

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

BE HAPPY

If you and I—just you and I—Should laugh instead of worry; If we should grow—just you and I Kinder and sweeter hearted.

THE MEANEST MAN

We have all met him somewhere, so we believe, and we have felt nothing but commiseration for him. His position is not an enviable one. He hoards his goods, not merely material, but mental and spiritual.

A short while ago one of the daily papers conducted a column for the purpose of bringing to light the appalling littleness of human nature when it refuses to recognize the rights and amenities due to others.

But there was another side to the situation. This side was not humorous, but pitiful. For it revealed the fact that there are men who are letting the bigger, finer things of life go past them while they are selfishly centered upon their own insignificant affairs and troubles, real or fancied.

We have all experienced a few of the disfiguring traits of character of the meanest man. We have sat beside him in the train, daily, and noted how assiduously he has read our newspaper. Of course we should not object if this happened once in awhile.

It is astonishing, sometimes, how such slight weaknesses of human character have power to irritate and annoy us. Of course we should be big enough to rise above them. But if we happened to have got up with a slight headache that morning, or something disturbed us at the breakfast table, or we received a disappointing letter just as we were making for the train.

We are sorry, however, deep down in our souls for the meanest man. We have seen him rudely jostle a frail woman who was about to board an elevated train at the rush hour.

We have seen him waiting for the excursion boat, leaning over the magazine stall and pouring over the pages of Life or one of the more sedate publications. Doubtless he should be well informed by the time the boat is due.

He is the man who apologizes for borrowing our lawn mower, albeit it is on the verge of collapse. We are relieved that he has the grace to preface his request with an apology.

When the collection plate comes around in church or at the town forum, both of which institutions are conducted solely for his benefit and that of others presumably like him, he fumbles in his pocket, and manages to resurrect something by the time the usher has gone a couple of seats past.

We might indulge in many more reminiscences about the meanest man. But we refrain lest, chancing to read these lines, he might be too bitterly wounded. But we do express the hope that in future he will desist from looking over our shoulder when we are reading the latest sporting news.

Sometimes such men are like that well-remembered member of the famous Club of Pickwickians, Mr. Tracy Tupman. Time and feeding, Dickens tells us, had expanded that once romantic form; the black silk waistcoat had become more and

more developed; inch by inch had the gold watch chain beneath it disappeared from within the range of Tupman's vision. And, oh the horror of it,—"gradually had the capacious chin encroached upon the borders of the white cravat."

O, would that we could see ourselves as others see us! This axiom is not only inculcated by spiritual writers, but by poets and novelists and even more nondescript persons. At least, would that we might see our more glaring defects, for then, doubtless, we would be on the defensive against them.

Generosity is a lovely trait, becoming to every man, whether he be a slender figure as the once romantic Tupman, or whether, like that delightful man, in later years, he finds it difficult to stoop over as far as his shoe laces. Everyone is attracted to the generous man, the man who will gladly offer you his last match, who, if he chances to borrow your sickle, brings it back properly sharpened.

It makes a man want to go a little further in being kind, in giving. And so it is a decided medium of our social progress.—The Pilot.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

IN A CONVENT CHAPEL

I love this place of rest, God's silent room. Where consecrated souls and high hearts dream.

A place where God is there can be no gloom. With Love's unflinching Light and mystic gleam.

When'er I will I may find solace here Before my Lord within His holy place— And enter in, bereft of human fear, His wonder-world of sanctifying grace.

In this still room, God's love, like moonlit cloud Enfold me in its mellow golden flame; And in its light I learn to loathe the loud, The empty, the deceptive joys of fame.

Herein my heart gives up each stubborn sin; I yield earth's idols once so dear to me; And on these everlasting hills begin The glory of my soul's eternity!

GOD'S STRANGE SCHOOLS

No books, no universities can teach us the divine art of sympathy. We must be sorely tempted ourselves before we can understand what others suffer in their temptations. We must have sorrow ourselves in some form before we can be real and true comforters of others in their times of sorrow.

WHY BOYS FAIL

There is a cause for everything! Nothing ever "just happens." If a boy is promoted to a better job there is a cause. If a boy loses his job there is also a cause.

1. Finding fault with another but never seeing your own faults. 2. Doing as little as possible and trying to get as much as possible for it.

3. Spending too much time showing up another's weak points and too little time correcting your own. 4. Slandering those we do not like.

5. Procrastination—putting off until tomorrow something that we should have done day before yesterday.

6. Deceit—talking in a friendly manner to another's face and stabbing him in the back as soon as he turns around.

7. False belief that we are smart enough to reap a harvest of pay before sowing a crop of honest service.

8. Disloyalty to those who have trusted us. 9. Egotism—the belief that we know it all and no one can teach us anything.

10. Last, but not least, lack of necessary training and education to enable us to stand at the head in our line of work.

Look this over and check yourself up by it. If none of these causes for failure apply to you, then you are to be congratulated, because you are a success.—The Catholic Observer, Pittsburgh, Penn.

CINDERS IN SPIRITUALITY

I was standing at the ticket-window of a railroad station in a small town when, with a thundering

roar a long line of steel coaches suddenly came to a stop. "It is the express," some one remarked. "Why is it stopping here?"

The door suddenly opened and the fireman of the stalled train came hurrying into the little station. "Have you a mirror? I have a cinder in my eye."

"The ticket-agent handed him a mirror. A minute or two passed; then the fireman hurried from the station.

"Did you get it out?" the ticket-agent called after him. "Yes, thanks," came back the answer.

"The fastest express on the line held up by a cinder," remarked the ticket-agent to me. "How often, Father, what appears to be a trifle causes trouble? I suppose that many a man may be stopped on the road to Heaven because of some cinder in his spiritual eye. How many people, otherwise seemingly perfect, will stop the spiritual progress of their lives by what appears to them to be only a cinder, when their uncharitableness and backbiting are serious enough to impede their journey to Heaven!"

The ticket-agent was right. Who would have thought that a cinder could stop the fastest train? How few think that the cinders of uncharitableness may be serious and may impede their journey to Heaven!—The Messenger.

NO TED PROTESTANT IRISHMAN A CONVERT

Captain A. J. C. Donelan who has become a convert to Catholicity is one of the most popular public men in Ireland. Between 1892 and 1918 he represented the constituency of East Cork in the British House of Commons as a member of the Irish Parliamentary party. A Protestant landowner, his sympathies were always with those who were battling for self-government. He was unanimously chosen as representative by the most Catholic constituency in Cork County. He was one of the most active and useful members ever sent to Parliament by any constituency. So esteemed was he by the Irish Parliamentary party that they appointed him one of their Whips. Among the Bishops and priests he had numerous friends and from time to time he made it clear that he did not consider there was any real religion outside the Catholic Church. His reception into the Church has been a source of great satisfaction to Catholics throughout Ireland.

14TH CENTURY CHAPEL SAVED

London, Eng.—A fourteenth century chapel of the Knights of Malta, at Godshill, Hampshire, has been saved from destruction by the action of the Office of Works.

The owner of the land on which the chapel stands had proposed to pull down the historical building, partly, it is stated, because of an objection that it was haunted.

The Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments called the attention of the Office of Works to the proposed destruction of the building, and it was at once "scheduled." The effect of scheduling is that the owner is under a statutory obligation to inform the Commissioners of the Office of Works before he does anything to alter the building.

In this way ancient monuments which come into the possession of people who do not understand their



Answers for last week: 1 & 6: Nativity, 2 & 9: Crucifixion, 4 & 10: Agony in Garden, 7 & 8: Visitation, 3 & 5: Carthusian (Charterhouse) Monks, St. Bruno (Oct. 6) founder.



How are you going to pair these six? And how can the following sentence be lined up to give the name of a great Evangelist of this week? YOU ARE ALL INK

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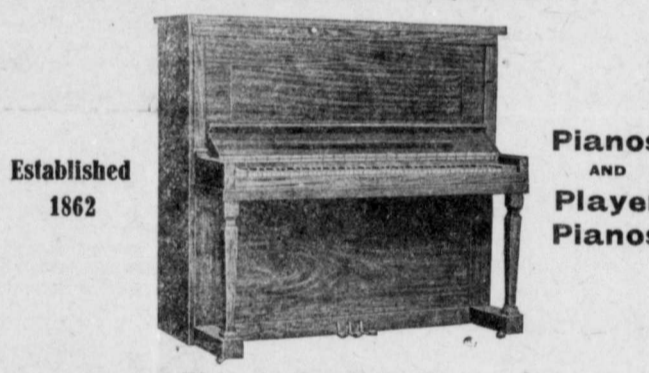
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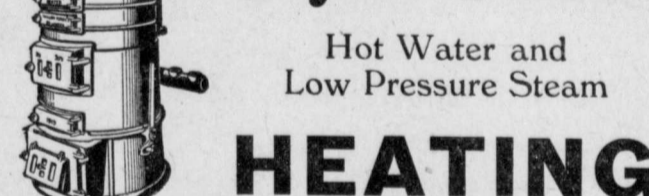
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