

# Chats with Young Men

Reading is to be the subject of our Chat for this week. Why should we form the habit of reading? What should we read? When should we read?

Before the art of printing became known, reading matter was procured at the cost of so much labor that the multitude had to depend on a few zealous and learned men for the benefits of facts of science and history. It is likely, too, that most manuscripts of that time dealt with solid subjects, more or less conducive to good. The effects of the distribution of miscellaneous reading which has followed the introduction of printing have been too many to enumerate here. One was the elevation of the civilized world by the increased intelligence of the average individual. Another was the distribution of many debasing classes of reading, the results of which were worse than illiteracy. One of these results was good, the other bad. How to impress young men with the necessity of increasing their intelligence without deteriorating their faculties, by a judicious course of reading, will be my study in the following paragraphs.

Young men should form the habit of reading. It is productive of much pleasure all through life, and in declining years, is often the only reliable source of happiness, since it can adjust itself to gradually changing tastes and is inexhaustible. In the intervals of toil it steals the mind from thoughts of fatigue or failure. But especially is the habit of reading a powerful element in the success of the modern man. Is he a tradesman, he can learn the history, the intricacies and the possibilities of his art by following approved literature on the subject. A clerk or employee of any kind can fit himself for promotion and proprietorship by supplementing good service with a thorough study of the details of his employer's business. This study too gives interest to his work, which is followed by contentment and patience to await advancement. The habit of reading improves the conversational powers of any man, thus rendering him a more desirable companion and a more enlightened member of society.

It is not my intention to name certain books which should be read, and yet I have a word to offer on that point. Those who are desirous of reading only the best books and who have not so intimate an acquaintance with literature as to be able to judge what works of fiction or history are good, would do well to ask someone, a clergyman or a man of literary repute, to recommend a list of books. But caution is necessary even here; for the readers' tastes must be consulted, otherwise the books approved of would have no attraction and would not make deep impressions. Therefore, I advise young men to read books which suit their tastes, whether in fiction, history or science. There should be no slavery to taste, however. One must discipline one's self even when consulting tastes. It is well to engage one's self in certain lines. Young men should read biography. It shows the actual struggles and rise to fame of men who had humble beginnings. I feel that I need not dwell on the abuse of readings. Young men know that trashy novels are pernicious in their effects on the mind and heart. The habit of feeding the mind with sensational stories kills all tastes for solid reading and ruins thinking faculties and the memory. But young men who read the Review must be made of sterner stuff, and I lay stress only on the habit of reading, feeling that the habit will call for good material.

When should we read? That is the most important consideration I touch upon in this article. It is true that "habit of reading" suggests a disposition to read regularly; and, to those who have already formed the habit my remarks do not apply. But boys do not form the habit of reading because they think they have no time to read. They are employed for eight or ten hours a day and must spend the evening either walking around or at

some other diversion than reading. I sympathize with this feeling, but I have an amendment to offer. I believe every young man could find one hour a day to read. In that hour he could read twenty octavo pages intelligently, that is, about two hundred and eighty pages in two weeks or an ordinary book. At that rate he could read twenty-five books in a year. What a little library! What a glimpse into history! What a store of facts! What a revelation from travel! Would it not enlarge his vocabulary, increase his usefulness, quicken his observation, make his life more interesting and happy? Would he not have had enough time for games, for society, for vigorous exercise when this hour each day was spent in reading? I would like that young men who have not been habitual readers would begin now in the winter months to learn the answers to the above questions.

FINEM RESPICE.

## THE COMING OF THE LORD.

Reprinted by Request.

It may be in the evening,  
When the work of the day is done,  
And you have time to sit in the twilight

And watch the sinking sun,  
While the long bright day dies slowly

Over the sea,  
And the hour grows quiet and holy  
With the thoughts of Me;  
When you hear the village children  
Passing along the street,  
Among those thronging footsteps  
May come the sounds of My feet;  
Therefore, I tell you, watch  
By the light of the evening star,  
When the room is growing dusky  
As the clouds afar;

Let the door be on the latch  
In your home,  
For it may be through the gloaming  
I will come.

It may be when the midnight  
Is heavy upon the land,  
And the black waves lying dumbly  
Along the sand;  
When the moonless night draws close,  
And the lights are out in the house;  
When the fires burn low and red,  
And the watch is ticking loudly  
Beside the bed;

Though you sleep, tired out, on  
your couch,  
Still your heart must wake and  
watch

In the dark room,  
For it may be that at midnight  
I will come.

It may be at the cock-crow,  
When the night is dying slowly  
In the sky,  
And the sea looks calm and holy,  
Waiting for the dawn  
Of the golden sun which draweth  
nigh;

When the mists are on the valleys,  
shading  
The rivers chill,  
And My morning star is fading,  
fading

Over the hill;  
Behold, I say unto you, watch,  
Let the door be on the latch  
In your home;  
In the chill before the dawning  
Between the night and morning,  
I may come.

It may be in the morning,  
When the sun is bright and strong,  
When the dew is glittering sharply  
Over the little lawn;  
When the waves are laughing  
loudly  
Along the shore  
And the little birds are singing  
sweetly

About the door:  
With the long days work before you  
You rise up with the sun,  
And the neighbors come in to talk  
a little

Of all that must be done;  
But remember that I may be the  
next  
To come in at the door,  
To call you from your busy work  
Forever more;

As you work your heart must  
watch,  
For the door is on the latch  
In your room,  
And it may be in the morning  
I will come.

\* \* \* \* \*

So I am watching quietly  
Every day,

Whenever the sun shines brightly  
I rise and say,—  
"Surely it is the shining of His  
face,"  
And look unto the gates of His  
high place  
Beyond the sea,  
For I know He is coming shortly  
To summon me.  
And when a shadow falls across the  
window  
Of my room,  
Where I am working my appointed  
task,  
I lift my head to watch the door,  
and ask  
If He is come;  
And the Angel answers sweetly  
In my home—  
"Only a few more shadows,  
And He will come."

## Brandon Notes.

Mrs. E. J. Barclay was the hostess at a most enjoyable euchre party in honor of Miss Machaffie on Wednesday afternoon. Miss Cottingham and Mrs. Lee were fortunate in winning the prizes.

Mr. John Kelly spent a few days in the city this week.

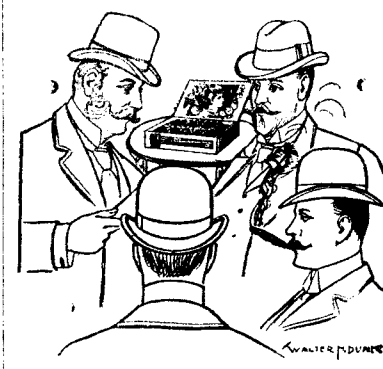
Miss Therrien is spending a week in St. Boniface, the guest of Mrs. A. C. La Riviere.

A mass meeting of the ladies of St. Augustine's parish was held immediately after High Mass on Sunday. It was decided to hold a bazaar about the last of October for the purpose of raising funds for the grand new church now in course of construction. Mrs. Jeffrey was elected President; Mrs. Purcell, Treasurer, and Miss McKinley, Secretary. The society of the Ladies of Mercy presented the bazaar committee with twenty-five dollars in order that work may at once be commenced. It was also decided to have at the bazaar two tables—one to be managed by the married ladies, and the other by Mrs. Purcell, assisted by all the young ladies of the parish. There will be great competition between the two and no doubt large sums will be made by both. Rev. Father Godts presented the president with a handsome gold watch, upon which chances will be taken at once and proceeds will go to bazaar fund. The ladies of St. Augustine's are noted for the success they make of whatever they take in hand, and in their present undertaking they expect to surpass all former efforts.

## A HUGE CONSPIRACY.

That dreadful man the Pope is again at work causing great disquiet to Mr. Arnold White, the "regular correspondent" of the "Ledger." It seems that a Russian gunboat has passed through the Dardanelles without opposition from the Sultan. This could not be, Mr. White sadly cogitates, were it not for the fact that "politics in the Mediterranean circle round the "Vatican." The Duke of Norfolk is a Catholic, and the fact that he recently expressed the hope that the Holy Father would regain his temporalities has borne fruit in the appearance of those Russian torpedo boats in the Dardanelles. No connection could possibly be clearer. "The Vatican was violently anti-English during the whole of the late Boer war," Mr. White sighs, and it is not so out of love for the Boers either, but because the Italian Government was on friendly terms with the British Cabinet. Nothing, therefore, could be plainer than the connection between the establishment of twenty-one torpedo stations by France on the coast and away over at Algiers and Tunis. The design to make the Mediterranean "a Latin lake" had its inception in the antipathy of the Vatican as regards Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's plans to gobble up the Dutch Republics in South Africa. And though the Duke of Norfolk threw up the Postmaster Generalship in order to fight the Boers, this fact only makes the conspiracy between the Vatican, the French Government, the Czar and the Sultan all the clearer; for, don't you see, it is the subtle game of the Jesuits to act like the Duke of Norfolk, in order to cover up the real designs of these intriguers. Now, the whole plot stands clearly revealed to the withering gaze of Mr. Arnold White. The central de-

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sign of the grand conspiracy between the Dardanelles and the "Latin lake" is to procure the appointment of as many Roman Catholics as possible on the British ambassadorial and consular service. It is a good thing for the "Ledger" to have such a bright man for its "regular correspondent" at times when it is advisable to call off attention from the iniquities of coal conspirators and the failure of the Attorney Generals to do their duty by protecting the public from robbery. The writer who can compose such a serpentine coil as he did in last Wednesday's paper is worth his weight in coal.—Catholic Standard and Times.

Why so busy with thyself? Leave Providence to act, whose eyes are ever upon thee in the greatest danger, and who will always save thee.—Life of St. Catherine of Siena.



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