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THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

Value of a Great Purpose.

A splendid protection for a youth, when he leaves school and home and goes out into the world is a great purpose. There is magnetism in a strong, unwavering lofty aim, which attracts the things that will help us and repels those that will hinder. Every youth should be taught the marvelous expansive power of a great or strong affection. The greater or better always crowds out the lesser, the poorer. The boy who is bent on self-improvement, who is determined to have an education and amount to something in the world, is soon left severely alone by the aimless boys of his neighborhood. They know it is useless to try to get him to waste his time. His mind is set on "higher things." It is a good lesson to inculcate. There are too many "aimless boys," too many youths who have no well-defined idea of what career they should pursue in life. They start out in a haphazard way and trust to luck, or chance to get along. The consequence is that the vast majority of young men never "amount to much," even when they do not become slaves of vicious habits and are not carried away by the attractions of the world. A Spanish philosopher, James Balzac, wrote:

"A well defined object, a tranquil conscience and a strong will—these are the conditions of success." It would be difficult to say which of these three requisites could be most easily dispensed with in the achievement of success. It is easy to understand that the object sought must be "well defined;" that is, well understood, and that the will should be strong in carrying one's purpose to final success. It requires the spirit of sacrifice to persevere in any undertaking and it is only the disciplinarian who are able to exercise determination. A tranquil conscience really means a pure heart, and certainly it is an important thing that while the mind is pursuing its chosen course the soul should not be disturbed by the presence of sin.

Boys, then, should be guided in the selection of the vocation in which they are to achieve success, as well as wherein true success consists. If a youth has an ambition to be a printer or a carpenter or a merchant or a professional man, he should know exactly what it is that he wants to be, how to go about making the start and be armed with the strength of will to carry his purpose through. Many parents and teachers fail to advise with the young people under their care in matters which concern the happiness of a lifetime. There are exceptions, but it is to be noted also, that the truly successful are the exceptions.—Western Watchman.

Gladstone When a Boy.

It is not always safe to follow the example of good and great men, even when advised to do so. The following personal incident once related by the famous English statesman, Gladstone, to a small visitor, is a case in point. He said:

"When I was a little chap, just leaving off my kilts, my father sent me to dine with Beaconsfield, who, having taken a fancy to me while visiting in Norfolkshire, wanted to have me as his guest.

"My good father, as he parted with me on my way to his lordship's, said, 'Now, William, when at his lordship's board, be sure you do exactly as he does.' Well, I went to the good man's house and sat down at the table, and anxiously watched my host while he served the guests, bent, of course, on following my father's orders to do exactly as his lordship. When the guests had been served, his lordship looked up from his plate and soon sneezed several times. I watched the same number of times I had sneezed the same number of times I had sneezed the same number of times. Nothing was said, the meal continued without interruption for a few more minutes, then his lordship exclaimed:

"A beastly draught, and, wheeling around in his chair, called to his valet to close a door that had been left open near his lordship's seat.

"Again I watched him. Then, repeating the exclamation he had uttered, I wheeled around in my chair and gave a similar command to the valet.

"There was a silence. His lordship's brow knitted, his lips closed, and he gave me such a hard and inquiring look that I trembled from head to foot.

"At last he spoke, his voice quiet determined.

"See here, William, are you imitating me?"

"Oh, no, your lordship, I stammered out.

"Well, what does this mean?"

"Only, your lordship, that I am doing what father told me. He said I was to watch you at the table and do exactly as you did."

"His lordship laughed merrily, then turning to his guests said: 'I must not do that which I would not have others do.'"

Then, closing the story with his little visitor, Mr. Gladstone said:

"Little man, always be careful. Never do anything because other people do it, unless you are certain it is good and pleasant unto God."

To Young Men.

In whatever laudable pursuit you engage, pursue it with a steadiness of purpose, as though you were determined to succeed. A vacillating mind never accomplishes anything worth naming. There is nothing like a fixed, steady, inflexible aim; an aim worthy of your most heroic endeavor. Such an aim dignifies our nature and ensures success. The old maxim is not severance conquer "all things." Take good ground and keep it. Who have done the most for mankind? Who have secured the highest honor? Who have climbed the loftiest heights of holiness? The men who were steady to their purposes, the men who, with dauntless intrepidity, served the living God.

Almost all great men conspicuous on the catalogue of renown are proofs of the success of persevering effort. Gifford,

the cabin boy, was one of the most powerful writers of his day. Ferguson was a shepherd boy, but raised himself to the honor of one of the first astronomers of his age, at whose lectures royalty itself listened with delight. Sir Humphrey Davy, the first chemist of his times, was the son of a wood-cutter and the apprentice of an apothecary. Samuel Lee was a carpenter, but became a professor of Hebrew in Cambridge University. What others have done may be accomplished by you. At all events, have a high, noble ambition to accomplish something for God and your fellow, worthy of your best endeavor.—The Christian Family.

It's Worth Remembering—

That gossip never secure "permanent jobs."

That happiness is found only when you look within, not without.

That love may be ever so great, but must also be wise, to grow.

That a fool is never so foolish but that he may teach another fool something.

That to be poor without losing self-respect or a sense of enjoyment is a fine art.

That kindness of any true sort must be expressed in terms of the recipient, not of the donor.

That capability marks some men, and importance others, but that indispensable attaches to none.

That friendship which is genuine may invariably be recognized in that it is neither jealous nor selfish.

That intolerance among the rich is more to be condemned than ignorance among the poor. The rich know better.

That intellectual worth is most clearly shown in the complete and accurate knowledge of one's own abilities.

That godricity, provided it be persevering, accomplishes more than filial piety. Hares and tortoises still run races.—Success.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

Jessie's Gift.

"Good-by, my little girl. It is a beautiful day, and I am glad you are to have such a pleasant time on your birthday day."

Jessie looked very happy as she returned her mother's warm kiss.

"I wish you would have John drive you round by old Mrs. Froust's continued mother. 'Go in and tell her your father has concluded to try her grandson Hiram as office boy."

"Why, mother, I thought Hiram was a bad boy. I shouldn't think father would want him."

"If he thought only of his own wishes, he probably would not take him. But there is more in it than that, you know, dear. We are not placed in the world simply to do what pleases ourselves, or to give help only to those who deserve it. We hope to help Hiram along by giving him another chance. That will make his poor old grandmother happy, too. So you have opportunity of making three people happy on your birthday. What a fortunate little girl!"

"Hiram and his grandmother—who is the other?"

"Myself, dear."

"How yourself, mother?"

"In doing for some one else. Don't let us forget that others are happy in the same things that make us happy. They are flesh and blood and spirit like ourselves. They suffer as we do, and enjoy as we do."

"Then," said Jessie, as she turned away with a thoughtful face, God wants them to enjoy just as much as we."

"Exactly, dear."

She was quite happy in seeing the joy which spread over the old face as she told Mrs. Froust the news.

"How many times your mother has sent me good things, pleasant things, but never so good as this. And Miss Jessie, as you, just like your mother, are always doing kind things, could you take this basket of flowers over to Miss Allen's? She's sick, and I promised 'em to her. I think she'll enjoy 'em."

"I would make her a little late at the lawn party to which she was going, but how could she refuse? A quarter of an hour's drive brought her to Miss Allen's house."

"Oh, my dear, my dear!" The face of the gray-haired mother of the sick girl beamed on Jessie with a brightness which was full reward for delay. "I can't tell you how happy I am to get these. They will cheer her up as nothing else would."

"Miss Jessie—Miss Jessie! will you let us ride with you?" Three children ran out to her as she returned to the buggy. "Just to the merry-go-round. It's on the way to your house. It's too far for us to walk both ways, but if you'll only—"

"Now, don't bother Jessie," began their grandmother.

Jessie had caught her breath a little, but as the clamoring children, quieted by the words, stood gazing with wistful eyes, the new thoughts which had taken possession of her mind held their sway.

"Jump in, all of you," she said. "I'm not going home, but we will go round that way."

The new thoughts had full sway during the short, quiet ride after depositing the laughing group at the merry-go-round.

"I shall be late—very late. But what of it? Those little things don't often have a ride. They like pleasant things just as much as I do. And—how does mother say it?—the more people you have happy it's just so much more happiness in God's world. And what does it matter if the happiness isn't just for yourself?"

With the loving unselfishness in her heart it was not hard to show its spirit in her dealings with her little friends at the party.

"I have been kind to ten people this afternoon," was her report to her mother.

"One for each year you count today, dear. That is a good record for your birthday."—Catholic Telegraph.

A Doll That Stopped a War.

It is not very generally known, though it is a matter of history, that on one occasion a doll prevented a war between the United States and the Apache In-

PIUS X'S FASTING.

"THE POPE HAS GIVEN ME NO DISPENSATION,"—HIS REPLY TO DOCTOR'S REMONSTRANCE.

(From Home Correspondence of Catholic Standard and Times.)

Very probably many of our readers will be surprised at hearing that up to the time of the occupation of Rome, in 1870, the citizens observed the Lenten fast and abstinence with almost as great a rigor as did the primitive Christians. Yet such is a fact. Aged priests now tell us that when they were young men, thirty-seven years ago, butchers usually closed their stalls, for the simple reason that no Roman would touch meat during the holy season.

But our readers may be still more surprised to learn that during Lent the Holy Father kept a strict fast, and is, nevertheless, in the best of health. His physician was asked the other evening, after visiting his august charge:

"How is the Pope?"

"If Papa sta benissimo" (the Pope is very well), was the answer. "His Holiness has both fasted and abstained the whole of Lent, and when I remonstrated with him he laughingly answered, 'Well, what can I do? The Pope has not given me any dispensation.'"

We need not recall to the minds of our readers that one over sixty years old is not asked by the Church to do what Pius X did. However, they will all agree with us in saying that a hard worker of seventy-three years of age ought to be "dispensed by the Pope."

A Danger to Which Many Catholics Expose Themselves.

Again it is our duty to warn a certain number of the parishioners of a great danger they are exposing themselves to by not hearing the preaching of the Word of God. Unfortunately many of our people feel that their religious duties are done when they hear a Low Mass on Sundays. They forget that it is a duty binding in conscience to hear a sermon, for "faith comes by hearing," and "without faith it is impossible to please God." All who can should hear the sermon at High Mass, and those who find it impossible or very inconvenient to come to High Mass, should feel it a religious duty to hear the sermon on Sunday evening.

The weak Catholic is the Catholic who is poorly instructed. The reading of the Bible and of spiritual books may be of some assistance to us but there is a divine efficacy in the Word of God as it falls from the lips of the successors of the Apostles. "Faith comes by hearing, and if we wish our faith preserved and increased, let us frequently hear the preaching of the Word of God."—The Parish Monthly, Dallas, Texas.

Abraham Lincoln's Kindness to a Bird.

In the early pioneer days, when Abraham Lincoln was a young attorney and "rode the circuit," he was one day traveling on horseback from one town to another with a party of friends who were lawyers like himself.

The road which they traveled led across prairies and through woods. As they passed by a grove where the birds were singing merrily, they noticed a baby bird which had fallen from the nest and lay fluttering by the roadside.

After they had gone a short distance, Mr. Lincoln stopped, turned, and said, "Wait for me a moment; I will soon return to you."

As his friends halted and watched him, they saw Mr. Lincoln return to the place where the helpless bird lay on the ground, and tenderly take it up and set it on a limb near the nest.

When he joined his companions, one of them laughingly asked, "Why did you bother yourself and delay us with such a trifle as that?"

Abraham Lincoln's reply deserves to be remembered. "My friend," said he, "I can only say this—that I feel better for it. I could not have slept to-night if I had let that helpless little creature to perish on the ground."—Catholic Sun.

THE BLOOD OF ST. JANUARIUS.

The socialists have apparently dropped their absurd "reproductions" of the Miracle of St. Januarius, but it would seem as if the men of science are now beginning to turn their attention to it—though not for the first time.

Vico, Davies, Lalande, Lovelaiser, Secchi, Feigl, the chemist, Fattori, Antonio Stoppani and other famous scientists have all witnessed the phenomenon and have found it inexplicable. Professor Sperindeo of the University of Naples has studied the contents of the famous phial and has ascertained by the spectroscopic that it is blood.

The liquefaction which takes place in the presence of thousands in the cathedral of St. Januarius is quite independent of the temperature of the church, it is almost instantaneous, and the blood within the phial increases not only in volume but in weight. This extraordinary fact has been tested several times scientifically, and Professor Sperindeo has come to this conclusion:

"The phenomenon is marvelous, and do not hesitate to say that it is altogether supernatural." P. Stoppani, who wrote an article in the Perseverance the other day, and who is evidently of a very cautious turn of mind, refuses to believe that the phenomenon constitutes a miracle but he admits very frankly that it cannot be explained scientifically.—Rome.

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HARD

INSIST ON RECEIVING IT.

ARCHBISHOP FALCONIO, APOSTOLIC DELEGATE.

On the occasion of the consecration of Bishop Guertin, of Manchester, N. H., His Grace, Most Rev. Archbishop Falconio, Apostolic Delegate, during his sermon made the following reference to our Most Holy Father:

"The Holy Father was truly deserving of the love, respect and veneration of all Catholic people because of his grand and noble character. He was chosen to his high position," he said, "at a time when society was distracted by a spirit of immorality and there were grave problems waiting for a solution. The man who was destined henceforth to rule over the entire Catholic Church was chosen from the ranks of the people in order that he might understand their wants and at the same time direct their movements."

"A man of strong character and full of the spirit of God was needed to bring back the people to God's divine love and God provided the Church with this kind of man in the person of Pius X. Our Holy Father corresponding faithfully to the divine call had that spirit of courage which sustains the Church against adversity."

"It therefore behooves us to return thanks to Almighty God for having given to the Church such a Pope. The love, respect and veneration of the people and the American people and their sympathy so kindly extended during the troubles of the Church in Europe were very dear to the Holy Father and in his name I return to the American Hierarchy and American people his thanks."

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