

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE ANNUNCIATION

"Hail, Mary, full of grace!" the Angel saith.
Our Lady bows her head and is ashamed
She has a Bridegroom who may not be named,
Her mortal flesh bears Him Who conquers death.
Now in the dust her spirit grovel-eth!
Too bright a Sun before her eyes has flamed,
Too fair a herald joy, too high proclaimed,
And human lips have trembled in God's breath.

O Mother-Maid, thou art ashamed to cover
With thy white self, whereupon no stain can be,
Thy God, who came from heaven to be thy Lover,
Thy God, who came from heaven to dwell in thee!
About thy head celestial legions hover,
Chanting the praise of thy humility.

—JOHN KILMER

LOVING WORDS

How much better would it be if we were more generous and lavish of our good words when our friends can be cheered and blessed by them! Sometimes we get the lesson of keeping silence over-learned, and let hearts starve for lack of kindly words which lie mean while on our tongues ready to be spoken. It is not the want of love for which we are blamed, but the penuriness that locks up the love and will not give out in word and act to bless hungry lives. Is any other miserliness so mean? We let hearts starve close beside us when we have the bread to feed them, and then when they lie in the dust of defeat or death, we come with our love to speak eloquent funeral eulogies. Would it not be far better to give out the kindness when it will do good?

HOW TO SUCCEED

Most young men and most older men consider a man successful when he has accumulated considerable wealth. In a measure, the accumulation of wealth does indicate success, but it is a mistake to think that all men who are wealthy are successful and that all men who die poor are unsuccessful. Some of the wealthiest men in the nation, when the real test of success is applied to them, are failures. Wealth does not necessarily measure to success or a lack of wealth, failure. Success depends on rendering a capable and an honest service, doing the things that need to be done. If all young men would make up their minds to prepare themselves for some job they like and pledge themselves to discharge the duties, which fall upon them, faithfully and to the best of their ability, all would be successful. One of the greatest assets in a young man's life is character and it requires character to be a success.—Catholic Universe.

A DEFINITE AIM IN LIFE

Success or failure in your high school career depends mightily on the definiteness of your aim. Your choice of a trade or profession should determine the courses you will take. If you want to be a doctor, Latin will hold no terrors for you. If you want to be an engineer, trigonometry will not balk you; if you see your goal and drive in that direction you will get there.

Experience shows that the student with a definite aim accomplishes much more than the student without one. Therefore find out what you want to do; even though you should decide to change later; you will have had the satisfaction of forming good habits in working toward a definite objective, which would not have been the case if you had been aimlessly drifting in the meantime.

If you do not have a definite plan you are very liable to drop out of school the first year or the second. To be great; to achieve success in life; to be a leader and not a follower; to do justice to yourself and your parents; to forward the interests of your Church and your country, you must concentrate, you must decide what you want to be before you start your high school courses. Success is half assured the boy or girl who enters high school with a definite purpose. Failure is sure to be the lot of the drifter, ramby-pamby who is not possessed of enough backbone or grit to make up his mind.—The Pilot.

STAND FOR SOMETHING

"A man may smile and bid you hail,
Yet with a good dog wags his tail
You know he's on the level."

When folks think of you, what do they see in their mental picture? Do you embody a principle, or have you never been guilty of being four-square on any proposition in all your life? Do you have an inner guide "true as a dial in its response to the truth about you," or did you apologize to it so often that finally it ceased to command any respect whatsoever?

Is your character so true that others know without asking what

will be your position on any question where right and wrong are involved?

A compass that goes wrong can wreck a ship. A conscience that goes wrong can ruin a life. There is only one way to have a strong dependable conscience, respected by you and those who know you; at every opportunity to make a mental decision, do it honestly and as carefully as the circumstances will permit.

The man who is unwilling to make a moral judgment soon arrives at the place where he is unable to do so.

A colorless character is never respected and never remembered. It is unattached and without prospect of arriving anywhere, for it has no guide. There is another man. His conscience is not elastic. He stands four-square to every wind that blows. Cheap popularity has no attraction for him. In other words, he is "on the level."
—The Echo.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

THE ANNUNCIATION

In her sequestered chamber, temple-like and slender,
Kneel the youthful maiden, meek and undefiled,
When the radiant sun burst forth in God-like splendor,
Praying for the sons of men by sin exiled.

"Hail full of grace," is the salute;
"Like thee no woman's blest;
The Lord descends to be the Fruit
That in thy womb shall rest."

Light so glorious, vision of God's bliss unaltered,
Heart and mind replete with mingled love and fear;
"How can that be since no man I know?" she faltered,
And she dared not gaze the sharp reply to hear.

"The might of God is unconfeined,
And wills that souls be free;
The Blessed Fruit to thee inclined
The Holy Ghost's shall be."

Raptured love bends to the Virgin's long devotion,
Now her eyes shall see the prophet's words fulfilled.
"Be Thy word done, Lord, Thy will is my full portion."
And the Saviour's presence her pure soul enthralled.
—Messenger of Precious Blood

THE ANNUNCIATION

In a chamber of a humble carpenter's dwelling at Nazareth, a Virgin-Bride is praying at the solemn midnight hour. She alone of all mankind has been preserved intact from the stain of sin. She is dear to the angels, who love to visit and protect and serve her "whom the King desireth to honor."

As she kneels there in the midnight stillness, a spirit guest in visible form draws near to her. He comes as the ambassador of the King of Heaven, in whose court he is one of the noblest princes. With what reverence and peaceful composure he enters the chamber! How lowly his attitude as he draws near! In accents of deepest respect he breathes a greeting. It is a salutation destined to live forever. "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou among women!"—Our Lady in the Liturgy.

COURAGE

Whether you be a man or woman, you will never do anything in the world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor. Heroism is the brilliant triumph of the soul over the flesh—that is to say, over fear of poverty, of suffering, of calamity, of sickness, isolation, or death. There is no serious piety without heroism. It is the glorious concentration of courage. It is much easier to destroy than to build; it is much easier to roll down hill than it is to climb up; it is much easier to be a failure than it is to become a success, for it is much easier to indulge your inertia than it is to stimulate your initiative. To build, to climb, to achieve, are not easy. But it is only by building, by climbing, achieving that a man makes progress. So don't waste your days looking for an easy way to success. Rather learn to welcome difficulties; and, above all, don't let hard work discourage you.

OUR FATHERS AND MOTHERS

Boys and girls do not realize how cruelly they hurt their fathers and mothers by showing disrespect, being insolent or indifferent when their parents try to guide them aright, says a writer in the Western Watchman.

No boy or girl in the few years that he or she has known the world can possibly have wisdom. That comes with knowledge of life and years of experience. Your fathers and mothers have gained wisdom and their most ardent desire is that you should profit by their knowledge of life and life's ways, without knowing the suffering and sorrow which one must go through, if he try to make his own way, unheeding the advice of those who "know."

Their strongest wish is that you may be happy, and they know that happiness comes only to those who do what is right and live according to God's laws.

When fathers and mothers seem cross or too stern, it is because their hearts are torn with misery in seeing any tendency of a boy or girl to go the wrong way. They have seen so many children begin to

go wrong in little ways, who are finally lost to those who would have saved them.

You children who are polite and respectful to strangers, people who mean nothing to you and have no care of you, why, then, are you not polite and courteous to the ones who love you more than life itself?

When a mother has given her strength, often her health, to care for her children, it is little, indeed, to ask in return that they pay to her as much respect as they do to acquaintances.

There will come a day, boys and girls, when you will be very, very sorry for every word or deed that hurt your father or mother, a day when you will tell yourself, heart-brokenly, that you want only a chance to let them know how sorry you are—if there could be just a few years to be kind and repay in some part your big debt—but it will be too late.—Western Watchman.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

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CHARACTER TRAINING NEED OF TODAY

Madison, Wis., Feb. 10.—Among those who addressed the conference of the Wisconsin Christian Education Council, held here last week, was Rev. Albert C. Fox, S. J., president of Marquette University, who spoke on "The Value and Need of Religious Education for the Boys and Girls of Wisconsin." In the course of his talk, Father Fox said:

"The great bulk of education throughout the country today is intellectual and informational, and character training has become a minor consideration. Science without character is dangerous. Pseudo-science without character and without conscience is fatal. Much has been written about intelligence tests; but it is far more necessary that educators from now on should pay more attention to character tests."

"The successful man of middle life must have and actually does have decided moral fibre. No one can even think of such a man as soft or flabby. He aims actually to do what he knows he ought to do. There is a rigor and a vigor in his life which suggests sternness and discipline. He helps one to understand that righteousness has an actual place in the world. With him there is no compromise. There is no substitute for virtue. He has learned that self-restraint is a necessity for useful living."

"Such men tell us that we do not need more national development. We need more spiritual development. We do not need more intellectual power, we need more moral power. We do not need more knowledge, we need more character. We do not need more government, we need more religion. We do not need more of the things that are seen, we need more of the things that are unseen."

"There has been a very serious crumbling of what men once looked upon as standards worthy of emulation. There is not the same regard and respect and reverence in our communities today as there was possibly twenty-five or fifty years ago. We have somehow externalized life. We have emerged the individual into the maze of our modern life. We have snuffed out the inner light and broken and destroyed the inner reality which made the American of other generations."

A MORAL TARIFF

A tariff for moral protection is the novel idea that has abruptly come to the forefront in the Irish Free State. The strong body of Catholics known as the Vigilance Association has discussed with the Minister for Justice the desirability of a tariff wall against unclean prints.

The root of the trouble is the Sunday press that pours into Ireland from Great Britain. These bulky papers are stuffed with details dredged up from the London divorce courts. They are cheap and their system of distribution is almost perfect. Every weekend they overrun the country. Although a general atmosphere of revulsion from them exists and has always existed, there is no doubt that their sale is considerable.

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The proposal of the Vigilance Association, as put before the Government, is that the evil should be fought by Customs duties. The Ministry of Finance is asked to impose a heavy tax on all imported publications. A "privileged list" drawn up at the same time would name the exemptions. The journals not exempted would, of course be the unclean sediment, which the tariff would hit hard.

The big objection to any tax on printed matter is that it may become a tax on knowledge. But that argument can be used even against the law of copyright.

Father McInerney, O. P., Editor of the Irish Rosary, told the Government that the tariff plan has worked successfully in New Zealand. The Vigilance Association fully understands the need for common sense and moderation, as its movement can only be effective when it has public opinion behind it.

The keeping out of the bad press will at best be a negative step. When all is said, people really must have something to read. If the bad press is driven from the field the good press must be able to occupy it adequately.

Irish Catholic journalism is mainly of the periodical order. It includes one excellent weekly newspaper The Irish Catholic. There are some high class Catholic reviews. Then there are organs for ordinary readers. But their pages require enlivenment.

The Vigilance Association is urging them to seize interest and pique curiosity by getting into the track of current life and keeping touch with what the world is doing at the moment.

"One of the proprietors admitted—"Journalistic matter is now best provided by mass production, and we must draw on the best organized sources instead of relying too implicitly on a few individual contributors."

Feeling that the Catholic press will rise to the occasion, the Vigilance crusaders are out to kill the dragon.

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