

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

LITTLE THINGS

Somebody died a kindly dead, It helped you all the day; Do it again for someone else Who, needy, passes your way.

Somebody said a kindly word; Say it again, for one, May lighten someone else's load By the word that brightened you.

Somebody smiled, a cheerful smile, It made the day seem bright; It was only a little thing, you say— But those little things have might.

Those little things—are they little things? Just think in the whole long day An unkind word of slighting tone Has hidden the sun away.

WALKING FOR HEALTH

John Burroughs once declared that many a human body would be cured of half its ills by a suitable allowance of daily walking.

More advice of this kind is needed in this secondary age. An automobile smitten generation is so committed to riding nowadays that it is gradually losing the use of its legs.

There would be less demand for books on dieting, if men and women today did more walking and less riding.

And yet it pays rich returns in health and good spirits. There is nothing that will drive ugly humors from the soul so quickly as a brisk walk.

These crisp October days are just made for walking. The first cool days are nature's call to the exhilaration of the open road after the heat and torpidity of summer.

Oh, the weariness, the emptiness, the plotting, the seeking rest and finding none, that go by in carriages," writes John Burroughs, "while your pedestrian is always cheerful, alert, refreshed, with his heart in his hand and his hand free to all.

His pores are all open, his circulation is active, his digestion good. His heart is not cold, nor are his faculties asleep.

His sympathies are all aroused, his senses are continually reporting messages to his mind.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

A NUN'S PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Again I come before thee, Lord, To fill my post of love, To join in praise and homage here The angel's choirs above.

The moments fly and from Thy feet How soon must I arise; My wants, my sorrows and my fears Are all before Thy eyes.

THAT HIDEOUS STATUE

"Oh, Father, we are so glad you came," cried a chorus of merry voices as Father Levert entered the small sewing room of the Martha and Mary Society.

The priest smiled indulgently and gave no sign of being alarmed. "It is my turn now, is it? Well, I shall try to show you that I can practice meekness as well as preach it," he replied, folding his hands and casting down his eyes in mock solemnity.

"'Tis not a laughing matter," said Mrs. Erwin, the president of the society, a sharp-featured woman with a thin high voice.

"Oh, it is not really ugly, Father," broke in little Mrs. Lee in her pleasant voice, "but it does look out of place in its white marble surroundings."

"There's a story connected with the statue. Give me a chair please, out of this draft and I shall tell you its history, and let you decide whether or not I was justified in putting it there."

At the first hint of a story they were as much interested as a party of children would have been, and as soon as he was seated away from the open window, they were all impatient until he began in a reminiscent tone.

"You remember the small statue of the Sacred Heart we had some twelve or fourteen years ago in the temporary chapel over the school-room?"

Well, there was a woman of, say fifty-five or sixty, I am not much of a judge of these difficult matters," he interjected with a little twinkle in his eyes.

"No, Father, but God will help me," she replied. "Several years slipped by and not a day passed that did not find her in her place at the feet of our poor, little statue."

"I asked her if she was able to give anything so costly, judging from her dress and manner that she belonged to the poorest of the poor."

"After a pause he continued slowly and thoughtfully: "But early one morning the poor soul brought me \$10 which she wanted me to keep for her, and she planned to add to it little by little until she had saved enough to buy the statue."

"I discovered that she earned a pittance by what she called 'plain sewing'—just what makes one kind of sewing plain and another fancy I do not know," he laughed.

"She had taken a single room several stories higher than her old one, and in one way and another expected to be able to lay aside a little each month. From her enthusiastic talk I gathered that the statue had become the end and aim of her life, the only thing she had to plan for and to take an interest in; and she felt that it was her great chance to do something for God's glory."

"She was an interesting study and I always looked forward to her monthly visits when she would bring me the few dollars she had saved, by what and how many privations God alone knows."

"Suddenly Father Levert broke into an amused laugh. "Once she did not come near me for a long time and when she appeared at last I remarked, naturally enough, that I hoped she had not been ill. She looked somewhat shameful and said with a whimsical smile that showed that she was alive to the humorous side of the matter."

"It was the devil's fault father, Don't blame me. Every one looked so nice in her spring bonnet that I went down town and got myself one. It's awfully uncomfortable; so I hope the Lord is satisfied."

All laughed and were delighted to think that his saintly friend had a very human side. "Another time," resumed Father Levert, "months passed and I saw nothing of her. She came finally with a pitiable little story. She had been very ill and under the doctor's care, and it had taken all she could get together to pay him, and then she told me in an aggrieved tone: 'He made me have fire many a day that I could have done without it and not minded at all.'"

"She kept accurate account of every cent I had in trust and would always say as she gave me her savings, 'Now, Father, we have so much, very happy in the knowledge that the little hoard was growing.'"

"Well, to make a long story short, I found her waiting for me after the early Mass, one morning a few weeks ago. Her face was radiant."

"'Father,' she cried, 'I've got it!'" "Got what? I asked, not grasping the situation."

"'Why, my statue, of course.'"

"As you can imagine I was thunderstruck. 'A year ago,' she explained, 'I saw a lovely one, just what I had been picturing to myself, and ever since I've been afraid it would be sold before I could save enough to get it. The garments are a beautiful red color and my Harry loved red; so you see its very appropriate. Oh, Father, in all my life I was never so happy before!'"

"The statue of the Sacred Heart in the magnificent church of the Immaculate Conception is often noted as the one blot that mars its perfect beauty, and many comments are passed on Father Levert's singular lack of taste, but none of them are echoed by the members of the Martha and Mary Society."

Impertinent and lavish talking is in itself a very vicious habit, and a wretched hindrance to our spiritual proficiency.—Thomas a Kempis.

Be generously disposed toward believing others, and when others do not believe you, do not get angry; let it be sufficient for you that the truth is clearly seen—in the eyes of Him who sees all.—Pellico.

Answers for last week: 1 & 4: Confirmation, 3 & 5: David and Goliath, 2 & 6: Cure of Paralysis which was Gospel Sunday before.

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Here we have three scenes from the New Testament (one of them last Sunday's Gospel), and one from the Old Testament. A prominent figure in the latter group has a feast day this week. Answers next week.

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