

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

CHEERFULNESS

A cheery word with a friendly smile,
And a loving thought behind,
Are the everlasting flowers of earth
That angels love to find,
And they breathe them into a floral cord
That binds your soul to Heaven,
And ever a stronger knot is tied
With each word of kindness given.

ACHIEVING MATERIAL SUCCESS

Some one wants to know the secret of success in life. That is not an easy question to answer because so much depends upon what is called success. Some men who have died without a cent to their names have been truly successful in their lives, and others, leaving vast fortunes, have been colossal failures. But if the question relates to material success it may be answered by certain rules and maxims that have been followed by others who made something out of their lives. Here is one set compiled as the result of the reading of scores of biographies:

1. Integrity.
2. The desire to succeed.
3. Industry, well directed.
4. Thrift as distinct from miserliness.
5. Civility under any and all circumstances.
6. The capacity for taking pains.
7. The cultivation of your natural gifts.
8. The habit of concentration.
9. Self-confidence, or a sane belief in yourself.
10. Persistence of a refusal to be discouraged.

It is possible to improve upon these rules, of course, but it is safe to say that anyone who attempts to follow all or most of them will come within measurable distance of succeeding in his or her trade, profession or occupation. It is needless to say that ideas are the most valuable thing in the world. This means that if we expect to accomplish anything out of the ordinary, it is necessary to think and think and think. The mental faculties may be improved by constant use just as the physical body may be developed by well-balanced exercise. In this connection the systematic study of your trade, profession or occupation is bound to be helpful. Thomas A. Edison says that he makes it a rule to periodically scan all the papers and periodicals that concern his life work. Often it is like hunting a needle in the proverbial haystack, but every now and then there may be a little paragraph of a three-line item that is stimulating or valuable. It is an incentive to ideas, too, and Lord Northcliffe attributed his success as a publisher to a single idea. And that idea came to him after dozens of other ideas had been tried and found wanting.

It is a mighty poor biography which does not contain something that will be helpful to the aspiring student of success. Some of these books seem to be dull and uninteresting, but the mere fact that it has been found worth while to print a book about an individual is proof that there must be a grain of wheat somewhere in all of the chaff. But the great big fact is in the incentive they furnish. The reader unconsciously places himself in the position of the hero or the heroine. The subject was a human being, even as we are. He had eyes to see and ears to hear, and the brain to conceive, and the will to execute. What others have done we can surely do. Take the life of Abraham Lincoln as a shining example. How many boys have taken it as a beacon-light to follow? How many have profited by the way in which he overcame what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles? There is not only instruction in this, but thrilling drama. It pictures a contest between a man and the life about him. Everybody loves a fight, and it is easy to imagine thousands watching that unequal contest and hoping that the man will win, as he did in this case.

Thomas Jefferson was one of the earliest Americans to formulate a set of rules for his personal guidance. Washington and Franklin had their maxims also, but they were not put into the concrete form in which the author of the Declaration of Independence placed his views. Here are the ten rules of conduct which he declared were at the basis of success.

1. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
3. Never spend your money before you earn it.
4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap.
5. Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst and cold.
6. We never repent of having eaten too little.
7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
8. How much pain have cost us the evils which never happened.
9. Take things always by the smooth handle.
10. When angry, count ten before you speak; when very angry, a hundred.

It would be easy to take each of these rules and preach a sermon on it, but it is not necessary because all of us will admit the wisdom underlying them. In one form or another they have been repeated by

most of the men who have won fame in this life. The fact that they were composed more than a hundred years ago does not detract from their value in the least. Charles M. Schwab, George W. Goethals, John Hays Hammond, John H. Patterson, John Wanamaker, George Eastman, Herbert Hoover and Matthew C. Brush have all had their little codes of action. These have not always been accurate, but they existed just the same and played an important part in their lives. Take Matthew C. Brush as an example. He began his business career by selling newspapers on the streets of Chicago, and eventually became the head of the famous Hog Island—the world's greatest shipbuilding plant. He might not tell you so himself, but there were at least five reasons why he was so successful:

1. He was always on the job.
 2. He knew his business thoroughly.
 3. He was never afraid of dirty his hands.
 4. He stuck at a job until it was finished.
 5. He had the faculty of picking out competent assistants.
- It may be noticed that in the composite set of rules which lead to prosperity, we have placed integrity first of all. This has been done because honesty of purpose is indispensable to real success. This quality is not always stressed in the advice which is given to the young and the ambitious, but nevertheless it is one of the foundation stones of the edifice. It may be said that all of the great fortunes of the present day are not based upon integrity, but the answer to that is that victories won by ignoring honesty are hollow and unsubstantial, and only too often crumble into dust like Dead Sea apples. In an event, a good reputation is requisite to advancement in this life. If you are not trusted it is next to impossible to succeed.

It may not be out of place at this point to suggest that the best of us need an incentive in order to do our best. That is one of the reasons why so many poor boys in this country have accomplished so much. Being without the advantages of wealth, or position, or education they have had to struggle to get the things which come to others as a matter of course. It may sound like affection to say that great wealth—inherited wealth—is one of the greatest disadvantages a boy can have. If you doubt this, listen to the words of William K. Vanderbilt. He says that his life was never quite happy because he had nothing to strive for in this world.

More than once he declared that inherited wealth was a positive handicap to happiness. He declared that it was a certain death to ambition as cocaine was to morality. He added to this:

"If a man makes money, no matter how much, he finds a certain happiness in its possession. But the man who inherits it has none of this. The first satisfaction, and the greatest, that of building the foundation of a fortune, is denied him. He must labor, he does labor, simply to add to an oversufficiency." One of the things that led to the success of nearly all of the persons under consideration was thoroughness. They capitalized their spare moments in the effort to know their business from top to bottom. Many failures come from the attempt to do things in a half-hearted way. Abraham Lincoln was a master of graphic expression. This was not an accident. It is true that he was without any formal education—that he educated himself—but he did this by his determination to be thorough. The way in which he grasped the power of the English language was simplicity itself. When he got an idea he aimed to express it in a way that might be understood by a child. How did he do this? Fortunately he has given us the answer. He said:

"I could not sleep when I went on the hunt of an idea until I had caught it; and when I thought I had got it I was not satisfied until I had repeated it over and over again; until I had put it in language plain enough, as I thought, for any boy to comprehend. This was a kind of passion with me, and it has stuck by me; for I am never easy now, when I am handling a thought till I have bounded it north, south, east and west."

The great writers of fiction have gone through a somewhat similar experience. They have not rested until they have got the right word. Building a story is akin to building a splendid house. If you would have something worth while you must get the exact brick or stone, and place it in precisely the right place. A friend of ours, who is a successful novelist, says that he has walked the floor for hours, and often gone to bed with a headache, in the search for the right word. But one that word was found it belonged to him forever, and when he had occasion to use it again it came to him without any effort.—The Rambler, in Catholic Standard and Times.

Like all things worth having in this world, a happy disposition can be obtained only by effort and by the overcoming of those traits in ourselves that make for unhappiness.

Faith has a sort of vision of its own; but there is no light in which it can distinguish objects, except the light of prayer. The light of prayer is the beam of steadfast day.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

THANKS BE TO GOD

Thanks be to God for the light and the darkness,
Thanks be to God for the hail and the snow;
Thanks be to God for shower and sunshine,
Thanks be to God for all things that grow;
Thanks be to God for lightning and tempest,
Thanks be to God for weal and for woe;
Thanks be to God for his own great goodness,
Thanks be to God for what is so;
Thanks be to God when the harvest is plenty,
Thanks be to God when the barn is low;
Thanks be to God when our pockets are empty,
Thanks be to God when again they overflow;
Thanks be to God that the Mass bell and steeple
Are heard and seen throughout
Erin's Green Isle;
Thanks be to God that the priest and the people
Are ever united in danger and trial;
Thanks be to God that the brave sons of Erin
Have the faith of their fathers far over the sea;
Thanks be to God that Erin's fair daughters
Press close after Mary on heaven's highway.
—Old Irish Prayer

WHAT SISTERS MAY DO

A sister can help to cure a brother of a boy's natural awkwardness and blundering by saying all the pleasant things she can of him in his hearing.

She can do more for him by encouragement than by rebuke. Boys flourish best in a kindly atmosphere.

She can take an interest in his fads and amusements and listen to him whenever he has anything to tell. In this way she becomes his most valuable confidante and comrade.

She can make her brother's friends by being ready to entertain them when they call. She should not be continually finding flaws in them or holding them up to ridicule.

She can teach him to be manly by occasionally claiming his protection and he will be quick to respond to such a call.

She should say nothing to her brother's disparagement before strangers. Harsh treatment will only result in hard heartedness.

Brothers stand in need of as much sympathetic affection as girls, and sisters should see that they get it.

In this way sisters can teach their brothers to be as fond of home as they are, and a fondness for home will keep anybody from straying from that path which leads to a noble manhood.—Catholic Transcript.

NUTS TO CRACK

What is it that has four legs and only one foot?—A bedstead.

What goes most against a farmer's grain?—His reaper.

Which is the greater number, six dozen dozen or half a dozen dozen?—Six dozen dozen, of course.

What is that which, the more you take from it, the larger it grows?—A hole.

Why is a blockhead deserving of promotion?—Because he is equal to any post.

Why is money often moist? Because it is frequently dew in the morning and mist at night.

When is a clock on the stairs dangerous?—When it runs down and strikes one.

How can bookkeeping be taught in a lesson of three words?—Never lend them.

Name the first lady of the land?—Eve.

Which is the largest room in the world?—Room for improvement.

What word of one syllable, by taking away the first two letters, becomes two syllables?—Plague—ague.

What is it that makes everybody sick but those who swallow it?—Flattery.

WHY SHE IS POPULAR

Dora Deane was unquestionably one of the most popular girls in the town in which she lived, and some of the other girls wondered why. Louise Raye gave expression to this wonderment one day when she was spending the afternoon with Iva Ellis.

"I am sure that it isn't because she is so pretty that Dora is so popular," said Louise. "When it comes to looks, she is almost downright plain."

"I know," said Iva, "and it is not because she is so brilliant, for she is not as good a talker as a number of girls I know and she never got very high marks at school. All the same, every one seems to like Dora and, while she is truly a likeable enough girl, I don't see why she should be so wonderfully popular."

"I think I know why, girls." The voice came from the cozy corner in which half-invalid Grandma Ellis sat all day long. She was a frail little old woman, exquisitely neat and dainty in her dress, and with a very sweet and gentle spirit.

"What is that, Grandma?" asked Iva. "You say that you think that you know why Dora Deane is so very popular. Then tell us."

"Well, I think that I know Dora as well as any one in this town

knows her, for I saw her first when she was just two days old, and I have known her ever since and she will be nineteen years old the fifth of next May, for she was born the same day my first grandchild was. I think Dora is so popular because there is a certain dainty and sweet little flower that she wears all the time, although we do not visualize it as we do real flowers. It is what some one has called the 'sweet flower of courtesy.' She's a girl of a thousand little courtesies. I doubt if she ever failed to say, 'thank you' or 'I beg your pardon' or 'if you please,' when she should have said those words. I don't think that either of you ever saw her lose her temper or hear her speak sharply to any one or discourteously of any one. She is charming in her consideration for the old and she never fails to have something good to say of those who are under the sharpest condemnation. She has as choice a thing as a girl can have—a fine manner. They say that 'manners make the man.' Well, they make the woman as well, and they have a great deal to do with making Dora so popular."

"I guess that there is a good deal in that when you come to think of it," said Iva. "Dora certainly has lovely ways of saying and doing things. My father says that she has the most beautiful manners of any girl he knows."

"Did you ever know a girl of downright bad manners who was very popular?" asked Grandma Ellis.

"I don't know that I ever did. I know one I do not think I will name however, who is very unpopular because of her bad manners."

"Sometimes," said Grandma, "when Dora has been here I think of a verse of Whittier's—

'Our homes are cherrier for her sake;
Our door-yard's brighter blooming,
And all about the social air
Is sweeter for her coming.'

"The 'social air' is made sweeter by all of Dora's many little courtesies that bespeak a good and a kind heart. That has been the secret of the popularity of many."—Western World.

THE GREATEST FORCE

Recent discoveries in physical science have led scientists to speculate about the possible exploitation of hitherto untapped forces, such as the tremendous energies that are stored up in the atom. It has been figured out that, if these pent-up forces could be harnessed to the purposes of man, the most marvelous results would be obtained, and all other sources of mechanical energy might be dispensed with. At present, however, there is no way of releasing these astounding powers and putting them to work in the interests of man. On the contrary, there is great danger in the present stage of knowledge that any tampering with these hidden energies may work terrific havoc and prove extremely destructive. Still, we know of these forces and some day, as science progresses, we will be able to utilize them.

In the moral world there also exists a power of vast possibilities which men, thus far, have failed to exploit to its full extent. It is love. Up to the days of Christ, it was but little known, and hardly applied in human relations outside of the family; and even in the home it was overshadowed by stern authority. In fact, frequently enough it has been regarded as a weakness unworthy of one who wishes to push ahead in the world and to achieve success. Christ brought love to a position of honor and gave it a foremost place in His moral teaching. He made it the very foundation of all human relations and the dynamic of all conduct. It was a startling innovation, calculated to revolutionize the entire moral world.

In spite of Christ's insistence on love, men have only accepted it in a half-hearted way. They have really been afraid of love. We imagine, even at this time, that a world built on love would go to pieces. We still believe entirely too much in repression, in force, in the application of stern measures, in retaliation, in severe retribution, in strong arm policies and in implacable justice. With regard to love, as announced by Christ, the world has its mental reservations. It is inclined to admit that love is a general rule of conduct is an ideal policy, but it is not prepared to regard the rule of love as a practical policy. Yet, Christ was no mere visionary. He had a profound insight into the nature of man and knew what was best for mankind. He has clearly, and with all the emphasis one could desire, declared that it would be possible and beneficial if love held universal sway. But still, the world clings to its own short-sighted views in this matter. It prefers the iron rule to the rule of love. Roboam adopted this rule and he brought Israel to grief and lost the kingdom he had inherited. Czars of all times have followed the same iron policy, and they have brought ruin to their countries and disgrace to themselves. The victors of the past and the present have placed an iron heel upon the vanquished and they have prepared new wars and more destruction. The employes, who imagine he can run his business without love is making a serious miscalculation.

The rule of love is a very feasible one. It really works excellently wherever it is consistently used. Where it is not used, friction is common and conflicts are inevitable. The rule of love is also a paying policy. Whatever destruction has been wrought in the world has been caused by hatred. It was hatred that led to wars, to civil strife, to strikes, to lockouts. The costs of these can only be expressed in staggering figures. Besides, the iron rule in the long run, in spite of its costliness, is bound to break down. It is long admitted that it is impossible to educate without love. The rod alone has no power to make men good. Criminals cannot be redeemed without love. In those two departments, that of education and that of criminology, the modern world has in a degree adopted a policy inspired by Christ's teaching concerning love. What-ever beautiful results have been obtained in these spheres are due precisely to that fact.

There is especially one realm in which love has found no application. That is the domain of international politics. There, as of yore, the only law acknowledged is the law of force. The sad results are visible. Mankind is paying the terrible price.

The world needs rebuilding. There is not a people that is not yearning for peace and longing for a return of good will. Yet instead of removing the ash heaps created by the war, the folly of nations is only piling up new wreckage. The scars of the terrible conflict, through which humanity has passed, are not yet healed; and new wounds are being inflicted. Evidently the world has gotten into a blind alley. It has lost the key to the situation. Well, there is one policy it has not yet tried. It is the great policy which Christ recommended. If no other power can save the world, love can. It is the greatest constructive force in the universe. But it lies neglected even as our unharnessed water power that could keep our whole industrial machinery in motion. Some day the world will exploit the force of love and marvel at the splendid results.—Catholic Standard and Times.

PURITY OF INTENTION

A great source of spiritual and supernatural loss to souls is want of purity of intention. Very many perform hard and laborious duties, and yet gain no merit, because these are not done to please God. Many again, do much for public or patriotic reasons, but these works are not meritorious, because they are not done for some supernatural end. Even good people do many good actions, but very often they merely think of pleasing their superiors, and so their works are not supernatural. Some, again, bear many sufferings, but they lose much of the fruit of their crosses, because they are not carried in union with our Lord's crosses, and for the salvation of souls. When some suffer persecution from others they are so engrossed in the injustice of the conduct of their neighbor that they never think of offering their crosses for the salvation of souls. If it is pointed out to them that they ought to bear with the injustice, for Our Lord's sake, and for the conversion of sinners, they will point out that their neighbor is acting wrongly. They cannot realize that Our Lord can make use sometimes of our best friend to be a scourge to us.—Southern Cross.

The wealth of heaven never perishes, never departs, never ceases, never brings with it care or envy or blame, destroys not the body, corrupts not the soul, is without ill-will, helps not up malice; all which things are and on earthly wealth. That honor lifts not men into folly, doth not make them puffed up, never ceases nor is dimmed. Again, the rest and delight of heaven endureth continually; ever being immovable and immortal, one cannot find its end or limit. Nothing which comes to an end is much to be desired; whatever ceases, and today is and tomorrow is not, though it be very great, yet seems little and contemptible. Then let us cling to heaving things which slip away and depart, but to those which are enduring and immovable.—St. Chrysostom.

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