

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

HOW?

Did you tackle the trouble that came your way... With a resolute heart and cheerful face... Or hide your face from the light of day... With a craven soul and fearful?...

No particular exertion in the matter, running along evenly from day to day in a manner that is misleading. But a moment's reflection brings vividly to mind the possibilities... "See that man there? Well, he's only a mason (or plasterer, or plumber, or carpenter) and he actually drags down twelve dollars every day he works. Pretty soft for him..."

Nor yet of the gloom about her, But she mended the fire, and lighted the lamp... And she put on the place a different stamp... From that it had without her. They forgot that the house was a dull old place...

THE RECOGNITION OF HEROIC SANCTITY

About thirty years ago a little girl made a pilgrimage to Rome. She traveled from a small town in France to ask a favor from the Holy Father. It was to allow her to enter the Carmelite convent when she was fifteen. Pope Leo XIII. listened to her odd request impetuously poured forth from such childish lips and smiled. But when request became entreaty the Holy Pontiff fixed his gaze upon the childish face raised to his in such earnest supplication and his piercing black eyes seemed to read her very soul...

IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES

The man or woman who waits for opportunity to be delivered to his door is going to be disappointed. Opportunity wrapped and labelled is not delivered in our days. In our time and country there are many opportunities for every man, but like time and tide they wait for no man. The claim that there are no opportunities is often a subterfuge for laziness. Opportunity is not as some imagine a mysterious remembrance that some work or venture will be fabulously successful. It is rather a combination of circumstances, which is especially favorable to a successful issue of a work placed at a timely moment...

These things all take both strength and dexterity; two things in which all men are not trained—to say nothing of the contempt for physical pain and danger. Men in the hard occupation grow old as well as the rest of humanity: did it ever occur to you that a waning of mere physical strength means a waning of the earning capacity too? The man who has subsisted by his brain alone is getting better and better up to a certain age, while the physical toiler is rapidly going down hill...

MOULDING THE CHARACTER

"Nothing has given me greater courage to face every day's duties than a few words spoken to me when I was a child by my dear good father," said a woman whose life has been long and chequered with many reverses. "He was the village doctor. I came into his office, where he was compounding medicine, looking cross and ready to cry. 'What is the matter, Mary?' 'I'm tired. I've been washing dishes and making beds all day and every day, and what good does it do? Tomorrow the beds will be to make and the dishes to wash over again...' 'Look, child,' he said, 'do you see these little empty vials? They are insignificant, cheap things, of no value in themselves; but in one I put a deadly poison, in another a sweet perfume, in a third a healing medicine. Nobody cares for the vials; it is that which they carry that kills or cures. Your daily work, the dishes washed or floors kept clean, are home things and but it is the anger or sweet patience, zeal or high thoughts that you put into them that shall last. These make your life. It is a strain upon the young to be forced to do work which they feel is beneath their faculties, yet no discipline is more helpful...'—The Echo.

THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD

It will be in keeping with the spirit of the Church to consider briefly the meaning of the Feast of the Most Precious Blood. It concerns the mystery of our redemption. Man disobeyed God, he sinned and lost his inheritance and was in bondage. Our Lord came to redeem us, to restore us to our inheritance, to free us from bondage and to make peace between man and God. His Precious Blood was the price of redemption. God appointed His only-begotten Son Redeemer of the world and wished to be placated by His Blood, the price of our salvation. He was slain and redeemed us to God out of every tongue and people and nation and has made us to our God a Kingdom. Our Lord being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself taking the form of a servant and humbled Himself becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross. In making the Stations of the Cross we say: By thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world. Now His cross was only the instrument, the altar, on which He offered Himself for the sins of the world and reconciled an offended God. On the cross He atoned for the sins of the world. God so loved the world as to give His only-begotten Son. But Christ being come an high priest of the good things to come—not by the blood of goats or of calves, but by His own Blood entered once into the Holies having obtained eternal redemption, says St. Paul. And the Blood of Christ, who by the Holy Ghost offered Himself unspotted unto God will cleanse our consciences from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore, our Blessed Redeemer is the mediator, a medium or peacemaker between God and man. St. Augustine says the mediator had to have something of God and something of man. And this is the mystery of redemption—our Saviour in His divine-human person as the high priest of humanity offered Himself up on the altar of the cross and shed His precious Blood to atone for the sins of the world and to make peace between God and man. He is the Mediator of the New Testament that by means of His death we may receive the promise of eternal inheritance. Now we are the fruits of that Precious Blood. Let us be worthy of its shedding and make use of the means He has left us to make us the purchased people of God. Our Holy

LAW AND PERNICIOUS LITERATURE

The question of what action can be taken to check the publication and sale of improper literature is again being agitated in New York. With hardly an exception, the newspapers are of the opinion that nothing can be done, but there is reason to believe that these opinions were written by the advertising department. But it must be granted that the solution of the question, desirable as it is, presents unusual difficulties. To devise legislation which in any sense abridges "the freedom to print" clauses of the Federal and the respective State Constitutions, would be a grave error. Yet year by year, publishers are becoming more brazen and audacious, so that unless a check is found, the American bookshop will soon differ but slightly from the bureau of pornography which shock the traveler on the Continent. It is commonly said that the laws now in force afford ample relief, but what is commonly said is not true. On the contrary, it has been the common experience in New York that juries will not convict, even when the book complained of is an offensively coarse translation of an alleged classic. Most books fall either to one side or other of a very

definite standard; they are either plainly good or plainly bad. Others lurk in the shadow. To decide upon the intent of the authors and the probable effect of these dubious books is often morally impossible. Many of the recently published books on morbid psychology are of this character. They will not harm the serious student, but in incompetent hands the evil wrought may be irreparable. Yet since the courts have always hesitated to draw a hard and fast line between what is permissible and what forbidden, it is not probable that any court would jail or fine a publisher, even though the book in question might be easily misused, and, in fact, had been misused. "Intention" must be proved, and because it is practically impossible to furnish such evidence, books which in the belief of upright men and women are pernicious in their effects, are given wide circulation, and no action can be taken by the authorities. The situation is deplorable, and, unless Judge Ford's new conference can find it, there is no relief in the courts. What the law allows is, however, no guide for the individual conscience. Catholics know that they are forbidden to read books or papers which professedly attack the Christian Faith or Christian morality, whether these books be formally on the Index or not, and the conscientious Catholic will at once lay aside the book which he perceives to be a danger to him. Meetings such as that recently called by Judge Ford, of the Supreme Court of New York, will do much good in awakening the public conscience, and, perhaps, in stirring the conscience of negligent Catholics, especially Catholic parents. In these days when the most sacred truths of religion are daily attacked, and when articles dealing with the most delicate topics are treated with a wink and a leer in the press, Catholic parents must redouble their watchfulness over the books and papers brought into the home.—America.

GOOD LISTENERS WANTED

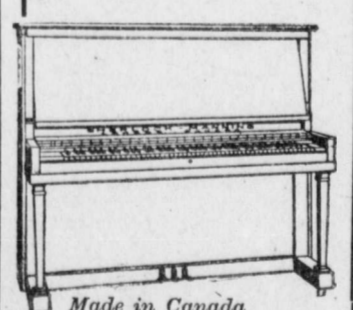
Sir Hugh Allen, on the subject of music, pertinently said he was sometimes met with the request: "I want to learn music." He asked Why? "Because I like it," was the reply. "Well," he retorted, "I like apples, but I am not going to be a greengrocer." "Some people thought that to be able to play a difficult piece of music made them musicians. Not

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at all. Of course, playing was an important element, but it was not everything. Music meant something more than that. Some expert players did not understand the language they were talking. "To read a book was one thing, because strange words could be hunted up, but it was difficult to hunt up thousands of sounds a second. People should be taught to listen. Because they could not listen properly music had always been at a discount."



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OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

THE GIRL WHO SMILES The wind was east, and the chimney smoked, and the old brown house seemed dreary, and nobody smiled and nobody joked. The young folks grumbled, the old folks crouched, and they came home chilled and weary. Then opened the door and a girl came in; and she was homely—very; her face was plain, and her cheek was thin. There wasn't a dimple from brow to chin. But her smile was bright and cheery. She spoke not a word of the cold or the damp.

RELATIVE VALUES

In a desire to make a point, we are too often tempted to drop the sense of relative values. It is shown mostly in the daily avocation. How often we think about our friends who are making big wages and come to the conclusion that it is easily done; they seem to exert