# CHATS WITH YOUNG

THE DAY'S RESULT

Is anybody happier because you anyone remember that you spoke to him to-day? This day is almost over and its toil-

ing time is through: Is there any one to utter now a kindly word of you?

Did you give a cheerful greeting to the friend who came along, Or a churlish sort of "howdy" then vanish in the throng? Were you selfish, pure and simple, as you rushed along the way Or is some one mighty grateful for a deed you did to-day?

Can you say to night, in parting with the days that, slipping fast, That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed? Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?

Does a man whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead.

Did you waste the day or lose it, was it well or poorly spent? Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber do you think that God would say You have earned one more to morrow by the work you did to-day? EDGAR A. GUEST

#### DISCOURTESY

Many a man has blocked his advancement by incivility to someone whom he looked down on or to whom he did not think it worth while to be

An insult to a waiter in a restaurant, to a hotel clerk, to a salesman, or to a train conductor, has been a boomerang to many a man who never dreamed that his rudeness would re-

bound to his own discredit.

Even from the most selfish, personal viewpoint, discourtesy is always bad business. One never knows in this land of chance and lightning changes when fortune may send men who need assistance to the very man they have snubbed and abused.—Catholic

#### INFORMATION WHILE THEY WAITED

The president of the faculty of a medical college once addressed a graduating class with reference to the necessity of cultivating the qual-

ity of patience in their professional, as well as in their domestic, relations. The professor said: "Gentlemen, you are about to plunge into the sphere of action.' No doubt you will, in some degree, follow the example of those who have preceded you. Among other things, you will doubtless marry. Let me entreat you to be kind to your wives. Be patient with them. Endeavor not to fret yourselves under petty domestic trials. If you are going to the theater, do not permit yourself to become excited if your wife is not downstairs in time. Have a treatise on your specialty always with you. Read it while you are waiting.

'And, I assure you, gentlemen,' the professor concluded, with delicate irony, "you'll be astonished at the vast fund of information you'll accumulate in this way."

### GETTING A JOB

The man who is looking for employment will succeed best if he knows exactly what kind of work he wants to do and can show that he is competent to do it.

Have you ever been in a position where you had to employ a person

for a responsible place?
You found, didn't you, that some men seeking jobs are really running away from them, they are so unfit for the work and the responsibility. Others, doubtless, overvalued or under-valued their service. Some who looked good to you on the surface, became superficial as you got their angle. Somehow one finds so many people

seeking positions, and so few looking

Then there is sometimes young, often old, sure-of-himself-fellow, who shine his shoes, or get a shave. nine-that's the right proportion-

But sometimes there will walk in a clean-cut, clear-eyed man, who knows just what he wants, and what he is fit to do. Garbed properly, considerate of your time, experienced, direct-hired, almost before you know

But that there are few of such is the pity of it all.

MAKE THE BEST OF IT Beethoven played divinely once on an old harpsichord, some of the keys of which were silent. He had the high skill to avoid the bad keys and elicit splendid harmonies from the

It is the bad workman who quarrels with his tools. In a word, nine-tenths of success is in the worker and not more than one-tenth in the equip-

Few indeed are the people who are privileged to work with good instru-ments and under ideal conditions. The ones who do well are those who make the best of it. A farmer said

All nature seems to be in conspiracy against the farmer. He has to combat insect pests, diseases in his live stock, beasts and birds of his live stock, beasts and birds of went out by night, and, taking young lieutenant of the staff instant-prey, bad weather, and exhaustion of with him a bag of gold, flung it into ly arose, and deferentially handed her

accounts, dishonest competitors, and the whims and tempers of people." Like things could be said of every

Make the best of it. If you can't achievement, hindrances will not defeat you.—Catholic Columbian.

#### IN THE HOME

Home is the place where a man should appear at his best. He who is bearish at home and polite only abroad is no true gentleman; indeed, he who cannot be considerate to those of his own household will never be really courteous to strangers. There is no better training for healthy and pleasant intercourse with the outer vorld than a bright and cheerful demeanor at home. It is in a man's home that his real character is seen; as he appears there, so he is really elsewhere, however skillfully he may

for the time conceal his true nature. It would go far to promote happi-ness in the home if all the members were as courteous to one another as they are to guests. The visitor receives bright smiles, pleasant greetings, while to our own we are often cross, rude, selfish, nagging and faultfinding. Are not our very own as worthy of our love, kindness and gentleness as the stranger.-St. Paul

### OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

SHORT SKETCH OF LIVES OF SAINTS OF THE WEEK

DECEMBER 3 .- ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

A young Spanish gentleman, in the dangerous days of the Roforma-tion, was making a name for himself as a Professor of Philosophy in the University of Paris, and had seemingly no higher aim, when St. Ignatius of Loyola won him to heavenly thoughts. After a brief apostolate amongst his countrymen in Rome he was sent by St. Ignatius to the Indies, where for twelve years he was to wear himself out, bearing the Gospel to Hindostan, to Malacca, and to Japan. Thwarted by the jealousy, coveto ness, and carelessness of those who should have helped and encouraged him, neither their opposition nor the difficulties of every sort which he encountered could make him slacken his labors for souls. The vast kingdom of China appealed to his charity and he was resolved to risk his life to force an entry, when God took him to Himself, and on the 2nd of December, 1552, he died, like Moses, in sight of the land of promise,

DECEMBER 4.-ST. BARBARA, VIRGIN,

MARTYR St. Barbara was brought up a heathen. A tyrannical father, Dioscorus had kept her jealously secluded in a lonely tower which he had built for the purpose. Here, in her forced solitude, she gave herself to prayer and study, and contrived to receive instruction and Baptism by stealth from a Christian priest. Dioscorus, on discovering his daughter's conversion, was beside himself with rage. He himself denounced her before the civil tribunal. Barbara was horribly tortured, and at last was beheaded, her own father, merciless to the last, acting as her executioner. God, however, speedily punished her persecutors. While her soul was ing borne by angels to Paradise, a flash of lightning struck Dioscorus, and he was hurried before the judgment-seat of God.

DECEMBER 5,-ST, SABAS, ABBOT St. Sabas, one of the most renowned patriarchs of the monks of Palestine, was born in the year 439, near Cæsarea. In order to settle a dispute which had arisen between some of his relatives in regard to the administration of his estate, while still young he forsook the world and entered a monastery, wherein he became a model of fervor. When Sabas had been ten years in this monastery, being eighteen years old, he went to Jerusalem to visit the holy places, and attached himself to monastery then under control of St. Euthymius: but on the death of the holy abbot our Saint sought forgets to change his laundry, or the holy abbot our Saint sought shine his shoes, or get a shave. He the wilderness, where he chose his just walks in and says, "I'm the man dwelling in a cave on the top of a high -and ten times out of mountain, at the bottom of which ran the brook Cedron. After he had he never had a look in to get the lived here five years, several came to him, desiring to serve Gcd under his direction. He was at first unwilling to consent, but finally founded a new monastery of persons all desirous to devote themselves to praise and serve God without interruption. His great sanctity becoming known, he ordained priest, at the age of fifty-three, by the patriarch of Jerusalem, and made Superior-General of all the anchonites of Palestine. He lived to be ninety four, and died on the 5th of December, 532.

DECEMBER 6.—ST. NICHOLAS OF BART

St. Nicholas, the patron Saint of Russia, was born toward the end of Red River campaign, when all was the third century. His uncle, the Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, ordained Department of the Gulf, that General him priest, and appointed him abbot of a monastery; and on the death of regular army, sat at his desk on Julia retained the bright and guileless and thither to every part of the city manners of his early years, and showed himself the special protector stiffly receiving such of his comof the innocent and the wronged. mand as had important business to Nicholas once heard that a person transact. who had fallen into poverty intended to abandon his three daughters to a life of sin. Determined, if possible, opened, and a humble Sister of Charto save their innocence, the Saint ity entered the room. A handsome soil."

"Yes," I replied, "and the storekeeper has to wrestle with fluctuat.

"The window of the sleeping father and hurried off. He, on awaking, ween though the had no reverded in the surgical operation, ments were respected, if not under the surgical operation, the fever, the wild delirium, and for many weary days no one could tell

ing prices, changing styles, bad it dowered his eldest child. The Saint. overjoyed at his success, made like venture for the second daughter; but the third time, as he stole away, the father, who was watching, overtook him and kissed his feet, saying: buy a new suit, have the old one pressed. If you can't climb over, go around. If you have the spirit of helper, and he who has delivered my soul and my daughters from hell. St. Nicholas is usually represented by the side of a vessel, wherein a certain man had concealed the bodies of his three children whom he had killed, but who were restored to life by the Saint. He died A. D. 342. His relics were translated in 1807, to Bari, Italy, and there after fifteen centuries, "the manna of St. Nicholas" still flows from his bones and heals all kinds of

DECEMBER 7 .- ST. AMBROSE, BISHOT

Ambrose was of a noble family, and vas governor of Milan A. D. when a bishop was to be chosen for that great See. As the Arian heretics were many and flerce, he was present to preserve order during the election. Though only a catechu-men, it was the will of God that he should himself be chosen by acciamation; and, in spite of his utmost resistance, he was baptized and consecrat He was unwearied in every duty of a pastor, full of sympathy and charity, gentle and condescending in things indifferent, but inflexible in matters of principle. He showed his fearless zeal in braving the anger of the Empress Justina, by resisting and foiling her impious attempt to give one of the churches of Milan to the Arians, and by rebuking and leading to penance the really great Emperor Theodosius, who in a moment of irritation had punished most cruelly a sedition of the inhabitants of Thessa He was the friend and consoler of St. Monica in all her sorrows and in 387 he had the joy of admitting to the Church her son, Sc. Augustine. St. Ambrose died A. D. 397, full of years and of honors, and is revered by the Church of God as one of her greatest doctors.

DECEMBER 8.-THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On this day, so dear to every Catholic heart, we celebrate, in the first place, the moment in which Almighty God showed Mary, through the distance of ages, to our first parents as the Virgin Mother of the divine Redeemer, the woman destined to crush the head of the serpent. And as by eternal decree she was miraculously exempt from all stain of original sin, and endowed with the richest treas-ures of grace and sanctity, it is meet should honor her glorious prerogatives by this special feast of the Immaculate Conception. We should join in spirit with the blessed in heaven, and rejoice with our dear Mother, not only for her own sake, but for ours, her children, who are partakers of her glory and happiness. Secondly, we are called upon to cele-brate that ever memorable day, the 8th of December, 1854, which raised the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Lady from a pious belief to the dignity of a dogma of the Infalli-ble Church, causing universal joy among the faithful.

### NUNS OF ANOTHER ERA

During the Civil War, and while General S. was in command of the department at New Orleans, the Sisters of Charity made frequent applications to him for assistance. Especially were they desirous to obtain supplies at what was termed the "commissary prices"—that is, at a reduction or commutation of onethird the amount which the same I stand here in my earthly all. What provisions would cost at market rates. The principal demand was for ice, flour, beef and coffee, but mainly ice, a luxury which only the Union forces could enjoy at anything like a reasonable price. The hospitals were full of the sick and wounded of both the Federal and Confederate armies. and the benevolent institutions of the city were taxed to the utmost in their endeavors to aid the poor and suffering, for those were trying times, and war has many victims.

Foremost among these Christian workers stood the various Sisterhoods. These noble women were busy day and night, never seeming to know tatigue, and overcoming every obstacle that, in so many discouraging forms, obstructed the way of doing good—obstacles which would have completely disheartened less resolute women, or those not trained in the school of patience, faith, hope and charity, and the first grand lesson in self-denial. Of money there was very little; and food, fuel, and medicine were scarce and dear; yet they never faltered, going on in the face of all difficulties, through poverty, war, and unfriendly aspersions, never turning aside, never complaining,

never despairing. It was just a week previous to the S., a stern, irascible old officer of the the archbishop he was elected to the street, curtly giving orders to subor vacant see. Throughout his life he diantes, dispatching messengers hither

In the midst of this unusual hurry

ence for the religious faith which they represented.

The soldier on duty without the door, who had admitted the Sister, faced about, saluted, and stood mute, awaiting the further command of his chief.

"Did I not give orders that no one was to be admitted?'

"Yes, sir, but—"
"When I say no one, I mean no one," thundered the general.

The orderly bowed and returned to to enter into explanations with so irritable a superior. All the time the patient Sister sat calm and still, biding the moment when she might state the object of her mission. The general gave her the opportunity in the briefest manner possible, and sharply

She raised a pair of sad dark eyes to his face, and the gaze was so pure, so saintly, so full of silent pleading that the rough old soldier was touched in spite of himself. Around her fell the heavy muffling dress of her order which, however, coarse and ungraceful had something strangely solemn and mournful about Her hands, small and fair, were clasped almost suppliantly, and half hidden in the loose sleeves, as if afraid of their own trembling beauty; hands that had touched tenderly, lovingly, so many death-damp fore heads, that had soothed so much pain; eyes that had met prayerfully so many dying glances; lips that had cheered to the mysterious land so many parting souls, and she was only a Sister of Charity—only one of that innumerable band whose good deeds shall live after them.
"We have a household of sick and

wounded whom we must care for in some way, and I came to ask of you the privilege, which I humbly beseech you will not deny us, of obtaining ice and beef at commissary

prices.' The gentle, earnest pleading fell on dead ears.

"Always something," snarled the meral. "Last week it was flour general. and ice; to day it is ice and beef tomorrow it will be coffee and ice. I uppose, and all for a lot of rascally rebels, who ought to be shot, instead of being nursed back to life and

"General"—the Sister was majestic now-"Rebel or Federal, I do not know, Protestant or Catholic, I do not ask. They are not soldiers when they come to us—they are simply suffering fellow creatures. Rich or poor, gentle or of lowly blood, it is not our province to inquire. Ununiformed, unarmed, sick and helpless, we ask not on which side they fought Our work begins after yours is done. Yours the carnage, ours the binding up of wounds. Yours the battle, ours the duty of caring for the mangled left behind on the field. Ice I want for the sick, the wounded, the dying. I plead for all, I beg for all, I pray for all God's suffering creatures, whereever I may find them.'

"Yes, you can beg, I'll admit. What do you do with all your beggings? It is always more, never

enough! With this, the general resumed his writing, thereby giving the Sister to inderstand that she was dismiss For a moment her eyes fell, her lips trembled — it was a cruel taunt Then the tremulous hands slowly lifted and folded tightly across her breast, as if to still some sudden heartache the unkind words called up. Very low, and sweet, and earnest was

her reply:
"What do we do with our begdo we do with it? Ah, some day you may know.

She turned away and left him, sad of face, heavy of heart, and her dark eyes misty with unshed tears.

Stay! The general's request was like a command. He could be stern, nay almost rude, but he knew truth and worth when he saw it and could be The Sister paused on the threshold, and for a minute nothing was heard but the rapid scratching of the general's pen.

There, madam, is your order on the commissary for ice and beef at army terms, good for three months.

I do it for the sake of the Union soldiers who are, or may be, in your care. Don't come bothering me again. Good morning."

In less than three weeks from that day the slaughter of the Red River campaign had been perfected, and there neared the city of New Orleans a steamer flying the ominous red flag, which even the Rebel sharp shooters respected and allowed to pass down the river unmolested. Another and still another followed closely in her wake, and all the decks were covered with the wounded and dying, whose bloody bandages and in many instances, undressed wounds, gave woeful evidence of the lack of surgeons, as well as the completeness of the rout.

Among the desperately wounded was General S. He was borne from the steamer to the waiting ambu-lance, writhing in anguish from the pain of his bleeding and shell-torn limb, and when they asked where he wished to be taken, he feebly moaned Anywhere, it matters not. Where I can die in peace."

So they took him to the Hotel Dieu a noble and beautiful institution in the charge of the Sisters of Charity The limb was amputated, and there he was nursed for weeks through the agony of the surgical operation,

whether life or death would be the victor. But who was the quiet faith ful nurse, ever at his bedside, ever ministering to his wants, ever watchful of his smallest needs? Why only

one of the Sisters." At last life triumphed, reason returned, and with it much of the old abrupt manner. The general awoke to consciousness to see a face not altogether unknown bending him, and to feel a pair of small, deft hands skillfully arranging a bandage, wet in ice-cold water, around his throbbing temples, where the mad pain and aching had for so long a time held sway. He was better now, though still very weak; but his mind was clear, and he could think calmly and connectedly of all that had taken place since the fatal battle—a battle which had so nearly cost him his life, and left him at best but a maimed and mutilated remnant

of his former self. Yet he was thankful it was no worse—that he had not been killed outright. In like degree he was grateful to those who nursed him so tenderly and tirelessly, especially the gray-robed woman, who had be-come almost angelic in his eyes, and it was like him to express his gratitude in his own peculiar way, without preface or circumlocution. Looking intently at the Sister, as if to get her features well fixed in his memory, he said :

Did you get the ice and beef?" The Sister started. The question was so direct and unexpected. Surely her patient must be getting-

really himself. "Yes," she replied simply, but with a kind glance of the soft sad that spoke eloquently her thanks.

And your name is-" Sister Francis."

"Well, then, Sister Francis, I am glad you got the things—glad I gave you the order. I think I know now what you do with your beggings. I comprehend something of your work, your charity, your religion, and I hope to better for the knowledge. I owe you a debt I can never repay but you will endeavor to believe that I am deeply grateful for all your great goodness and ceaseless care.'

Nay; you owe me nothing; but to Him, whose cross I bear, and in whose lowly footsteps I try to fol low, you owe a debt of gratitude unbounded. To His infinite mercy I commend you. It matters not for the body, it is that divine mystery, the soul, I would save. My work here is done. I leave you to the care of others. Adieu."

The door softly opened and closed and he saw Sister Francis no more. Two months afterward she re-ceived a letter sent to the care of the Mother Superior, inclosing a check for a thousand dollars. At the same time the general took occa sion to remark that he wished he were able to make it twice the amount, since he knew by experi-" what they did with their beggings."-Providence Visitor.

#### "IS THIS CATHARINE OR CHRIST?

There is no plate so highly sensitized as the human countenance. The face of any man or woman will record to a greater or less degree the struggles undergone, the temptations overcome, the sin that has enslaved. It is related of St. Catharine of Sienna that when on the way from the church to the convent after the reception of Holy Communion she was so transfigured that friends who met

being beautiful with a beauty that has a haunting sweetness all its own, a beauty that depends for its charm not upon the arts of man but upon the processes that originate in the foreknowledge of God. W thorn-crowned and lacerated, Saviour of mankind was led before the mob, He was far from beautiful, as men reckon beauty. Yet in the sight of God and the Angels He was supremely fair. Even those who thirsted for His blood recognized in Him a something that they could not define and that set Him apart from all the rest of the sons of men.

It is only as we approximate our Divine Lord that we acquire true comeliness, the comeliness that leads our fellows nearer to Him and to us that caused those who knew her to say of the Tuscan saint; "Is this Catharine or Christ ?"-New World.

Many a man needs to take off his hat and let a little sun shine in.

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