

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

DO IT TO A FINISH

Years ago a relief life-boat at New London sprung a leak, and while being repaired a hammer was found in the bottom that had been left there by the builders thirteen years before.

The best of himself—would not accept his second best in anything. The thought of slighting his work was painful to him, but his mental processes have not deteriorated, and he has become so demoralized by the habit which, after a while, grew upon him, of accepting his second-best, that he does it now without a protest, seemingly without being conscious of it.

How many serious accidents have occurred because of lack of care in the casting of steel girders and all sorts of iron building material! Even before they are completed, buildings often fall and bury the workmen under their ruins, because somebody was dishonest—either employer or employee—and worked lies, deceptions, into the building.

How quickly a youth of high ideals, who had been well trained in thoroughness, often deteriorates when he leaves home and goes to work for an employer with inferior ideals and slipshod methods!

The majority of railroad wrecks, of disasters on land and sea, which cause so much misery and cost so many lives, are the result of carelessness, thoughtlessness, or half-done, botched, blundering work.

Many an employee who would be shocked at the thought of telling his employer a lie with his lips is lying every day in the quality of his work, in his dishonest service, in the mispent hours he is slipping into it, in shirking, in his indifference to his employer's interests.

The habit of doing poor, slovenly work will, at a while, make the worker dishonest in other things. The man who habitually slights his work slights his character. Botched work makes a botched life. Our work is a part of us.

Everywhere ever this broad earth we see the tragic results of botched work. Wooden legs, armless sleeves, numberless graves, fatherless and motherless homes everywhere speak of somebody's carelessness, somebody's blunders, somebody's habit of inaccuracy.

The worst crimes are not punishable by law. Carelessness, slipshodness, lack of thoroughness, are crimes against a self, against humanity, that often do more harm than the crimes that make the perpetrator an outcast from society.

Everybody put his conscience into his work, did it to a complete finish, it would not only reduce the loss of human life, the maiming and maiming of men and women to a fraction of what it is at present, but it would also give us a higher quality of manhood.

Nothing kills ambition or lowers the life standard quicker than familiarity with inferiority—that which is cheap, the "cheap john" method of doing things. We unconsciously become like that with which we are habitually associated. It becomes part of us, and the habit of doing things in an inferior, slovenly way weaves its fatal defects into the very texture of the character.

Several million bushels of peanuts are used each year in the United States alone. WHEN OFFENDED To think about something else is the best and only sure cure for offended feelings. To think about the offense—its unkindness, its injustice, its meanness of spirit, and all its other ugly aspects—only adds to its sting and deepens our own suffering or anger.

Every half-done or slovenly job that goes out of your hands leaves its trace of demoralization behind, takes a bit from your self-respect. After slighting your work, after doing a poor job, you are not quite the same man you were before. You are not so likely to try to keep up the quality of your work as you were before.

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Every man who has a coward, Harry, to insult Tomaso just because you think he would not dare to pay you back. And as for being ignorant, you needn't talk; for you are always at the foot of your class, and Tomaso knows lots of things that you don't.

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end of the playground with some of his chums; while Irene, after a smile and a few kind words to Tomaso, went to join the girls who were preparing for a game of basket-ball.

A little while later, Harry had edged up to her and was vainly trying to win back her good graces by exaggerated praises of her playing. Suddenly there was a shriek of terror among the children and all sprang back in horror, as they saw a large rattlesnake which had somehow made its way into the playground, and was preparing to strike Irene, who stood as if petrified, gazing at it with blanched face and dilated eyes.

"O Tomaso, how could you do it! It was so dangerous!" exclaimed one of the younger teachers. "I had to save the little Missie," said the Indian, quite simply. "Indian or no Indian, you are a hero, my lad," said the head master, who had beheld the scene from the window and hurried to join the group, "and I feel sure you will get your reward. Who was the ignorant coward this time, Master Harry?" he asked, with a twinkle in his eye. "Let this be a lesson to you, my boy, not to think yourself better than others because they happen to have been born in less fortunate circumstances. Tomaso has not had as much schooling as you have, it is true; but he is desert-bred and knows many useful things of which you are quite ignorant. He is a brave boy, too. You might have made an effort to protect the girl you were standing by, but you thought only of yourself."

When Irene's father heard of Tomaso's bravery, he vowed he would fully repay the boy who had so nobly saved his only child from a horrible death. That very day he went to the Indian's poor cottage and asked Tomaso what he would like best in the world. The boy replied that his great wish was to receive an education at the mission school. Mr. Hammond, who was a wealthy man, was determined to do his very best for the boy; but, as he was a Protestant, he hardly knew how to set about it.

Boys and girls are fond of peanuts, and some of the fathers and mothers do not refuse them when they are passed. The children of some countries do not know how to plant a peanut. One boy said he wished he could climb up a peanut tree, sit on a big branch and eat his fill.

The seed put in the ground is the meat or kernel, and care is taken not to break the skins. The plants grow like a vine and the nuts hang on it like pods. A single vine in good condition will, it is estimated, produce about 100 nuts. That is, the yield per acre is 40 bushels. The peanut grows in many parts of Africa and is the chief food of many regions of that continent. It is found in South America and in some parts of Europe.

In the United States it is cultivated in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and in some of the prairie states where the climate is warm. Three varieties of these nuts are grown in the United States—the white, the red and the Spanish. The next time you eat a peanut with two kernels very white and tender, you will know it is of the white variety, which is the most valuable. The shell of the red nut sometimes holds three or four kernels, and its skin is dark red. The Spanish nut is smaller, and its skin is lighter than either of the others.

One of the rarest and most wonderful orchids known is a native of the Isthmus of Panama. The early Spanish settlers there named it Flor del Espiritu Santo (Flower of the Holy Ghost), and those who have seen it readily understand why. It grows in marshy places from a decayed log, or sometimes from the crevice of rock. The leaf stalk ranges several feet in height, and the flower stalk, which grows from the bulb bears twelve or fifteen bulbs. The flower is pure white and is shaped something like the jack in the pulpit. Inside the flower, right in the heart of it, is a perfect image of a dove with drooping wings, snowy breast, golden head and crimson neck. It is a

perfect image, exquisitely beautiful in tints, and giving off an odor that no perfumer could imitate. It was for its resemblance to the emblem of the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity that the devout Spaniards gave it so beautiful a name. The native Indians worshipped it as an idol and would not touch it nor the ground upon which it grew.—Catholic Telegraph.

PERILS OF SOCIALISM

Rev. M. L. Stritch, S. J., has been recently delivering a series of able lectures on "Socialism" in St. Peter and Paul's Church, Detroit. The following is his closing lecture, his subject being, "Perils of Socialism."

"Socialists have tried scores of experiments in this and other countries. They have all failed because members of such communities have found the life unbearable. Idleness, jealousy, favoritism, dishonesty, tyranny have led to quarrels, dissensions, desertions, starvation and final dissolution.

For two reasons: The ahistorical Socialist politicians know that such an experiment would reveal the hollowness of their promises and pretensions and ruin their success as a political party; secondly, if they dared to confiscate private property the state and federal legislatures would soon lodge them behind the bars.

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MAGIC BAKING POWDER THE STANDARD AND FAVORITE BRAND



for the deficient and the old. GO HAND IN HAND

Democracy and constitutionalism in government have gone hand in hand with the predominance of the capitalistic class. Never in the history of the world has there been more pay, shorter working hours and more solicitude for the rights and comforts of the working classes.

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But if Marx is thus glaringly false in his moral, religious and metaphysical theories, he is not less so in his social and economic teachings. Marx based his economic doctrines on the theory that all commodities derive their exchange value exclusively from the amount of labor embodied in them.

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THE MESSAGE OF THE LILY

Hurrying along one of the busiest streets in a great city, I chanced to glance at a florist's window, and was surprised to find there a single lily, tall, slender, exquisitely beautiful. Its spotless petals were as pure as the virgin snow, its golden heart a flame of love.

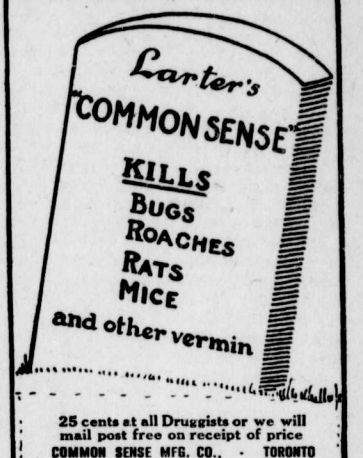
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