

THE READER'S CORNER

CONDUCTED BY "COLUMBA"

I had a novel experience the other night. I was present at a meeting of a certain Ladies' Literary Society...

Now, I wonder, are there any suffragettes among my readers of the Corners? I piously and sincerely hope not...

"Woman was made for the home, and there her husband should find her," writes Carnea Sylva, and no sane person will question the saying...

Personally I'd be in favor of giving a woman a vote because if she had a vote of her own she'd have no time to heckle her husband about his...

Suffragettes are not catching on here in Canada. And that it is not a high compliment to the feminine element amongst us...

I am glad my remarks re the Catholic Immigrant question have aroused interest in the subject...

Dear Columba—I was very much interested in your article last week about the Catholic Immigrants...

"Home Rule means self-government for Ireland—that on our own poor humdrum, humble affairs we shall be allowed to decide...

J. B. (Manotick). I cannot at present give you the address wanted, but I will note it and let you know later on.

Several anonymous letters received. If writers wish them attended to let them please forward name and address...

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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

KNOWLEDGE THAT IS POWER

The world is full of people who know a great deal but can not use it. They are weighed down by unavailable facts and theories, impractical knowledge...

Many a business man—whose mind when in a superb condition is worth hundreds of dollars a day to him—through his greedy absorption of facts to a very small percentage of its possibilities by allowing little enemies of achievement like a hasty temper, a nagging, irritable disposition, and a fretful worry to cripple his mental processes...

It is not the ability, the education, the knowledge that one has that makes the difference between men. The possession of knowledge is not always the possession of power; knowledge which has not been digested and assimilated, and become a part of yourself, knowledge which can not swing into line in an emergency is of little use, and will not save you at the critical moment.

To be effective, a man's education must become a part of himself as he goes along. All of it must be worked up into power. A little practical education that has become a part of one's being and is always available, will accomplish more in the world than knowledge far more extensive that can not be utilized.

VICTIMS OF DISHEARTENING SUGGESTIONS

One of the worst things that can ever happen to a person is to get into his head that he was born unlucky and that the Fates are against him. There are no Fates, outside of our own mentality. We are our own Fates. We control our own destiny.

In every town where people are complaining that their environment is against them, and that there are no opportunities, others under similar conditions manage to succeed and make their own way. Never allow yourself to entertain the possibility of being a failure. Stoutly assert that there is a place for you in the world, and that you are going to fill it like a man. Train yourself to expect great things of yourself. Never allow yourself to admit even by your manner that you are destined to do little things all your life. If you practise and persistently hold this mental attitude will some day make a place for you, and create that which you desire. Bear in mind that nothing will come to you without a sufficient cause, and that cause is mental, and such mental action as will fit you for doing what you desire.

You will be surprised to see what mere persistence toward success and thought stouly toward success and happiness will bring you. Constantly expect something large of yourself and refuse to allow your doubts and fears to cripple your efficiency.

Many people of real ability do little things all their lives because they are the victims of discouraging self-suggestions. Whenever they attempt to do anything, they allow their minds to dwell on the possibility of failure, and they picture the consequent humiliation of it all until they cripple their powers of initiative. Multitudes who are constantly handicapped by the discouraging suggestion of poverty and meagerness of opportunity, the suggestion of being misunderstood and unappreciated by those about them, would see marvelous increase of power, of resourcefulness and productivity, if they were only transplanted into an environment which would arouse ambition, stimulate and encourage.

deliver his message to the world in spite of discouraging conditions. But most people are so susceptible to influences about them and so overpowered by discouraging conditions and inhospitable environments, so disheartened by the obstacles which hedge them about, that they can not overcome the difficulties which bar them from their ambition.

Man of those who are doing little, mediocre things to-day are capable of and might be doing great things, if they would only learn to control their thoughts and focus their mind and fear in the right direction; if they would form the habit of putting their minds into harmony each morning, of neutralizing the enemies of their peace, confidence, achievement, and initiative for all the things that weaken and poison, like fear, worry, anxiety and jealousy, the opposite thoughts—courage, calmness, peace and love.

There is nothing like putting oneself into tune with the best thing in him—with his highest ambition—every morning. One is then in condition to do the best thing of which he is capable. His nature, his genius, and the things that are in him, are all trying to do great things upon which may hang vast interests, with his mind all clouded, crippled and cramped with the enemies of his achievement, and they do not know how to get out of them.

I have in mind a man who often ruins his efficiency for the entire day by losing his temper in the morning. His poison, generated by his furious outbursts of passion, and he suffers so much from wounded self-respect and a sense of disgust and discouragement that he is used up for the rest of the day.

Many a business man—whose mind when in a superb condition is worth hundreds of dollars a day to him—through his greedy absorption of facts to a very small percentage of its possibilities by allowing little enemies of achievement like a hasty temper, a nagging, irritable disposition, and a fretful worry to cripple his mental processes...

If you are ambitious to do anything great, anything distinctive, the greatest thing which you are capable of, spare no pains or expense in keeping yourself in superb physical condition, keeping your life in tune with your great life-purpose. Keep it free from every thing which would tend to discourage, to harbor fear, doubt and discouragement, for they will have you off your feet and perhaps absolutely neutralize them. Keep your mind clear and free, and always in tune with your highest aspiration, if you would produce the maximum of your possibility.

THE HANDICAP OF UNHAPPINESS

The normal mind alone is the happy one. The more the mind must adjust itself to the unhappiness, because there is every indication in the human economy that man was intended to be happy, that this is his normal condition, and that his life in an emergency is of little use, and will not save you at the critical moment.

There is no denying the fact, however, that unhappiness is always a handicap, because it is a mental condition, a complicated machine may do wonderful things, even with sand grinding out its delicate bearings, or without being lubricated, but the same machinery would last longer if it were kept in perfect condition and its bearings well oiled.

Man was made to be happy. The desire for fun, for amusement, for humor, for very strong in every normal person. A man is a laughing animal. If he is not happy there is something grinding on the delicate bearings of his mental machinery. If we had an abnormal mood, serious, sad mental attitudes, some of which have been induced by gloomy, morbid religious training, we should be infinitely happier than we are to-day. The very living of life would be a constant joy, a perpetual tonic.

THE EXPLOSIVE POWER OF GREATER AFFECTION

The way to get rid of an undesirable habit, trait or tendency is not to antagonize it, not to try to kill it or drive it out directly, but to substitute the opposite for it, something so much better that the undesirable will gradually fade away.

It is infinitely better to use the explosive power of love than to try to drive out or kill the undesirable thing. The craving for something higher and better is the best possible antidote or remedy for the worst tendencies which you wish to get rid of.

Human beings in all times have made the mistake of trying to kill the bad by direct attack, rather than by doing indirectly by the substitution of something more desirable, a stronger motive, a greater affection.

Kellogg's TOASTED CORN FLAKES. A breakfast in itself. Try it tomorrow morning with a baked apple. Smother them in cream, and sugar to your taste. Nothing will convince you so quickly as the quality wrapped in the Kellogg package—but be sure it's the Kellogg package.

But boys must tease; it is their nature. A boy that has no desire to tease is a rarity. These little faults are only trifles and are committed oftener through thoughtlessness than malice.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS. BOYS AND THEIR MOTHERS. One bright sunshine day, I concluded to take a jaunt up stream. I embarked on a small craft, called "Boys," but ere I was aware, had launched into deep waters, and feeling my bark too frail to counter the dangers that might arise, I sought refuge on a larger vessel, entitled "Boys and Their Mothers."

WIT AND HUMOR. A Georgia man of enormous girth stood at his gate watching the passage of General Johnston's army. All at once three or four men left the ranks and came running toward the gate, exclaiming: "We've found him! We've found him!"

A boy is shy, reserved, does not like to display any kind of feeling down in the corner of his mouth, or depth of feeling, he never sounds. The great and mighty streams are silent in their course. Still the babbling brook, which is stream, the babbling brook, which is stream, the mother who enters into her boy's lives, puts herself in the place, feels what they feel, is the only one who can understand them, and be sympathetic, and offer the necessary sympathy, the proper advice, as they meet the problems of life.

A Christianity not Worth Exporting. The "Reformed Churches of the World" are to have "a great Mission Conference" next June in Edinburgh, to which the Scotsman (the leading daily paper of Scotland) moralizes in an article in which it observes that "the question may occur whether, seen and known among us is worth exporting to heathen lands. That Christianity which has so often filled the land with bitterness and strife, which erects churches to perpetuate ancient feuds, which sets three and four men to the work of one, hindering each other all the time, which built rival colleges in India, and which is unable to well its differences before the Hindoo—is that really worth sending beyond the seas? Were a Hindoo to visit a Highland village and inspect its five Protestant churches, and ask: What meant this waste of human effort? What answer could the Christianity of this country give to that Hindoo? Would not the poor heathen be pardoned if he said that a religion which tolerated such abuses and waste could be no religion for him?"

Character is still easier to attain if one will not sacrifice the good, the true, the useful. And while a good name may not equal great riches when it comes to slips of paper we check, it is certain beyond peradventure that there is no better sort of wealth, and that in any ideal existence such as we are told to hope for it will represent the only wealth.

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boy should be afraid to confide in his mother, or fail to realize that she is his best friend. She alone remains faithful when all others fail, the last to accuse, the first to forgive. Mothers, let your boys know that you have faith in them, that you expect something from them. It lies in a mother's power to shape and mould character. A boy can never forget his mother. Her teaching and influence will live in his life and character.

If I may add a word to boys, let me counsel them to appreciate their mother, to be thankful she has been spared to them. Tears, wealth, nor influence can recall her once she has been called away. What part of his life or wealth would any man give, had he but known the sweetness of a mother's love, the strong and steady tenderness of mother's guiding hand.

You, who have been given this great blessing, "a good mother," never forget the great debt you owe her; try never to cause pain or sorrow to her whose every thought, whose very life, is for the welfare of her boy. Time may serve to ease the pain, or heal the wound, but it can never efface the scar. We are given only one mother, from above. To appreciate and to love. Hundreds of stars in the silent sky, Hundreds of shells on the shore together, Hundreds of birds that sing in the sun, Hundreds of bees in the sunny weather, Hundreds of dew drops to greet the dawn, Hundreds of lambs in the purple clover, Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn—But only one mother the world over.

The country doctor had come to prescribe for Lucy, the colored girl, a little medicine, who was suffering from the unfashionable ailment known as "chills." The doctor opened his saddlebags and prepared several doses of the time-honored remedy, quinine, in capsules, and with great interest as the doctor filled each tiny capsule and capped it. But when she heard the instructions, "Give her one of these every two hours," she wailed in terror: "Is you gwine to mek me swallow dem little glass bottles, stoppers an' all?"

Curran caught Lord Norbury very neatly at a legal dinner. In front of the advocate was a large joint of beef, and the judge asked: "Is that hung beef, Curran?" "Is 's sure to be if you try it, my lord," said he.

A Wichita, Kan., child who had been absent from school brought back the following excuse when she returned: "She was sick and had to stay at home to do the washing and ironing."

There is not much danger of a boy going astray when he confides in his mother. But take care when he comes to offer the necessary sympathy, the proper advice, as they meet the problems of life. Make a child of your boy, never be too tired to listen to his little confidences, the little experiences he has to relate. If you know not the first principle of baseball, or any of the other boyish sports, be willing to learn, have him teach you, show an interest, listen to his day dreams, his plans for the future. Every boy has some dream, some thought of the wonderful things he will accomplish when he arrives at the state of manhood. Encourage these plans; do not make the error of laughing at or turning the necessary sympathy, a boy is a very sensitive being, and once laughed at, seldom repeats a confidence.

Character is still easier to attain if one will not sacrifice the good, the true, the useful. And while a good name may not equal great riches when it comes to slips of paper we check, it is certain beyond peradventure that there is no better sort of wealth, and that in any ideal existence such as we are told to hope for it will represent the only wealth.

So when the choice is offered you, as it is offered now each morning of your life, choose a good name, not because

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