

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

TOMORROW
 Today may be dark and forbidding;
 our hearts may be full of despair;
 But Tomorrow the hope that was
 wanting will prompt us to do
 and to dare;
 Today we may feel that life's sor-
 rows outweigh all the joy that
 we crave,
 But tomorrow will teach us the
 lesson that life is worth while
 to the brave.
 Faint heart is forerunner of sad-
 ness; despondency robs us of
 health;
 The man who is chock full of glad-
 ness is the man who makes
 most of life's wealth.
 Today may be all that is mournful
 —our paths cannot always be
 bright;
 But Tomorrow we'll somehow take
 courage, and trustingly enter
 the fight.

Tomorrow the sun will be brighter;
 Tomorrow the skies will be fair;
 Tomorrow our hearts will be
 lighter; we'll cast aside
 sorrow and care;
 Remember when heartache and
 weary the sunshine comes
 after the rain;
 Tomorrow is time to be cheery;
 Tomorrow we take hope again!
 —J. P. F.

A DEFINITE AIM IN LIFE

Success or failure in your high school career depends mightily on the definiteness of your aim. Your choice of a trade or profession should determine the courses you will take. If you want to be a doctor, Latin will hold no terrors for you. If you want to be an engineer, trigonometry will not balk you; if you see your goal and drive in that direction you will get there. Experience shows that the student with a definite aim accomplishes much more than the student without one. Therefore find out what you want to do. Even though you should decide to change later, you will have had the satisfaction of forming good habits in working toward a definite objective, which would not have been the case if you had been aimlessly drifting in the meantime.

If you do not have a definite plan you are very liable to drop out of high school the first year or the second. To be great; to achieve success in life; to be a leader and not a follower; to do justice to yourself and your parents; to forward the interests of your Church and your country you must concentrate, you must decide what you want to be before you start your high school courses. Success is half assured to the boy or girl who enters high school with a definite purpose. Failure is sure to be the lot of the drifter, nabby-pamby who is not possessed of enough backbone or grit to make up his mind.—Selected.

MARK TWAIN ON SPELLING

In Mark Twain's autobiography, just published by the Harpers, appears a posthumous revelation of his ideas on the subject of orthography. "The ability to spell," he asserts, "is a natural gift. The person not born with it can never become perfect in it." Going on to relate his experiences on which this theory is based, he observes:

"My wife and her sister, Mrs. Crane, were always bad spellers. Mrs. Crane is under our roof here in New York for a few days. Her hair is white now. Her gift of imperfect orthography remains unimpaired. She writes a great many letters. This was always a passion of hers. Yesterday she asked me how to spell New Jersey, and I know by her look after she got the information, that she was regretting she hadn't asked somebody years ago. They never seemed to consult a dictionary; they always wanted something or other that was more reliable. Between them, they had spelled scissors in seven different ways, a feat which I am certain no person now living educated or uneducated, can match. I have forgotten how I was required to say which of the seven ways was the right one. I couldn't do it. If there had been a dictionary, none of them would have been right."

This extract of Mark Twain may or may not afford consolation for people who have failed to acquire ability to spell. But it contains a practical suggestion. For once, let the risk be run of taking Mark Twain seriously. Unquestionably he was a keen observer, and there is material for comment in his implication that the wise thing for people to do if they are doubtful regarding a problem in spelling is to consult the dictionary. When one is uncertain about the way to spell a word and has looked it up in the dictionary, he is likely to remember the information thus acquired by research, and the next time he has occasion to spell the word the probability is he will know how.

The dictionary habit is a good one for every individual, young or old, who is anxious to escape the stigma of illiteracy, and there are benefits which come from it other than learning how to spell. The dictionary contains definitions which often correct misconceptions that were unsuspected. Young people committed to the dictionary habit acquire precision in the use of language.

We must give ourselves to God altogether.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

TRY TO UNDERSTAND

Let us not judge another life
 By what it seems to be;
 It may have fallen in the strife
 For lack of sympathy.
 Some pains are footholds up the steep,
 To heights of life unguessed,
 But other griefs are buried deep
 Within the aching breast.
 Too often in this world of ours
 A wound lies bleeding still,
 And eyes whose light our heart
 beguiles
 With bitter tears may fall.
 Judge kindly, for we cannot know
 What was or might have been;
 The happiness one must forego,
 The joys one might not win.

Too often in this world of ours
 Hearts ache through life alone.
 For human hearts are like the
 flowers—
 They open to the sun.
 One word of tenderness can thrill
 A heart in sore distress.
 And loving ministry can fill
 The world with happiness.

THE SUCCESS OF A GOOD BOY

On a recent trip to one of the large cities of the North, I was interested to know the measure of success in life which had been attained by some whom I knew in days gone by, and it was no surprise to me that those whom I had known to be good boys or young men had all attained to success in whatever avocation they filled. Boys whom I had taught in Sunday school, I especially inquired about, and found that those who became successful and were respected by all for their fine qualities, were those who had been known as good boys in their various classes. It was illuminating in so far as it shows that the "boy is father of the man," and that manners and customs formed in boyhood-days will linger through life to a greater or less extent, as a rule.

In those days there was a young man, hardly more than a boy, who was active in the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, and also in the Sunday school, as a teacher. If there ever was a good boy and young man he was one. Belonging to one of the prominent families in the city his father's wealth never spoiled him; and one of the remarkable things about him was his devotion to the Blessed Virgin. In after life he lived consistently with those early principles which guided him happy always.

After Sunday school or Sodality meeting, we generally took a stroll and when conversation lagged, he had a persistent love to hum the beautiful hymn "Macula Non Est in Te." In fact I heard more of that from him than I did of ordinary conversation. I shall never forget those walks, and his favorite hymn burned itself into my mind and heart ever since. Often in life I live those days over again, and naturally the lovely hymn came to my mind, and sometimes I thought that I came to love as much as he did.

"Macula non est in te;
 Macula non est in te;"

I could not separate the hymn from my thoughts of my friend of years ago. Time had separated us, and we knew but little of each other's affairs in life. He had left town and settled in the country, though his business was in town. On the few occasions I had to visit the city, I had so many things to attend to that I did not have the opportunity to meet him, and so many years passed by before I knew his story. When I did see him, a little while ago, I learned that his parents, brothers and sisters had passed away, and he had come into possession of his father's business.

He had married a prominent young lady of the parish we both belonged to when I first met him, he has a family who are all practical Catholics taking good interest in the affairs of the local church. In a district overwhelmingly Republican he was sent to the House of Representatives and State Senate many times though he was a Democrat. He had secured the services of a Catholic priest to offer the prayer for the opening of the House of Representatives, and had that prayer to be printed in the Records. Never was he slack in proving his Catholicity, and never did his non-Catholic conferees think anything the less of him for it, but on the contrary he had earned their sincere respect for his consistency in his religious principles.

In the locality where he had settled down, though the people are preponderantly Protestant, he had been offered every gift in his possession, but time made him weary of political life, and he dropped out of politics for good. Then those Protestants presented him with an illuminated address which any man on earth might feel proud of; it was full of appreciative praise for his clean and honest public record. Even then, they pleaded with him to remain among them in the most important offices they could confer, and even offered him a seat in Congress; but he positively declined on the ground that he had been through so much in public life that now his physique demanded a rest.

Last summer I had occasion to accept his invitation to visit him

and his family in his beautiful country home. Of course he had aged physically, but he was the same genial and kindly person I had known as a young man. The atmosphere of the place glowed with happiness, and after some time I reminded him of the old hymn: "Macula Non Est In Te," and asked him if he yet hummed it, when his good wife laughed gleefully and said:

"Oh, he is at it all the time." He also answered: "I never forgot it."

And so we can well understand why it was that God favored him and brought him unscathed through life; and that now in his matured years he is enjoying the friendship not alone of the pastor and people of his church, but just as much the love of his fellow-citizens of all denominations.

Such will ever be the good fortune of all who revere the Mother of God, and hold to that reverence through the years.

"Macula Non Est In Te."
 —Little Flower Magazine.



Answers for last week: 1. Our Lord and the Samaritan woman at the well. 2. Temptation of our Lord which was last Sunday's Gospel. 3. Nicodemus visits our Lord. 4. Healing of the man at the pool.

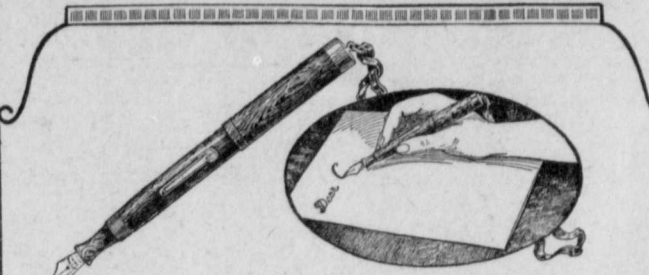


Here are three familiar scenes from our Lord's passion. Can you name them? Answers next week.

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