

What a wonderful sentence that is and how full it is of wisdom. Dear children we are all seeking that will 'o the wisp. Happiness! Did you ever see the seeds of the milk weed? Those white feathery flying seeds, so pretty, but so provoking, because just as you are about to take one in your hand, behold! off it floats, sent into the air just by a breath. So it is with happiness. There are many meanings to the word, as the world defines it. We, children of the holy Catholic church, if we are truthful, can only say that it means one thing and that the second question in the Catechism with its answer settles it for us. To know God will not make us happy. How many know Him and yet do not love Him and so do not serve Him.

What a glorious thing it would be, and how it would change the face of the earth, if every soul whom God has created were to say, "I am only here to know, love and serve God, and so I *must* be happy. Sin would disappear, and heaven would begin even on earth. Well, dear children, there is hope for such a blessed state of affairs. The consequences of original sin will always follow the children of Adam until the day of doom; but it is quite within the power of each one of us to mount above this, to put them under our feet and so be happy despite the unfortunate consequences of one serious sin.

Now here is an opportunity to make *one* grand resolution for this blessed year of grace 1898.

One of the greatest thinkers of our day has taken much pains to insist upon this truth, which many find hard to accept.

Life, simply *living*, no matter how miserable, is a gift of God, and it makes no difference how long drawn out that miserable existence is, it is

in itself a blessing.

That is not a very easy problem to solve for one's self, particularly if our own lives are not very full of sunshine; but let us go back again to the first page of the little Catechism and we read the answer to the riddle.

A new year with all its opportunities to be good, and contented, and happy, is before us. It is quite in our power to make it the very best year of our lives. "The world is what we make it," is an old proverb, and Thackeray says it is a looking glass and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. So let us set ours with the fixed determination to be happy no matter how the world goes.

Worry, and nervousness, and going out to meet trouble do *no* good, but a *vast* amount of evil. A very sweet lovely woman who was noted for her charming tranquillity used to say, "You cannot force the will of God; why try to do it?" At last we come to the one word which solves the most difficult problem—the will of God, this alone is good.

Let it be the watchword for 1898. Everything in the world happens by His will or His permission, and so it is the highest wisdom to take every thing He sends as the very best thing that could happen to us, and if we make this one resolution and keep it faithfully, our whole lives will be transformed.

It is not an easy thing to do, I grant you, to take the bitter with the sweet, and say "it is all right." We *know* it is, but all the same we struggle and make grimaces and spoil the wholesome medicine by our ungracious way of taking it.

We say many prayers, all of us. How would it do to begin the practice of short, fervent aspirations for this