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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

How Do You Approach a Difficult Task?

How do you approach a difficult task? Do you dread it, fear it, hesitate before it, try to get over it, or around it; or do you face it with boldness and determination, with the courage of the conqueror? Do you approach it with the attitude of the victor, or do you strike a blow, by your admission of weakness and lack of confidence?

Everything depends upon the attitude of mind with which you approach a difficulty. If you are cowed before you begin, if you start out with an admission of weakness, that you are not equal to the emergency, you are foredoomed to failure.

Sometimes a book agent comes into my office, and I know by the way he enters that he does not expect to make a sale. Instead of approaching with confidence and assurance, he apologizes, sneaks in, and asks me to please do him the honor to give him two or three minutes of my valuable time.

It is grip and grit that conquer success; not alone the vigor with which one takes hold of his task, but also the doggedness with which he holds on after he has taken hold.

Self-Assertion as an Asset. We often hear it said that, if a youth has ability people will find it out without being told; that if he has merit, it will come out; but we see on every hand young men with splendid ability, with good education and fine training, out of situations, or in very ordinary ones, simply because they lack that aggressiveness which pushes its way to the front.

Working right beside them are others with, perhaps, less ability, but with that aggressive, ambitious spirit which attracts attention and carries them on past their more modest and retiring friends.

The fine-grained, sensitive youth feels that it is unbecomingly unbecomingly to push his way forward, to attract attention to his ability, to wait what he can do, but while he is waiting for the world to discover his merit, and to help him on, the aggressive boy beside him has pushed his way to the position above him.

We may not like the aggressive man, who is full of his own importance, who is always telling you how he can do, yet we always find him in the most critical positions of achievement, and those who never make any claim for themselves are often thought to lack it.

If you have the assurance and conviction that you can do a thing in a commanding way, do not hesitate to let people know it; not in a blatant, obtrusive way, but with tact and diplomacy let them know what you can do.

The man who asserts himself will come to the front much more quickly than even an able person who has a genius for self-effacement, who never forces himself into the swim of things.

Supposing a merchant with limited capital should open a store and display nothing in show-windows or on counters, but should keep everything in boxes, packed away out of sight until somebody called for them, how much business do you think he would attract?

It is not enough to possess merit. If you want to get quick recognition, you must have the faculty of making your ability known; you must have the art of projecting yourself and making a favorable impression upon others.

Nothing else is more fatal to quick recognition than the quality of self-effacement, and many really capable people have a genius for keeping out of sight, for effacing themselves. They seem to think there is a merit in always taking a back seat; in taking special pains to keep away from the footlights, and in keeping in the shadow.

There is such a thing as a man being too modest, too retiring. It is worse to think too little of yourself than too much; to have too little confidence than too much. But the proper thing is to estimate oneself justly.

Wearing out the Machine. Most Americans incapacitate the human machine from producing happiness. They ruin its delicacy, its power of fine appreciation, in over-speeding it, so that its finer sensibilities are destroyed.

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spend the greater and the best part of his life working like a slave to get something ahead to enjoy, and to kill his enjoying capacity in the process, so that when he gets his money, and is ready to retire, he has nothing to retire to but misery and regret?

Have nothing to do with people who dramatize their woes. Radiate a sunny self-trust, and make whatever you touch luminous.

It is grip and grit that conquer success; not alone the vigor with which one takes hold of his task, but also the doggedness with which he holds on after he has taken hold.

After one has once felt the joy, the exhilaration, the infinite peace and satisfaction which come from the exercise of his highest faculties, he can not be satisfied ever again to grovel in the exercise of his brute faculties.

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which such things may be said, and instead of seeking information to offset them from the proper source, he allows himself to be assailed by doubts; and already the thought suggests itself that perhaps, after all, the Church is wrong, and this shallow-pated carper beside him is right.

This is the time for that young man to turn to the Church for help and guidance, and become a highly intelligent Catholic by the studies which were prompted by attacks upon his faith.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS. Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. St. Stanislaus was asked one day, whether he loved the Blessed Virgin Mary. At this question he replied with tears in his eyes: "How would it be possible not to love Mary; is she not my Mother?"

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bravery, did the idea come to her that she had done anything out of the common. Had Molly been happy to think that she had done one thing which was really and truly right.

How Love Helps. Miss Annette was the new school mistress at Muddy Flat. She had a very sweet, round face, and two dimples that went and came as they pleased in her cheeks.

But to-day—this had Friday—she looked so tired and sad! For she had news from home! Her poor mother sick—likely to die—said the letter, and yet she must wait until school was out before she could start to see her.

It seemed to her that the day would never go by, and the children were never so noisy before. As for the old stove, it smoked so that they all looked as if they were going to cry at once.

Then they whispered, giggled and nudged each other, moving their heavy feet noisily over the muddy floor.

"What is it, dear?" she said. The little one flushed deeply, and passed over the crumpled bit of paper. And at a single glance the teacher read these words printed in a large, round hand with great care:

"I no yore ma is sick an I am so sorry. I lov you cause you ar sweet an good. Rose"

Tears stood in Annette's brown eyes, but somehow she did not mind the smoky stove now, or the noise of the schoolroom. She went back to her desk with a happier heart than she had carried that day.

"Put your books by, children, dear," she said, "and Rose may say her verses over for us. Did you know, I had almost forgotten my promise to let you sing our new songs?"

The change did them good, and they sang right merrily. Rose never knew, perhaps, how much she had helped her troubled teacher by the little note, but Miss Annette gave her a kiss at the door that stormy evening and whispered: "I love you, dear!"

Nothing helps like—love.—Selected.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION. On Sunday, Aug. 15, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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