

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

TODAY

Only from day to day
The life of a wise man runs;
What matters if seasons far away
Have gloom or have double suns?

To climb the unreal path
We lose the road here,
We swim the rivers of wrath
And tunnel the hills of fear.

Our feet on the river's brink,
Our eyes on the clouds afar,
We fear the things we think
Instead of things that are.

Like a tide our work should rise,
Each later wave the best;
Tomorrow forever dies,
Today is the special test.

Like a sawyer's work is life,
The present makes the flaw,
And the old field for strife
Is the inch before the saw.

—JOHN BOYLE O'BRIEN

A ROSARY

A New York lawyer once told me that a rosary a day has won for him more cases than all the knowledge gleaned from his library of law. "I have a tiny Rosary," he said, "which fits snugly in my hand and it is my greatest help mid the hustle and bustle of the business world. Every morning on my way to the office or to court I say my Beads and among the thousands that brush elbows with me not one knows that I am talking to the Mother of God."

The words of this man certainly show us that success in life is not entirely resting on our own shoulders. If Marshal Foch, while holding in his hand the destiny of nations, whose every plan might mean the doom or deliverance of myriads of men, could find time to slip away to say a Rosary, certainly no business man of today can claim exemption from this holy practice. Life is a sham if our wallets are bulging with bills and our hearts void of virtue. How much we owe to our earthly mother! How much to our heavenly mother!—Catholic Union and Times.

THE EYES OF ANGELS

If there are angels who look into the ways of men, how different are the notions which they entertain of us from those which we are apt to entertain of one another. We are dazzled with the splendor of titles, the ostentation of learning, the noise of victories. They, on the contrary, see the philosopher in the cottage who possesses his soul in patience and thankfulness under the pressure of what titled minds call poverty and distress. They do not look for great men at the head of armies, or among the poms of a court, but often find them out in the shades and solitudes in the private walks and by-paths of life. The evening walk of a wise man is more illustrious in their sight than the march of a general at the head of a hundred men. A contemplation of God's works, a voluntary act of justice to our own detriment, a generous concern for the good of mankind, tears shed in silence for the misery of others, a private desire or resentment broken or subdued—in short, an unfeigned exercise of humility or any other virtue, are such actions as are glorious in their sight, and denominated men great and reputable. The most famous among us are often looked upon with pity, contempt or indignation, whilst those who are most obscure among their own species are regarded with love, approbation and esteem.—Addison.

RELIGION TRUE BASIS OF CHARACTER

"The foundation of moral character is religion," declared Dean Thomas Arkie Clark, dean of men at the University of Illinois at a meeting of the Catholic students of the university held under the auspices of the Catholic Foundation at the University and presided over by the director, the Rev. John A. O'Brien, Ph.D.

"The surest guarantee of moral rectitude," continued Dean Clark, "is a strong faith in God. The character that lacks that solid bedrock for a foundation, rests upon the unstable and shifting sands of human caprice.

"That is why I, as an official of a State university, encourage every student to hold fast to his religious faith during his days at the University. For if he suffered his faith in God to be wrecked, he would lose the most potent influence for right living and for the development of human character that exists in the world today.

"You Catholic students should hold fast to your religious faith and should practice it conscientiously during your school days at Illinois. By so doing you will be better students of the University and better citizens of the State."—The Antidote.

KEEP STUDYING AND INCREASE HAPPINESS

People who keep thinking are usually happy. It is when a man becomes a drifter and a floater that he becomes dissatisfied and discouraged.

Every human being should keep studying all the time.

Not only should you study along some line in which you are interested, but you should take up some line or subject about which you know nothing. It is surprising how little any of us know. To tap a new vein of knowledge is like being

refreshed with a cup of cold water on a hot day. The entire mind reacts to new discoveries of ideas and bits of knowledge.

Keep studying about the things you are most interested in and then keep adding new interests outside your present work or occupation. Every time a new set of muscles is developed in your body every other part of the body is benefited. In like manner every time you add to what you already know, all other knowledge becomes enriched.

To keep studying your friends is to improve your friendships. To keep studying art is to increase your appreciation for all beautiful things. To keep studying books is to come closer to all mankind.

One of the greatest secrets of success is to learn the fact that only as you do your work and fill your niche better than any one has ever done it before, do you really grow into a commanding place of power.

It's that "Keep Studying" that smooths the way and lights up the path of progress.

In this connection it is well to do something each day that you would rather not do at all. For to all of us there always come times when we have too many things that we didn't expect but are compelled to do.

Keep studying. It helps us to meet all the affairs of life gracefully.—Catholic Columbian.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

MY DEAR OLD MOTHER

There, at the gate, that lowly figure stands!
Behold her careworn frame, her bony hands;
And see those lines, those wrinkles on her face;
Yet she among rare beauties hold first place.

'Tis Mother, stooping low and bent through care—
With her no maiden sweet will ever compare.
Among the fair, she is the fairest to you
Among the best of friends she is the truest.

For she will stand by you when no one dares to yield
And calm your troubled heart until those lips are sealed
At death, Ah! then her worth you learn to measure
And seek in vain for such a precious treasure.

And when into the grave her lifeless form is lowered,
You hear earth's clods upon her madly fall, as tho' ignored.
Those sounds so cruel deep and sharp do sting;
While years roll on, yet still you hear their echoes ring.

Ah! there your tears course down as ne'er before,
For Mother passed away unto eternal shore.
No more you hear her words so sweet and kind,
Nowhere on earth her equal can you find.

No more to kiss those bony hands with sacred awe;
No more to hear; no more to see your dear old Ma;
No more beside her walk at a slowly gait,
For silent is her heart with such a noble trait.

Yet memory's faithful lamp shall e'er reflect her name,
And cast its light upon her path of virtue's fame.
Sweet thanks to God for such consoling hope of soul,
That she and I will meet some day at Heaven's goal.

A GIRL'S CHARACTER

A girl cannot be too careful about her character, for like a snowy lily, the least blemish tarnishes its beauty. Some girls do not really mean any harm, but they seem to lack a delicate sense of propriety, and frequently invite criticism of an unkind nature. They laugh loudly, make acquaintances too freely, and consider reticence a requisite best suited for our grandmother's day.

The girl who is slow to make acquaintances, is generally speaking, the best sort of girl. When you get to know her, you feel her worth, and place her on the list of your friends with a feeling of pleasure. A little dignity is an excellent thing. It checks the familiarity of others, and affords the superior attitude of mind. The girl who is truly up-to-date in her ideas follows the dictates of good form. Thus, she proves herself to be well bred and smart, shielding herself from the unpleasantness that is sure to come from a careless demeanor.—The Tablet.

FORMING GOOD HABITS

The more one thinks of education the more he realizes that it is principally a matter of character formation. We know very well that character is made up of a number of habits. This being so, it is important that parents begin early to cultivate and form correct habits in their children.

There are, it is true, a great number of habits, and it would be difficult to mention them all. But here are a number of suggestions which may prove helpful to parents. Children should be taught: To have a real love of God. To know and practice the commandments or laws of God.

To love his fellow-man as he loves himself.
To be kind and helpful to every human being.

To labor for the common good rather than for selfish motives.
To realize that religion helps him to be a good citizen.

To have proper respect for all rightly constituted authority.
To inspire others by his good example.

To be neat and clean going to school.
To know the correct posture for sitting or standing.

To avoid waste of any kind.
To tell the truth on every occasion.

To be honest in all his dealings.
To study diligently and perseveringly.

To grasp and assimilate everything that he studies.
To think before he answers any question.

To be polite and well-mannered.
To be willing to learn from every body.

To have an idea of responsibility.
To be a man of one's word.

To see and to appreciate the beauties of nature.
To eat regularly and prudently.

To be particular about his appearance.
To take proper care of his physical nature.

To speak clearly and distinctly.
To cultivate a love for good literature.

To love the true, the beautiful and the good.
To see in all things the wonderful handwork of God.—Catholic Herald.

MAKE SURE YOU GET THE RIGHT MEDICINE

People who are suffering from constipation, biliousness or sick headache are sometimes at a loss to know what remedy to take to correct these ailments.

Mr. Arthur Couzens of Smith Township, Ont., said that he tried several doctors and various remedies but got no relief until he was advised by a friend to take Dr. Norvall's Stomach and Tonic Tablets. When he had finished one bottle he felt like a different person, and takes pleasure in recommending Dr. Norvall's Stomach and Tonic Tablets to anyone suffering from constipation or biliousness.

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POPE'S HOUSEKEEPER

By Mrs. Enrico Pucci (Rome Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

Father Clement M. Thunette, the Chicago Dominican who recently founded in the United States an association of pious women to train as housekeepers for priests, is in Rome.

In the course of his stay, he has talked with Miss Theolinda Banfi, known at the Vatican by the simple title of Linda. She is housekeeper to His Holiness, Pius XI. For a half century Linda, capable and self-effacing, has been in the service of the Holy Father and his family. It was she who affectionately attended Madame Ratti, the Pope's mother, in her last illness.

Linda, however, has received a great new honor, and it was partly concerning it that she and Father Thunette talked. She has been made Honorary President of the new American association for the training of priests' housekeepers which the American priest has formed.

Father Thunette relates some incidents Miss Banfi recounted to him which in a peculiar way give delightful little insights into the simple life led by the Holy Father.

When she received the letter telling her of the honor the American women had conferred on her, she said, she was puzzled, for she neither speaks nor reads English. So she went to the Pope himself for help, asking him what it contained.

His Holiness indulgently read the letter to her and explained its meaning, adding that she might accept the proffered honor. So Linda wrote a reply, accepting and expressing her thanks.

Later, she received from Father Thunette a richly bound copy of the rules and pious exercises of the association of American women. Again in a quandary because it was written in English, she once more had recourse to the Holy Father.

His Holiness, despite the huge bulk of work that constantly presses down on him, took the time to go over the book, then explained it to her carefully, in simple words, remarking that the prayers and exercises were excellent. Then, smiling, he added:

"You will read this in the evening when you cannot sleep."

Then Linda showed Father Thunette a communication she had received from a woman in the United States who had just observed her twenty-fifth year of service as housekeeper to a priest. A picture was enclosed in the letter.

The good Linda's comment was that in a little while she would have completed her fiftieth year of service with the Ratti family.

As she departed she confided to Father Thunette that since she was so busy of late, she had asked the Pontiff if she might that evening make her regular visit to the Blessed Sacrament in His Holiness' private chapel. The Pope had readily given the permission, allotting the hour of 10 to 11. So while the head of the great world Church worked and studied, as he always does at that hour, and while most of the rest of the attendants were asleep, this simple devout woman knelt before the Tabernacle and thanked God for His blessings to her and prayed for the long preservation of the Pontiff who bore such heavy responsibilities.

This, then, is the person to whom is entrusted the care of the household of the head of Christendom, and who is the honorary head of the new American association. Linda has attended Pope Pius for many years. She was at Milan when he was prefect of his beloved Ambrosian Library. When he was called to Rome to assume the prefecture of the Vatican Library, she followed him to the Eternal City. When he was advanced to the See of Milan and to the purple, he placed her at the head of his household administration, and when he ascended the Papal throne, wishing to continue his humble mode of living he again brought her to Rome. There she administers the household wants of His Holiness, his two particular secretaries, Monsignors Confalonieri and Venerini and his servant Giovanni Malvasetti, also a servant in the Ratti family for many years.

Her attentiveness to her duties is equalled only by her piety, and she is reckoned as one of the most valued persons at the Vatican.

NEW GERMANY HONORS CATHOLIC WRITER

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Capitaine (Cologne Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

One of the most beautiful lyrical works in the German language, long neglected because it had a distinctly Catholic flavor, has just won proper general recognition.

This work is the poem "Dreizehnlinden" (Thirteen Lime Trees), by the Westphalian Catholic poet Friedrich Wilhelm Weber. It was written in 1878, and its name recalls the ancient monastery the Benedictine monks established in Westphalia in the time of Charlemagne to convert the heathen Saxons to Christianity. Dreizehnlinden was the name of this venerable foundation.

The poem, written in brilliant style, has for its theme the contrasting of the simple Saxon pagans with the cultivated Frankish tribes whose Christianity was little more than a name at that time. Immediately upon its appearance, the worth of the work was recognized by Catholics, and it ran through many editions. A drama was made of it, and was produced many times. But in Protestant lists of German literature it found little or no place and the reading of it in schools was forbidden under the old Nationalist regime, because of its Catholic character.

Since the Revolution, however, and the fall of the old Protestant rulers, "Dreizehnlinden" has been introduced into the schools, and students of literature have generally admitted that it is a classic. It is now regarded as a great piece of German literature. Even the famous Universitätsbibliothek, of Leipzig, which positively refuses to publish distinctly Catholic works, has now published the Catholic poet's epic in a special edition, terming it "a classical story of love and conversion of the Ninth Century."

Following its publication, critics have taken up the poem, finding it good, and it is expected that other works of the Westphalian Catholic will soon be published for general reading.

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