

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE ROAD OF ONLY ONCE

'Tis a solemn thought to ponder
Mid our daily joys and cares,
Whilst we work, or weep, or wander,
At our play or at our prayers;
'Tis a saintly sage's warning,
Ever old, yet ever new;
I am walking by a pathway
I shall never more pursue.

I can tread it once—once only;
Tread it well—or tread it ill;
Wend my selfish course; or lonely,
Join the many of good will;
But, ne'er my steps retracing,
Can I life's mistakes undo,
For I'm walking by a pathway
I shall never more pursue.

There are sick ones by the roadside,
Weary pilgrims, crippled sore;
There are poor ones, there are sad ones,
There are sinful ones galore.

Shall I bring them help or hindrance?
Bless or ban the helpless crew?
Life and death are in this pathway
I shall never more pursue.

If the good that there awaits me
Be neglected or ill-done;
If the evil that tempts me
I have no desire to shun;
Woe is me! alas! forever,
My lost graces shall I rue,
Heav'n or hell must end this pathway
I shall never more pursue.

The majority of us take things too much for granted. We receive favor as a right, forgetting too often that a courtesy extended, no matter how trivial it may be, is meant as a politeness, and ought as such to be suitably acknowledged, even at a little inconvenience to ourselves.—The Echo.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

THE WILL OF GOD

I worship Thee, sweet Will of God!
And all Thy ways adore,
And, every day I live, I seem
To love Thee more and more.

When obstacles and trials seem
Like prison-walls to be,
I do the little I can do,
And leave the rest to Thee.

I know not which it is to doubt,
My heart is ever gay;
I run no risk for, come what will,
Thou always hast Thy way.

I have no cares, O blessed Will!
For all my cares are Thine;
I live in triumph, Lord! for Thou
Hast made Thy triumph mine.

And when it seems no chance or change
From grief can set me free
Hope finds its strength in helplessness
And gaily waits on Thee.

He always wins who sides with God,
To him no chance is lost;
God's will is sweetest to him when
It triumphs at His cost.

Ill that He blesses is our good,
And unblest good is ill;
And all is right that seems most wrong,
If it be His sweet Will!

GIVE THEM YOUR LOVE

WHAT WE OWE TO FRIENDSHIP

We do not know how much we owe to our true and pure friends—how much they add to our joy; what they do toward the formation and the adornment and enrichment of our character. We know not what touches delicate and beautiful on the canvas of our soul that will be for ever which the fingers of a friend have left there. There will be a silver thread in every life-web when finished, woven into the fabric by the pure friendship of many days. How important that only the true, the worthy, those with clean hands and good lives, be taken as friends, for an evil companionship will put stained and soiled threads into the web.

A MAN'S EXAMPLE

"Father," said a convert, "do you know that I and my family are Catholic because once I met a manly Catholic? I was going to one of our medical conventions. My companion was a young Catholic doctor. There was a banquet on Saturday night and we had planned to take the 8 o'clock train on Sunday morning. It was midnight when we reached the hotel and I was requesting the desk clerk to have us called at 7 o'clock, when my Catholic friend quietly instructed the clerk to call him at 5:30, so that he could hear Mass at 6 o'clock and be back in time to meet me. I protested that it was nearly 1 o'clock and that he needed his sleep. "He smiled at me good-naturedly and that was all. I heard him slip quietly off to Mass, and instead of enjoying an hour and a half of extra sleep, I lay there thinking that this man's religion must mean something to him. That started me in my study of the Catholic religion. "Father, had that man been a moral coward and stayed in bed, my family and I should not now be in the one true Church of Christ. That man brought me to the Church, and I hope to imitate him. That is why I condemn the apologetic type of Catholic." We hope that those Catholics who miss Sunday Mass for little or no effort are not keeping earnest seekers after truth out of the Church.—The Pilot.

BE COURTEOUS

There are a few things in the world which wound us so deeply as the feeling that we are ignored by our fellowmen, that we are looked over or passed by. We all appreciate little attentions, and yet it is marvellous how few people properly recognize attention when it is shown to them. We take too many things in this world for granted as if they were our due, as if it were only right that they should belong to us. Sometimes an imaginary feeling of superiority, either mental or social, makes us feel that any attention is due to us, and only our right. As often as not, when a kindness is not properly acknowledged, the remissness is merely due to thoughtlessness. The world seems so much engrossed with every day affairs that it has, unfortunately, lost the charm and grace of courtesy.

Nothing in the world is so discouraging in extending a courtesy, as to feel that the thought which inspired it, or the trouble it costs, is taken for granted and not considered worth acknowledgment. This is to be noticed in many ways, especially in regard to little things. Some people seem to think that gratitude is only called for when the courtesy is one of magnitude, whereas very often a little kindness costs more personal effort than greater ones. It is the little courtesies of life which we are prone to disregard. The most subtle thought is often shown in the smallest attention, and even if a kindness only cost its donor a thought for us, it should not pass unacknowledged.

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ships sailing past any of her sanctuaries used to salute her by striking their topsails or clewing up the royal sheets. Most of the ships in the royal navy of England were in Catholic days given one of her sweet names. The fishing fleets of all continental countries have always honored her in a similar manner.

While Our Lady as Star of the Sea has ever been the protectress of all sailors, St. Nicholas has in a special sense been the patron of fishing towns. Many caves along the coast of France have been used as chapels in which both the Blessed Virgin and St. Nicholas have had especial honor.

Formerly it was considered a token of great good fortune when mackerel fleets could arrange to start out on May day; and the sailors took delight in decorating their day gariands. When the mackerel nets, with floats attached, were thrown into the water, the sailors would sing:

Watch, barrel, watch, mackerel for to catch!
White may they be like a blossom on a tree!
God sends thousands, one, two and three!
Some by their heads, some by their tails—
God sends thousands, and never fails.

Then the captain would cry, "Seas all!" and over the nets would go. Ships of the olden time often bore an image of Our Lady as a figure head. With her leading them, they never lacked courage to fare out into the wide waste of waters.—Catholic Bulletin.

Go to bed at night with at least one thing learned and accomplished. The next day will dawn in finer garb.



Answer for last week: Curing of deaf and dumb man was Gospel at END of Mass last Sunday.



TRADITIONS OF FISHES
Fishermen have legends all their own. They say that the reason why the flounder has one side white is that the Blessed Virgin once placed her hand upon it, and that the spot where her lily hand rested has been the color of snow ever since.

An ancient tradition is to the effect that it was the haddock in whose mouth St. Peter discovered the tribute-money; that the spots upon its body near the gills were caused by the pressure of the Apostles' fingers. The pike, like the passion flower carries upon it the marks of the Crucifixion, such as the cross, nails and sword. This is, the sailors will tell you, because the pike remained above the water when all the other fish fled to the bottom of the sea in panic when they found that the Saviour of the world was to be put to death.

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