTENT OF HEART

we are made to be happy, and if we are not happy in God's way, we shall try, or be tempted to try, to he happy in some other way. If be happy in some other way. If our hearts are gloomy and we do not light them up with the sunlight of God's happiness, then other fires and other lights will be let in to dispel, if possible, the darkness that broads upon them. Sin lives just across the way from discontent. Why are people every day drag.

Why are people every day drag-ging down the lofty, divine manliness of man to the mere satisfaction animal appetites? Why will they try to lead a thousand-dollar life on a five-hundred-dollar salary? Why will they try to build the great monument of honor, of ambition, of public recognition, on the shat-tered fragments of the Ten Com-mendments? Is it not because there is a discontented, unresigned heart within the breast, a heart that listens to any and every message that promises relief, a heart that has not yet opened its ears to the only true message of gladness, a heart that looks out on life with wrong notions or what is true content? Let us attach Christmas ears and Christmas eyes to the sad hearts of the world, let them hear the message of heaven and look on life with the eyes of Christ, and though every sin will not leave the world, so

eyes of Christ, and though every sin will not leave the world, so many will leave it that the tired ears of our confessors will have instant and long continued relief.

A man took his boy into a toy shop to choose a birthday present. He made a great mistake. He wished to satisfy his boy, but only succeeded in dissatisfying him. The boy was on the point of taking the first object that fell under his gaze when something else more gaze when something else more attractive drew his attention. From that moment he was lost. Within his little brain grew up the world of toyland; within his heart grew up a multiplicity of desires. He could never be satisfied because each new object possessed some-thing that the old had not and lacked something that the old had.

Now, my dear friends, we often face the world as a child faces a toy store. We, too, have a child's eye and a child's brain. We look out upon the kaleidoscope of life. We want everything and we want nothing. We go to one toy counter and before we have made our purchase, we are lured on to another. On the toy counters of older life it is not a nicture back, but a professional output to the counters of older life it. On the toy counters of older life it is not a picture book, but a profession; not a whistle or a flute, but the whispers of fame, it is fashion, it is amusement, it is society that attracts, then repels and leaves us disappointed. Whatever we see and know, the store windows, along our streets, the advertisement pages in our magazines, the society column in the daily news. society column in the daily news-paper, the great splendor of Christmas that surrounds us at present, all tend to excite our desires and arouse our envy, if we look on them with child's eyes and reflect on them with a child's brain. We

sulk in spirit. We have gone out into life to buy for ourselves a present, and we come back with one toy and a thousand disappointed Wondrous music filled the chamber, Angel music, so it seemed.

Quick they drew aside their curtains,

THOU ART COME

At last Thou art come, little Saviour!

And Thine angels fill midnight with song;

Thou art come to us, gentle Creator!

Whom Thy creatures have sighed for so long.

Thou art come to Thy beautiful Mother,

She hath looked on Thy marvellous face;

Thou art come to us, Maker of Mary!

And she was Thy channel of grace.

Thou hast brought with Thee plentiful pardon,

And our souls overflow with

When the Christ Child opened His eyes first in this world and looked at the four sides of his manger and then at the four walls of His stable nursery, what was the thought in the mind of the Divine Child? The thought was: "I am content, I came to do the will of my Father, I came to be about my Father's business. My Father said that the sign of my birth should be that I sign of my birth should be that I would be wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. I see that I am. I am content." Could we look with the same eyes and the same thought at the four sides of our manger and the four walls of our homes? If we can say that we have done our best to better our condition, that we have not thrown away money in sin, then we should Thou wilt stay with us, Master and Maker.

Thou wilt stay with us now in ife by the number of University in ife by the number of University in ife by the number of the nu ies we can endow or the number of We will play with Thee, beautiful libraries we can build or the number of stocks we can water. The baby eyes of Christ measure success by a higher, by a truer standard. We measure up to the standard of Christ when we know that God's will is fulfilled in our life. "That is the sign."

Christmas is the holiday of happy hearts. We all need Christmas because we all need happiness. For happiness we were made; for happiness we work on earth; toward eternal happiness we should all be tending. Christmas of course, has other lessons and perhaps sublimer ones, but I do not know that it has any more practical one than that of happiness of the heart. The message that should come at Christmas is the message that God intended us to receive; it is the message His Angels were sent to deliver, the message of "good tidings of great joy to all the people."

We are reade to be happy and is the will is fulfilled in our life. "That is the sign."

But, you will object: "Does not such a doctrine condemn us to an attitude of inaction? Must we not fold our arms at whatever comes and say piously 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?' Must we not lay down on the pillows of our ceffins the same brain that we lifted from the pillows of our cradles?' By no means. Resignation to God's will does not mean inaction. Resignation is not a matter of lolling upon cushioned seats, with closed eyes, folded arms and nodding heads and letting our properties. and nodding heads and letting our-selves be whirled through life on the back bench of an automobile of sweet donothingness. Resignation to God's donothingness. Resignation to God's will did not mean passiveness at Bethlehem; it does not mean it today. When God took to himself human brains to think with and a human heart to love with, He took things that in the will of His Father were meant to be enlarged and improved. God made our bodies to grow to manhood and made our souls to grow greater still, to grow souls to grow greater still, to grow to the likeness, to the containing even of God Himself. The baby fingers of the Saviour that reached out weakly, almost helplessly to His mother at Bethlehem, grew to the steel-like strength that closed around the lash and cleansed the temple of buyers and sellers. The baby cries of Bethlehem became the articulate wisdom of the Sermon Donnelly, S. J.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS

TREE Far across the briny billows. Where the German people dwell, Parents tell a charming legend How the Christmas tree befell. For it keeps alive the spirit
Of good will and peace and love,
Ringing out the birthday message
From the brighter home above.

Once upon a time when winter Held the sway o'er sea and land, Driving man and beast to shelter With an icy, snowy hand, Two young children sat in comfort On a cold and bitter night Watching fire flames leaping, dance

On their cozy hearth-fire bright. As they prattled, safely shielded From all care, and want, and woe, Came a sound at first scarce heeded 'Twas a timid knock, and low, Quick they ran to where it sounded, Threw the thick door open wide. Keen to learn what evening caller Stood upon the step outside.

'Twas a child, a little pilgrim, Asking if he might come in. Lost he seemed 'mid cold and darkness.

Garments ragged, few and thin.
Bare his head and bare his fingers,
Bare his tiny little feet,
Pinched and blue his childish features,

His forlornness seemed complete. Quick they drew him to the fire-

Put him in their own warm seat, Rubbed his hands and feet near frezen, Gave him of their food to eat: Shared the garments that he needed

And when good-nights had been Found a bench and slept upon it, Giving up to him their bed.

They were wakened from their dreams,

Peered without with eager eyes.
'Twas a band of shining children
Floating earthward from the skies. Suddenly the little stranger Stood beside them and they knew By the halo 'round his forehead

Twas the Christ-Child, pure and true, And in voice attune to music From the golden harp-strings sweet Spake he words that made the Christmas

For the children full, complete. "I was hungry and ye fed me. Naked was I; when ye saw Ye did give me of your garments, Making good the golden law. Since to me your best ye've given I will leave for you a gift, That will prove a joy and blessing And through ages men uplift.

Broke a branch of darkest green, Planted it beside the doorway Where as stranger yester e'en He had waited for a welcome, And then vanished from their eyes; Leaving naught to prove his pres-

ence But that wondrous chosen prize.

But that branch became a fir tree, Bearing yearly fruit of gold For the children in whose honor Still the story there is told. Every year since then the forests Yield their trees to axmen's hands To become the Christian symbol Used throughout all Christian lands.

CHRISTMAS CATECHISM When was Christ born? When was Christ born?
About 4,000 years after the creation of the world, in the second year of the reign of Emperor Augustus.
Why do priests say three Masses on Christmas Day?
To indicate the three-fold birth of Christ, Our Lord, according to the distinction of the two natures, and also of the graces which He confers.

also of the graces which He confers Of which birth does the first Mass

remind us?

It reminds us of His Divine birth from His Heavenly Father, according to His Divine nature.

The second Mass?

Of the temporal birth of Christ of the Virgin Mary according to His human nature.

When lo! a white-winged Angel The watchers stood before, And told how Christ was born of earth, For mortals to adore; He hade the trembling Shepherds Listen, nor be afraid, And told how in a manger remind us?

The third?
Of the spiritual birth of Christ in the hearts of Christians by His sac-

the hearts of Christiens by His sacraments and grace.

Why does the Church have Mass at midnight on Christmas Day?

First, to indicate that the eternal birth of Christ is, for us, hidden in mystery; second, because Christ was born at midnight; third, to indicate that those who lived under the laws of nature were as yet walking in spiritual darkness.

Why is the second Mass celebrated early in the morning at the break of day?

First, to indicate that those who lived under the law of Moses, like lived under the law of Moses, like

lived under the law of Moses, like the shepherds to whom the birth of the have; second, because the shepherds came about dawn to Jerusalem to adore the new-born Christ.

Beside a humble manger Was the Maiden Mother mild, And in her arms her Son divine,

To indicate, first, that the birth of Christ has given us the broad light of the knowledge of salvation.

From Calvary then was cast Only the glory was revealed, The suffering was not passed.

THE CHRISTMAS ROSE Redolent of the great faith and The shepherds worshipped the tender, generous character of the Irish people is the beautiful legend of the Christmas rose, which come down in the folklore of the Emerald Isle, from centuries

long past and gone.
When the great night came, and the dark skies were suddenly illu-When the great night came, and the dark skies were suddenly illuminated with the lights of heaven, the shepherds gathering together their offering, went with haste to find Him, Who had come to be the Light of the world. Great rough men, full of simple faith, they were; and each carried a little lamb in his arms to lay at the feet of the Good Shepherd. But among them was one wee lad, who had no gift.

All his life long he bad heard of the Messiah, Who was to come. The earth was full of rumors that the time was near at hand; and, lying out on the hillside under the deep blue sky he had dreamed dreams of that day, picturing himself close to Him in many roles and now that the moment had come, he raced along, his tiny legs finding it hard work to keep up with the swift, strong stride of the men.

So full of excitement was he, that no thought of self entered into his mind. But as he came to the cave.

no thought of self entered into his mind. But as he came to the cave, Gathered from you distant hil saw the bright star shining above, And the presents are all simple and heard the songs of the angels. That its bristling branches fill.

beneath there sprang up the first Christmas rose, the fruit of a little bay's love for the Christ Child. THE THREE KINGS

When you visit the Crib on Christmas Day, you notice that, besides the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, only the shepherds are in adoration at the feet of the Christ Child. The Kinga come later, and their coming is celebrated on the feast of the Epiphany (January 6th.)

Castles long to feel the thrill All triumphant in the cottage Of the humble by the mill; For the sweetest Christmas people, And the one that cannot fade, Is the one where love is reigning, Is the one that mother made! Epiphany (January 6th.)

Epiphany means manifestation; for, when the Kings came and found the Child, Christ was manifested, that is to say, made known, to the Gentiles. Until then He had been adored by Jews only. The calling of the Kings by means of the wonderful star showed that Christ had come into the world for all men, Gentiles as well as Jews.

It is said that later, when the Apostles were preaching the faith, these Kings (Magi the Gospel calls them) were baptized by St. Thomas, and that through them many

and that through them many became Christians. The Cathedral of Cologne, Germany, contains what are said to be the remains of the Magi.

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

In skies so blue and bright, Shone ages since on Shepherds Who watched their flocks by night There was no sound upon the earth, The azure air was still, The sheep in quiet clusters lay

When lo! a white-winged Angel The watchers stood before, And told how Christ was born on

And told how in a manger The glorious Child was laid.

And all the bright host chanted Words that shall never cease—

And the wondering shepherds left their flocks

adore the new-born Christ.

Why is the third Mass celebrated

No shade of future sorrow

Orlington then was called the control of the control

The Eastern kings before him knelt,

The wonders God had wrought : They saw the crown for Israel's King, The future's glorious part; But all these things the Mother kept

And pondered in her heart.

Gathered from you distant hill, he noticed his empty hands.
How could he go into the presence of the newborn King, when he had nothing to lay at His feet; he would in her earnest Christmas raid!

nothing to lay at his feet; he would so willingly lay down his very life for him! He crept close to the opening, and kneeling down in the cold white snew, he wept as though his little heart would break.

And, lo, the warm tears melted away the hard snow, and from beneath there sprang up the first Christmas rose, the fruit of a little tree!

In her carnest Christmas raid!

Oh, her purse was scant and meager, But her love was boundless wide!

Ah, the many resignations And the things for self denied!

Now, behold, the whole is finished And the children shout with glee In the cottage of the toiler 'Round that home-made Christmas-tree!

Wealth may stand aside with yearn-



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