

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE EDUCATION OF THE MIND

The mind has three faculties—understanding, will and memory.

Understanding is made up of perception, imagination and judgment. These powers can all be educated.

The chief objects of mental education are, to cultivate and discipline the mind, and to store it with those great facts and principles which compose the elements of all knowledge.

The studies to be pursued, then, are to be chosen with reference to these objects, and not merely for the purpose of making the mind a vast storehouse of knowledge.

This understanding of the objects of education is also necessary, to stimulate the young to prosecute their studies in the most profitable manner.

If their object were merely to acquire knowledge, the more aid they could get from their teachers the better, because they would thus obtain information the more rapidly.

But the object being to discipline the mind, call forth its energies, and obtain a thorough knowledge of elementary principles, what is studied out, by the unaided efforts of the pupil, is worth a hundred times more as a training for the mind, than that which is communicated by an instructor.

I do not mean to commend self-confidence in a bad sense. For any one to be so confident of his own power as to think he can do things which he cannot, or to fancy himself qualified for stations which he is not able to fill, is foolish and vain.

moments the problem was solved. I can scarcely point to any single event, which has had more influence upon the whole course of my life than this.

In prosecuting your studies, endeavor always, if possible, to overcome every difficulty without the aid of others. This practice, besides giving you the confidence of which I have spoken, will give you a much better knowledge of the branches you are pursuing, and enable you, as you advance, to proceed much more rapidly.

GOOD AND BETTER To wish is good. To try is better. To keep on trying when things do not go smoothly and easily, that is best and bravest of all.

Ask any man, who is looked upon as an expert or an authority in his work, whether it be trade or profession: "Did you ever meet any discouragements along the road to success? Were there any drawbacks to your plans, any hard places, any failures? Was it all smooth sailing, clear skies and fair breezes?"

If he has any sense of humor, he will laugh at such an absurd question. If he is a serious-minded person, he will shake his head solemnly at your folly. No matter how he does it, he will give you the same reply. It will be a story of obstacles overcome; of hard-fought battles won; of times when he set his teeth and said, "I will," when everything and everybody seemed shouting, "You can't."

If he had no story such as this to tell, most likely he would not be the expert or the authority he is. For if he has examined very carefully into the causes of his success, he can tell you that the obstacles were really helps on the way, hindrances though he may have thought them at the time.

WILLIE USES HIS EYES In his daily half-hour confidential talk with his boy an ambitious father tried to give some good advice.

Several days later, when the entire family, consisting of his mother, aunt and uncle, were present, his father said: "Well, Willie, have you kept using your eyes as I advised you to do?"

teeth in her dresser; ma's got some curls in her hat, and pa's got a pack of cards and box of dice behind the bookcase."—Catholic Columbian.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

THE YOUNG WOMAN'S TRUE ORNAMENT

The Christian young woman's true ornament is not found in dress. Beautiful clothes, judged in the light of faith, count for nothing. The Holy Spirit warns women against vanity in dress: "Women also in decent apparel: adorning themselves with modesty and sobriety not with plaited hair or gold, or pearls, or costly attire" (1 Tim. II, 9).

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Then I said, "Surely there used to be a little chapel, down below the pulpit?" "Yes," he answered laconically, "it's closed."

It is indeed a tragic state of things. Here are these people, believing just as we do, that Our Lord is really present in the Blessed Sacrament. Yet the door of the chapel must be kept locked, and the very fact of its existence concealed, and that, presumably as a result of the attitude of their own Bishop and in deference to the opinions of members of their own communion.

ENGLAND'S "ALMOST" CATHOLICS A correspondent of the Tablet (London) tells a little story that can not fail to touch the reader's heart:

A short time ago I found myself in a town where, as a child brought up in a thoroughly Protestant atmosphere, I had, while staying with some relations, my first experience of a "High Church."

When we think of all this, it should help us to cast out of our hearts all feelings of superiority towards those who are Catholics, but whose piety, of sympathy, with fellow Christians who are vainly longing for the privileges which we so freely enjoy.



MOST PERFECT MADE

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THE VIRGIN BIRTH

For some time the newspapers have been putting this subject before their readers. For the sake of the public, therefore, it is necessary to explain it.

The perpetual virginity of the Mother of God is an article of faith so intimately connected with the Incarnation, that a right belief in the one cannot stand long without a right belief in the other. The Catholic Church teaches that the Mother of God was a virgin in the conception of her Divine Son, in His birth, and ever afterwards; and this is the force of the term "perpetual."

Although the denial to Our Lady of her title of Mother of God leads, as a logical consequence, to the corruption of the true idea of the Incarnation and every false notion that flows from this, yet the denial of the Virgin Birth does not come about formally in this way.

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