### OUR BOYS AND GIRLS. SISTER COLLETTES CHRISTMAS SERMON.

BY PETER CADWALLADER.

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"To-morrow is Christmas, the birthday of Our Lord and Saviour," said Sistor Collette to her class at noon, 'so I will now dismiss you for the day. But before you go, I want to say that those of you who have pleasant homes with plenty of comfort, should not forget those less fortunate. To those who are unable to give up a little pleasure to help the Orphans' Collection, let me say that your prayers will be acceptable in the sight of God. It does not

able in the sight of God. It does not require money or fine clothes to have a merry Christmas. A pure mind and a clear conscience will only do that."

The girls did not wait the order for their going, but witha "Merry-Christmas, Sister," they ran helter-skelter the fresty air. mas, Sister, they into the frosty air.

About the last to leave us was Mary She was about thirteen, and fair of face and slim of figure. She was fair of face and shin of figure. She was clad in a rusty yellow coat that was ill-fitting and her head was covered by a faded red hood. As she walked along she drew her hands up in the sleeves of she drew h her cloak. Her bright blue eyes, rosy cheeks and elastic steps betokened good health and spirits.

As she came to a big dry good store, which had been transformed into a toy bazaar for the holiday season, she hesitated an instant between pleasure and

duty.

"It will be only for a minute," she said to herself; "and I do so enjoy seeing the grand things. I'll get to confession early enough even if I spead a little while here.

a little while here."
So she entered. A cheerful-looking man with a long coat and a lady richly man with a long coat max arrayed in furs, were fingering the toys.

Mary, who was just behind after drinking in all the splendor of their clothes and bearing, proceeded to follow them. They were soon joined by a girl of about Mary's age, who shad been wandering around the store.

The newcomer was dressed "splen-

illy," as Mary mentally thought.
"How happy she must be!" solilo-

quized Mary. "Florence," Mary heard the lady have you found anything you

"No," said Florence, in a surly tone. "I got almost everything they have here, and don't think I'd care to

"Everything they have here!" com-mented Mary to herself. "Why, I'd give worlds and worlds for just that doll which I could take home to my sister

'Fie fie. Florence!" said the gentleman, " how would you like this watch? for they were now at the jewelry coun-

ter. "Papa, I don't care for watches," said Florence. "They are such bother, and the last one I had was great deal prettier than that.' ha ha!" laughed her

father, and Mary thought that if he had a long white beard he would be just like Santa Claus with his red face. 'So you've got tired of watches also?

Now, what do you really want?'

"Yourf
"Nothing," said Florence, stamping
Florence.

her foot impatiently. 'Let us be go-

"Do be calm, Florence," remonstrated her mother. "Let us walk about a bit and see the things—per-let a

her sealskin cloak a slight blow and hit one of her pockets. Something was knocked out of the pocket and thrown into Mary School known of her pocket and thrown in the her pocket and thrown in the her pocket and thrown in the her pocket and thrown

knocked out of the pocket and thrown into Mary's clasped hands.

Mary, who was directly behind Florence, clatched it and a bound of triumph swelled up in her breast, which was no sooner thought of than she put it aside. She held Florence's purse. She hesitated a minute as she held the little leather bag in her hand. She reasened that Florence had every-She reasoned that Florence had every-thing she wanted and would not miss it, and while she hesitated, the opportun ity to restore the purse was lost; the people got into their carriage and were

driven rapidly away.

As the carriage disappeared around a orner Mary clasped her hands in de-

sion of her mind for a moment. She ndered what was in the purse. She was afraid to open it on the street, and as she hurried along she felt as if every one who looked at her knew she had it.

She reached the church, and seating berself in a quiet corner opened the book. She nearly dropped it in her terror and surprise. The purse contained several gold pieces, besides a bill with 100 on it. Mary had never seen so much money in all her life. There was also a stud in the purse which Mary judged to be a diamond because it

She determined not to risk the danger of carrying it home, so she went to the vestry and waited for Father James to come over from the house to her con-

He came at last, and with a kindly word to Mary asked her her business. She told him rapidly, yet fully, about the incident of the afternoon. As she concluded she handed him the purse.

My child," he said, "I am over temptation. I know to whom the purse belongs. The young lady is Florence Morgan. She has just been in to see me. The \$100 bill is intended as the

joint contribution of her father and mother to the orphans, and she only missed her pocket-book as she was about to] hand the money over to me. The loss of the money don't trouble her so much as that of the stud, which is a souvenir of her dead uncle. When she discovered her loss I actually thought her heart was breaking. I see," said Father James, pulling out his watch, it is interesting and instruct business, or a sycophantic and insincere politician or office seeker.

One of the greatest correctives of the falling-off the ideal, the letting-down of the school-day standards, is to compel oneself to recall, every day, the moral solvening of the dead uncle. When she equal business ability; and who start out in the same city under practically like conditions, one will rapidly gain who start out in the same city under practically like conditions, one will rapidly gain to pay. It is interesting and instruct politician or office seeker.

One of the greatest correctives of the falling-off the ideal, the letting-down of the school-day standards, is to compel oneself to recall, every day, the moral tole Vol I & II certmonies of Lywals. 40

Ceremonies of Lywals. 40

Ceremonies of High Mass. 40

Of two young men who have had equal advantages of opportunity and equal business ability; and who start out in the same city under practically like polymers. 259

Father James, pulling out his watch, like conditions, one will rapidly gain paper. 50 parlor of the Morgan mansion, Mary heard the sound of some one weeping bitterly.

Father James left her alone for a few minutes. Before she had finished her survey of the grand furnishings, she heard the patter of feet, and before she could turn, she felt herself clasped in reputation without reproach.—Success. will ever be high. two strong arms and a tearful pair of eyes were looking into hers.
"Oh, you dear!" sobbed Florence:

"so it was you that found my purse and when a youth is no longer a beyand not was to honest as to return it?"

"I—I—" stammered Mary, and she his life. This is the age when the inburst into tears.

Florence stared at her in amazement.

the tempter to flight. You have gained a great victory, which makes the Blessed Lord rejoice. You have a clear concience, and will have a merry Christ-

mas for your good act."
" Why—why—" began Mary.
" What?" asked Florence, clasping

Mary's hand in here.
"Why," faltered Mary, and gaining that's just what Sister Colification in the hears a lawyer expatiate upon the "Why," faitered Mary, and gaming courage, "that's just what Sister Collette said," and by degrees she told of lette said," armon of the school room. It is cut out for the bar, and will change is cut out for the bar, and will change the little sermon of the school room. Is cut out for the bar, and will change its conclusion he turned significantly to Mrs. Morgan, who had followed him in-

girls were chatting away like magpies, and they both went to confession together. As they were going out Florence's mother whispered to her. only the of them. Then the those, where the conference is the conference is mother than the two only the conference is the After confession Florence told Mary she was going home with her, and a short walk took them there.

A sound of subdued voices caused the

color to come to Mary's face as she opened the door. What she saw caused her to start with surprise. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan were there, and Mrs. Morgan and her mother were talking in excited tones and using their handkerchiefs vigorously. Florence stared at her mother in astonishment, and Mary ran to hers to find the cause of the trouble, but she was met with a happy smile and a kiss.

happy smile and a kiss.

As the two ladies saw Florence's surprise they burst out laughing, in which Florence's papa and Mary's papa, seated at the other end of the room

"My little girl," said Mrs. Morgan, "I have found Josephine at last."
"Your friend at the convent?" asked

"Certainly; she's dear Mary's

has already rewarded you, for papa ments. will go to work again soon; mamma has found a dear old friend, and you an affectionate companion—all because my little girl would not do wrong. You

# CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

It is the honor of a Christian mind to show itself superior to every false shame by trampling under foot all

the progress of true Christianity in this country, is ignorance of their religion amongst educated Catholics," remarked amongst educated Catholies, remarked Father O'Reilly of Lawrence in Our Parish Calendar. "It is no uncommon thing to find prominent Catholies edu-cated in all the affairs of life, well up, so to speak, in literature and science, leaders in the professions, yet almost as ignorant of the teachings of their own ignorant of the teachings of their own Church as they are of the doctrines of Buddha and Confucius. They dare not open their mouths in conversation on roligious matters for fear they would show their ignorance, or, as is too often the case, lest they might not, if true to the case, lest they might not, if true to their profession, remain liberal. What wonder that educated Protestants and unbelievers, though admiring the great Catholic Church in the abstract, are Catholic Church in the concrete, slow to approach it in the concrete, when their Catholic fellow citizens seem so ill-informed of the teaching of their own Church, or so timid as to be always and to a prologize for the position of ready to apologize for the position their Church on public questions."

her heart was breaking. I see," said Father James, pulling out his watch, that I have still half an hour at my credit at banks and jobbing-houses,

The Most Trying Period.

The transition or hobbledehoy period, between boyhood and young manhood, terrogation point assumes colossal pro-portions, when every faculty of his nature is asking questions and wondering what the future has in store for him. This is the period which tries

him. This is the time when great "Never mind, my child," said Father

James, coming in at this juncture.
"You resisted the temptation and put changing so rapidly, that he does not yet know what he is going to do, what

occupation or profession to choose.

While the youth is in this unsettled condition, teachers and parents should exercise great patience in dealing with him, as whatever is put into this part lad changes from one thing to another Florence then became a very lively with equal impartiality and lack of interrogation point, and got out of Mary all the particulars preceding the time she came into possession of the · to the different vocations, but he sees In an amazingly short time the two only the flowers and the pleasant'side

Then the lad needs the counsel of those, who, understanding his disposi-tion, his talents and his tastes, can best direct him in the choice of a career.

Inaccurate People Dishonest. It is not safe to trust people who are habitually inaccurate in their work. Even with the best intentions in the world, they become dishonest. Before they are aware of it, the habit of inaccuracy extends to their statements. They do not take pains to be thorough in anything they undertake, even in

clearly expressing the truth.

These people never carry much weight in a community, however honest in principle they may be, because no reliance can be placed on their words or work. You cannot depend upon what they tell you. If they are orators, they are discredited; if they are at the bar, the judges always take their statements with some margin; if they are in business, they soon get a bad name for inaccuracy. In fact, whatever those people do they are placed at a disadentage because of their habit of inac-

There is a great difference between going just right and a little wrong. These victims of inaccuracy did not start right. They failed to realize that

strated her mother. "Let us walk about a bit and see the things—perhaps you will see something to please you."

"No, I won't," said Florence. "I want to go home."

And they continued to walk through the store, Florence becoming angrier, till her frowns made her look positively angly. Some sort of fascination kept Mary in their wake, and she wondered how such a girl could be anything but happy. Suddenly the words of Sister Colette came to her, "It does not require money or fine clothes to have a merry Christmas."

As they reached the great swinging doors Florence gave the door a hard push, and as it swung inward it struck her coalskin cloak a slight blow and hit one of her pockets. Something was

Keep Your Ideal in Sight.

One reason for the failure of young men and women who start out in active can only have a merry Christmas with a clear conscience; money and fine clothes never give that."

"Why," said Mary, "that's just what Sister Collette said."

"It with warm sympathies and great expectations is because they generally drop the high standards they set for themselves, and lose sight of their ideals.

The models held up before them: life with warm sympathies and great ex-

ideals.

The models held up before them in their school-days, which made such deep impressions on their minds when they were dreaming of their future and planning the noble things they should do, gradually, in the stress of life fodo. do, gradually, in the stress of life, fade

from vision and become dim in memory.

New ideals of a more commercial shame by trampling under foot all shame gradual he does not appreciate the transformation himself—into a hard-headed and not overscrupulous man of

## ALCOHOLISM CAN BE CURED. Rev. Father Quinlivan's Opinion.

To whem it may concern: The good points of Mr. Dix m's new discovery for the cure of the liquor habit, in my opinion, are the flewing: First, it taken according to directions to completely removes all craving for liquor in the short space of three days; the same for a longer time is intensited only to brild up the system. Second, it leaves ne bed are the system. The leaves ne bed are the system of the patient in the system of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. In the System of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by Cardinal Facts of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by Cardinal Facts of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, by James P Taylor. The System of Canadian History, b

"that I have still half an hour at my disposal, so we will go to Florence at once. She lives only a few doors off;" and as they entered the magnificent cannot because he is vicious or debasing influence of the flerce commental vision, as vividly as possible, such models as Ruskin and Lincoln, for example, would tend to neutralize the debasing influence of the fierce competition for wealth and preferement, aye, even for a mere subsistence, which pushes out of sight the aspirations and ideals of youth. Keep these grand characters, which aroused you to noble thoughts and endeavor in the springtime of life, in mind, and your standards will ever be high.

Another aid toward the preservation and attainment of an ideal is to read, if but for a few moments each day, from great life-books which have helped so many souls, even in the midst of stumbling-blocks, to build up beautiful characters.

The mind is like a musical instrument debasing influence of the fierce comdissipated, but because they are not
certain of his integrity. They do not
feel that he can be depended upon
under all circumstances. Unlike the
other-young man, he has not cultivated
the one thing upon which all credit is
based, a character above suspicion, a
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STORIES.

many souls, even in the midst of stumbling-blocks, to build up beautiful characters.

The mind is like a musical instrument — a violin, for instance, —which, no matter how excellent it may be, requires to be put into tune every day that it may conform with the laws of harmony. So the mind must be attuned each day to high standard, so that there shall be no discord between it and the great model instrument—truth itself.

A third way, and one of the best methods for keeping an ideal in sight and holding up a standard, is to associate with great and noble souls.—Success.

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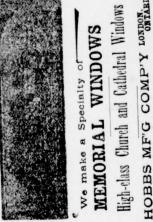
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