

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

CHEER UP!

Why don't you smile a little bit? I know you're feeling blue. But when you look at me like that, you make me gloomy, too.

I know, of course, it's very hard. When things are really black; but you are not the only one. With troubles in your pack.

There's not a soul that you may meet. But has some secret care. Suppose they all behaved like you! Life would be hard to bear.

If every face were dark with frowns; if not an eye were bright; if every mouth just drooped and drooped. From morning until night.

So turn the corners up a bit; if Fate's unkind, deny her. The chance of scoring over you; she yields if you defy her.

—Catholic Telegraph

GETTING THE GIST

A certain professor said at a Columbia test:

"The mathematical mind can't appreciate poetry. You remember the mathematician who began Tennyson's stirring 'Half a league, half a league, half a league'—and then put down the volume contemptuously, muttering:

"If the ass means a league and a half why can't he say so?"

"Another mathematician listened to a minor poet reciting one of his own songs—a song that said that the poet's body was in the office, but his soul was in the country communing with nature.

"Asked afterwards what he thought of the song, the mathematician said:

"Well, that poet isn't the first one who couldn't keep body and soul together."—The Scimitar.

HOW TO SUCCEED

A man should start out in life with a firm understanding with himself that he is going to succeed; that he has undertaken to do a certain thing, and no matter how long it takes, or how difficult the process, he is going to do it. He should resolve at the very outset that if he fails in anything he will make the best possible use of his failure—get the best possible lesson from it; that he will make of it a stepping stone instead of a stumbling block. He should resolve that every set-back shall ultimately prove an advance. There is everything in starting out with an understanding with yourself and there is nothing else for you but the goal, that you are going to get there sooner or later, no matter what stands in your way. If you are only half committed to your proposition, however, if you are so loosely attached to your vocation that the least opposition will shake you from it you will never get anywhere.—The Pilot.

YOUR BLAMELESS SELF!

Have you ever noticed? When the other fellow acts that way, he is "ill-tempered;" when you do it, it's "nerves." When the other fellow is set in his ways, he's "obstinate;" when you are it is just "firmness."

When the other fellow doesn't like your friends, he's "prejudiced;" when you don't like his, you are simply showing that you are a good judge of human nature.

When the other fellow tries to treat someone especially well, he is "toadying;" when you try the same thing, you are using "tact."

When the other fellow takes time to do things, he is "dead slow;" when you do it, you are "deliberate."

When the other fellow spends a lot, he is a "spendthrift;" when you do, you are "generous."

When the other fellow holds too tight to his money, he is "close;" when you do, you are "prudent."

When the other fellow dresses extra well, he's a "dandy;" when you do, "a duty one owes to society."

When the other fellow runs great risks in business, he is "foolhardy;" when you do, you are a "great financier."

When the other fellow says what he thinks, he is "spiteful;" when you do, you are "frank."

When the other fellow goes in for music and pictures and literature, he is "effeminate;" when you do, you are "artistic."—The Missionary.

NEED OF AUTHORITY

At times, authority seems a hard task master. It often demands an obedience which the spirit would willingly give but which the flesh would impulsively deny, all because man is human. And because he is human he needs that authority to save himself from becoming the unhappy victim of his own inexpedient fancies. A prominent Knight of Columbus of this State was expounding the real value of authority a few years ago to a large gathering of laymen who had assembled to witness a third degree. He made a comparison between the attempts to break free from authority to the kite that flew in the breezes held in leash by the string that was manipulated by the little boy's hand. When the kite sailed aloft in the breezy air it suddenly became obsessed with the idea that it would be free of the guiding string that directed its course. So it tugged and pulled and evorted in many

circles in its mad attempt to liberate itself. Suddenly the string snapped and off it sailed exultant in its new born freedom. Now it could sail as it liked and it would pierce realms as yet untouched by any other kite. And away it did float in the vast expanse of blue and all went well for a time. Suddenly an adverse wind struck it a blow too strong for its fragile mechanism to withstand and down it crashed to earth never to rise again to play in its favorite sphere. How similar to authority and the human being. He chafes and becomes restless under the guiding hand of authority. He fails to recognize that it is the only power that can keep him in his right course. He thinks he should be free from the restraining influence of recognized authority and sometimes he, too, breaks loose from the strings and the result is inevitable in either the civil or religious spheres—ruin and desolation. That Knight of Columbus gave his final injunction to his hearers. "Men, always follow authority, especially Church authority, and you will never go wrong." He had compounded the wisdom and experience of the ages in one strong plea.—Catholic Transcript.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

GOLDEN KEYS

A bunch of golden keys is mine. To make each day with gladness shine.

"Good morning," that's the golden key. That unlocks every day for me.

When evening comes, "Good-night" I say, and close the door of each glad day.

When at the table, "If you please," I take from off my bunch of keys.

"Excuse me; beg your pardon," too, when by mistake some harm I do.

Or if unkindly harm I've given, with "Forgive me" I shall be forgiven.

On a golden ring these keys I'll bind; this is its motto: "Be ye kind."

THINGS TO REMEMBER IN THE SCHOOLROOM

To enter quietly and orderly. To be in your seat at the time for opening school.

To stand and sit erect with both feet on the floor. To keep your lips closed and your eyes open.

That whispering is as impolite in the schoolroom as elsewhere.

That attending school is your business and preparing your lessons is a duty which you should perform cheerfully.

That it is as dishonest to steal a word, a problem, or a lesson, as it is to steal anything else.

That it is very bad manners to read, write, or spell badly.

That your desk should always be in perfect order and your books free from ink or pencil marks.

That clean hands, face, ears, neck and shoes are the badge of a lady-like girl and a gentlemanly boy.

That your teacher should always see clean white teeth when you smile.

That well-combed hair and neatly-laced shoes make you appear genteel.

That you should obey your teacher's rules as promptly and cheerily as your mother's.

That a boy or girl who does his work and obeys his teacher has no trouble.

That you should be as kind and polite to your schoolmates as to your most welcome guests at home.

"Whoever you are, be noble; whatever you do, do well; whenever you speak, speak kindly; Give joy wherever you dwell."

"All that you do, do with your might. Things done by halves are never done right."

SELF-COMPLACENCY

One of the essentials in success is the ability to judge your own qualifications fairly and that is exactly what most people are unable to do. Not long ago a young man applied for a position in a large publishing house. He was one of many applicants, all of whom were subjected to a few preliminary tests before the weeding-out process began. A paragraph from a popular essayist was read and the applicant was told to write down the general idea of the paragraph, as well as he could remember it and hand it to the examiner. The result showed that he had not grasped the idea at all. He had written down a few incomplete and unintelligible sentences, which conveyed no idea whatever. His handwriting was crude and in the case of some words not legible. In writing a hundred words he misspelled six. Of course it was not necessary to continue the examination any further, and yet he went away convinced that his rejection was due entirely to prejudice. The stories people send to periodicals show illuminatingly why many do not succeed in literature. They do not know enough even to realize that they lack every essential. They lack imagination, as is proved by their appropriation of some time-worn plot. They are ignorant of the basic principles of rhetoric, even of grammar and spelling. Their crude, ill-written manuscript only

needs a glance to place them. And yet such people are convinced that if it were not for editorial prejudice against the new writer, they would have as good a chance as anyone else to make money by their pen. As a rule complacency is a bad sign. The people who feel sure that they could fill any position satisfactorily are not likely to give satisfaction in the least exacting post. One of the first essentials of success is to know what keeps you from succeeding.—True Voice.

KEEP YOUR TROUBLES TO YOURSELF

Practical and farseeing as well as that business girl or woman who has learned to look on the bright side of life—who sees the silver coloring which we are told lies every dark cloud. However, most of us know girls and women who make life miserable for themselves as well as for all with whom they come in contact by a continual recital of their woes, real or imaginary, and forecasting all sorts of trouble for the near or distant future. What a foolish waste of valuable time, and what an unfair advantage to take of the person or persons who are forced to listen to such topics. Probably not one of us is satisfied with life or the place to which Fate has assigned us. Indeed, the average human being longs for all sorts of things. Many of us secretly envy this one or that one, and wish, oh, so fondly, that some good fairy would come along and hand us a prize package containing the possessions that our more prosperous or popular friends enjoy. A rather pleasant day dream, but a very unproductive one. Instead, if we are wise, we will look facts squarely in the face, put all idle wishing out of our minds and resolve to make the very best use of our time and opportunities. And we should go a step further: We should decide to get every bit of legitimate happiness that we possibly can get out of life.

Keep your troubles, if you have any, to yourself. In fact, try to forget them. Take a whole-souled interest in your work, then resolve to make noticeable progress in the particular line you follow, and if you mean business you will get ahead.

The really ambitious person wastes no time in "borrowing trouble" or in forecasting other calamities. She puts her best efforts into today, turns a smiling face to a non-sympathetic world, and lets tomorrow take care of itself. Certain responsibilities have come to everyone of us, and these we cannot shirk. If we keep smiling and hustling as an old adage advises, we will soon forget our difficulties—likewise ourselves, and self-effacement, some wise sage has declared, is a sure, short cut to happiness.—Catholic Transcript.

If we take all things as from God, and behold all things as in the light of the brightness of His coming, all shall be well.—Cardinal Manning.

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