CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

TO ACTION Rise for the day is passing,

And you lie dreaming on; The others have buckled their And forth to the fight have gone; A place in the ranks awaits you, Each man has some part to play; The past and the future are nothing In the face of the stern today.

-ADELAIDE A. PROOTER

KEEP DOING SOMETHING

Idleness is the father of much of the trouble in this world. People who have something to do, even though it may not be "setting the world on fire," rarely get into seri-

Franklin says, "the bird that sits is easily shot."

The mind put to useful purpose

has no time in which to meditate upon useless ends. Better do humble work and keep busy than be idle and dream of

great tasks, and never accomplish Keep doing something.

Take pride in doing the simple things well and then you will be assured of the great things, and you will in addition have the confidence in yourself to handle them worthily and efficiently. Every hour that you waste takes that much lustre away from every

hour that remains to you.

Strange as it may seem, you who aspire to proud heights must first throw pride away. You must throw pride away. You must accept the doing of little things and you must do them as though each in its turn was very important and great. That is how big things

Fitness precedes greatness. Prepare. Keep getting ready for important tasks—and the tasks will come, sooner or later.

Go to bed at night with at least one important thing learned and accomplished. The next day will dawn in finer garb.—Catholic Uni-

DULL BOYS WHO BECAME BRILLIANT MEN

One of the noblest utterances of the late W. E. Gladstone is his observation that "in some sense and in some effectual degree there"

Or else, Such a torment I never did see!"
I am scolded or cuffed if I make the least noise,
Till I think in this wide world there's is in every man the material for good work; not only in those who are brilliant, not only in those who are quick, but in those who are stolid, and even in those who are dull." These are golden words that dull." These are golden words that should be taken to heart by every young man who is despondent on account of his mediocre or mean ability. All experience shows that there is nothing in this fact which Of course, a boy can't know as much should dishearten any beginner in a calling. It is not brilliant ability, but resolution and persistence that as a rule win the prizes of life. It is proverbial that "slow but sure wins the race." A tortoise on the right road will beat a racehorse on the wrong road. Slowness is far less a foe to success than sloth. Quickness of parts often proves a disadvantage, since a boy who acquires knowledge quickly will often forget it as quickly, and again, because he sees no necessity for that strenuous application and dogged perseverance which a dull, slow youth is compelled to manifest

success in every career. It is a notorious fact that worldly success depends far less upon the general superiority of one's intellated by the best precepts are but of little avail. The example is followed, not adaptation to the work in hand. Moderate talent, steadily applied, will achieve more useful results and in the end win higher respect than ability of a high order whose temper is too fine for the drudgery and mechanical parts of a profession. The astonishing variety of talents which some men display is often acquired at the dear price of comparative feebleness in every

In reading biographies of eminent men one is surprised to learn what great things have been achieved by men who in youth were pronounced dunces. Histories of their careers are full of encouragement to timid, self-distrustful beginners in life. Among the illustrious dunces—dull and even stupid boys, but most successful men—were Justus von Liebig, called "Booby Liebig." by Liebig, called "Booby Liebig," by his schoolmates, who, when he replied to a question by his teacher, said that he intended to be a chemist, and provoked a burst of derision from the whole school, yet lived to become one of the greatest chemists of the nineteenth century; Tommaso Guido, the great painter, was known as "Heavy Tom," when a boy; Thomas Chatterton, who was sent home from school as "a fool, of whom nothing can be made;" Isaac Barrow, a quick-tempered, pugnacious and idle boy at school, but in manhood a celebrated mathe matician and preacher; Dean Swift, "plucked" at Dublin University; Richard B. B. Sheridan, the brilliant wit, playwriter, and orator, 'an incorrigible dunce" at ; Thomas Chalmers, one of school; Thomas Chalmers, one of Great Britain's most noted pulpit any school a more attractive advertisement. The teacher was "meek philanthropist, and even William Jones, who, besides writing various local and other solid was did find rest for their souls; the

scholar," Napoleon; and Wellington, characterized by his mother as a dunce, who was only "food powder;" "useless" Grant, Ulysses was termed by his mother; and Robert Clive, "the heaven-born general," as Lord Chatham styled him, who, a dunce at school, was sent, to get rid of him, as a clerk to India, proud, poor, and irritable, but who entered the British army, rose to high command, and laid the foundations of that mighty Oriental empire which has been the source of such enormous wealth to Great Britain. Last, but not least—per-haps the most marvellous blockhead of all in the long roll—was Walter Scott, of whom his teacher, Professor Andrew Dalzell, said that "dunce he is and dunce he will remain," and who visiting the remain," and who visiting the chool when at the zenith of his fame, asked to see its dunce, and when taken to him, gave him a half sovereign, saying, "There, take that for keeping my seat warm." for keeping my seat warm.' Southern Cross.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

ONLY A BOY I am only a boy, with a heart light and free; I am brimming with mischief and

I dance with delight, and I whistle and sing,
And you think such a boy never

cares for a thing. Now oft when I've worked hard at piling the wood, Have done all my errands and tried

to be good, I think I might then have a rest or a play; But how can I manage? Can any one say

If I start for a stroll, it is "keep off the street!"

If I go to the house, it is "Mercy,

what feet! If I take a seat, 'tis " Here give me that chair!" If I lounge by a window, 'tis "Don't

loiter there!' If I ask a few questions, 'tis" Don't

Or else, "Such a torment I never did see!"

no place for boys. At school they are shocked if I want a good play;

At home or at church, I am so in the way And it's hard, for I don't see that boys are to blame. An' most any boy, too, will just say

the same

as a man,
But we try to do right just as hard as we can, Have the patience, dear people, though oft we annoy,
For the best man on earth, once was

'Only a Boy.' -Southern Cross

A GOOD MOTHER "One good mother," says George erbert, "is worth a hundred Herbert, choolmasters. In the home she is the loadstone to all hearts, and loadstar to all eyes." Imitation of her is constant-imitation which Bacon likens to a "globe of pre-It is instruction: it is cepts.' and which are the surest means of teaching without words, often exemplifying more than tongue can teach. In the face of bad example, the precepts. Indeed, precept at variance with practice is worse than useless, inasmuch as it only serves to teach that most cowardly of vices

-hypocrisy. Remember, therefore, girls and boys, that a good Catholic mother is a blessing, and more and more as we grow we appreciate the finer traits of human nature. Men going out into life never forget the mother who stays at home, and who has presented to them a reason dominant with a high moral sense, with refined and sweet affections, with taste, with patience, with gentleness.—The Universe.

MEEKNESS A GREAT VIRTUE Meekness is not weakness; it is a virtue, and for that reason it is an exhibition of strength. No one would consider trained muscles evidence of weakness of body.
Virtues are the trained muscles of the will by the help of which man exercises his freedom energetically, at the proper time and in the proper way. Meekness, then, is strength.

way. Meekness, then, is strength.
All virtues keep to the middle of
the road, to the golden mean; they
swerve not to the side of excess. nor
slip to the side of defect. Meekness has a hard road to travel. It holds the curb upon anger, keeping it to the path. In this work, meekness should have occasion enough to display its strength.

Have you ever considered why Our Lord said: "Learn of Me because I am meek and humble of heart?" Christ was opening a heart?" Christ was opening a school in opposition to that of the Pharisees. He invited all to come to it. "Learn of Me." Never had Jones, who, besides writing various legal and other solid works, distinguished himself as a judge in India and at his death, at an early age of forty-eight years, had mastered twenty-eight languages.

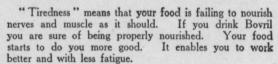
Not less illustrious than this roll of dunces were Robert Burns, a dull learner at school; Adam Clarke, "a grievous dunce," as his father said, in his boyhood; the "dull would recall, is Christ.—The Pilot.

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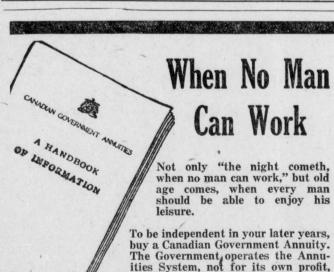
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It Was REAL FUN Learning to Play the Piano in 90 Days

By a Wife

We had been married only three years, and already Bob's love for me was slipping. Instead of remaining in evenings, he used to spend his time elsewhere, or devote his time to playing on his violin, entirely indifferent to me. Frankly, I was living through days of misery.

One day while reading a magazine I came across an amazing story—of a woman who had learned to play the piano in 90 days! Was it possible? Fascinated, I read on and on, and learned how she had mastered the piano by herself, in her spare time, without a teacher.

I stopped. A wonderful thought had occurred to me. Why couldn't I do what this woman had? And — how happy I could make Bob by accompanying him on the piano! Full of enthusiasm, I wrote to the U. S. School of Music, for their course. I, who had never known a single thing about music, was absolutely astonished at the remarkable simplicity of their print-and-picture method. As easy as the A. B. C.!

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But my greatest happiness came the day that Bob found out. Words can't describe his look of astonishment. And what a change seemed to come over him as he eagerly drank in my story. Then it-was I realized what music had meant to him. As he expressed it, playing the violin was absolutely flat without the accompaniment of a piano.

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