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### CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Fell the snow on the Festival's vigil,
And surpliced the city in white.
I, wonder who wove the pure flake-

Ask the Virgin-or God-or the

It fitted the Feast; 'twas a symbol, And the earth wore the surplice at

morn, As pure as the vale's stainless lily For Mary the sinlessly born. For Mary, conceived in all sinless-

ness, And the sun, thro' the clouds of the East, With the brightest and fairest of flashes, Fringed the Surplice of White for

And 'round the horizon hung cloudlets, Stoles to be worn by the

Feast; While the earth and the heavens were waiting the beautiful Mass of the

I opened my window, half dreaming, My soul went away from my eyes, And my heart began saying "Hail Marys,

Somewhere up in the beautiful Where the shadows of sin never rested:

And the angels were waiting to The prayer that ascends with "Our Father,"
And keeps hearts and the heavens

so near. And all the day long-can you blame me?
"Hail Mary," "Our Father," I

said, And I think that the Christ and His

Mother
Were glad of the way that I prayed. And I think that the great, bright

Archangel
Was listening all the day long
For the echo of every "Hail Mary"
That soared thro' the skies, like a

From the hearts of the true and the faithful In ascents of joy or of woe.
Who kissed in their faith and their

The Festival's Surplice of snow.

-FATHER ABRAM RYAN

THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

The season of Advent, which marks the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, embraces the time be-tween the Sunday nearest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, November 30, and the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity. During these days the faithful are exhorted to prepare by works of penance and by prayer for the celebration of the anniversary of the Saviour's coming into the world. With beautiful appropriateness the Church has arranged her liturgy in such a way as to keep before her mind that long period from the fall of man to the coming of the Redeemer. She goes back in spirit to the time before the Incarnation, and in the words of the holy men of the ancient Purer than foam on central ocean down the dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just One; let the earth be covered Just One; let the earth be opened. and bud forth the Redeemer." She borrows the language of the ardent longing and fervid expression of the Prophets of old, in which the prayers of His people ascended to His throng and fervides. It was a second to His throng and fervides the history a to His throne, and after receiving and answering them, "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent His Son, made of a woman, made under the law: that He might redeem them who were under the law; that we might receive the of mother's love with maiden

He would save. And in this twentieth century as well as in the first, these words are true of the recen One Being Who can satisfy their longings to come into their lives. Advent time is the Church's preparation for the coming of the Redeemer, with His grace and truth into countless souls. May He come even to the thousands who have in their pride of knowledge turned. The feast that we celebrate on the life, so that again it may be said, aration made on earth by the Holy as was said of old: "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us; this is the Lord, Son of God. we have patiently waited for flim, we shall rejoice and be joyful in His salvation."—The Monitor.

### SELF-RELIANCE

Self-reliance breeds courage, faith, determination, never-say-die-

can vault over obstacles.

Lose self-reliance, and you become weak, wobbling, vacillating.

You balk at even the shadow of

difficulty.

Admit the danger of defeat, and you are already half defeated.

world." Yourmodern Archimedssetsabout making the needed lever and ful-crum. He does not wait to have something handed to him; he goes after it, and either finds it or

makes it.

If you have no faith, no reliance in yourself, how can you expect others to place faith or reliance in

you?
Aim high and you may hit high aim low and you are little likely to hit high.

Don't be a Uriah Heep. Strive rather to cultivate something of the Napoleonic mind—Napoleon not only had self-faith, but he inspired among others such confidence that his presence at a battle was accounted worth a hundred thou sand men.

Said a veteran editor to me years go: "Don't put so small a headago: ing on that story, or our readers may accept your own appraisal of it that it is not worth a big head."
"The world stands aside to let

anyone pass who knows where he is going," said David Starr Jordan

Ah! There you have the kernel of the whole matter.
You must know where you are The ignorant person has no busi-

ness to have self-reliance.

Self-reliance must be wellfounded; there must be basis for it.

To be self-reliant will avail you nothing if you are incompetent.
You must, before placing confident reliance upon self, be justified in having self-reliance. \* \*\*

Develop robust powers—and exer-

cise self reliance in developing them to the utmost. Then develop robust self-reliance.

Learn from others, but don't lean on them.
You must do your own track-laying and bridge-building through the hilly territory that leads to the land

You must depend chiefly on your own strong right arm, your own well-developed brain.

Possessing these, then go forward; step firm, eyes clear, head erect, prompted and propelled by unquestioning, unwavering, unconquerable self-reliance.—The Tablet.

### OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

MARY IMMACULATA

Mother, whose virgin bosom was uncrost With the least shade of thought to

sin allied; Woman, above all women glorified,

break strewn
With fancied roses, than the unblemished moon

Not unforgiven the suppliant knee might bend,

As to a visible power, in which did blend All that was mixed and reconciled in thee

"He came unto his own and His own received Him not," He was treated with disdain by those whom He would save. And in this

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

these words are true of the reception accorded Him, on the part of His people. The world's unrest at the present is a reality. Men are seeking peace in life and quiet in conscience, and assurance in prospect, and they will not permit the One Being Who can satisfy their longings to come into their lives.

their pride of knowledge turned away from the Saviour's teaching. May He illumine the minds and strengthen the wills even of those, trengthen the wills even of those, the saving presence in the many of the whole story of the incarnation. The mystery of the incarnation is the prepto recognize His saving presence and blessed influence in human Immaculate Conception is the prepbe a fitting dwelling place for the Son of God.

Cardinal Newman puts the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception in this way: "Mary's Redemption was determined in that special manner which we call the Immaculate Conception. It was decreed not that she would be cleansed sess.
Self-reliance inspires a man to do from the first moment of her being, the best that is in him.

Without self-reliance, the difficulties that are common to forging

Therefore she was a child of Adam ahead cannot be fought and overcome.
Self-reliance is a well-spring of
hope and inspiration and courage.
Interest saw as a fitted and rever fallen;
she did not share with them their
sin; she inherited the gifts and
graces and more than those, which

It strengthens the will, the brain, he arm.

It is a strong pole by which you Adam and Eve possessed in Paradise. This is her prerogative, and the foundation of all those salutary truths which are revealed to us concerning her.'

Almost every nation boasts of its love and veneration for Our Blessed Lady. "The contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation" writes Admit the danger of defeat, and you are already half defeated.

It was Foch who declared that a battle is never lost until it is morally lost. The French had actually lost the battle of the Marne, but not morally, when he gave the command to take the offensive. And his beaten army won.

Archimedes is credited with the data of the defeated.

mystery of the Incarnation "writes a fourteen century Archieshop of Canterbury, "has shown all Christian nations to venerate her from whom came the first beginnings of our Redemption." Mary's praises have been sung in every age and in every tongue. The Irish poet, Sedulius, the author of the beautibeaten army won.

Archimedes is credited with the declaration: "Give me a lever of sufficent length and a fulcrum to rest it upon, and I would move the world."

every tongue. The Irish poet, Sedulius, the author of the beauting the poet, Sedulius, the author of the poet, Sedulius, the author of the poet, Sedulius, the author of the poet, Sedulius, the poet, Sedulius, the author of the poet, Sedulius, the poet, Sedulius, the author of the poet, Sedulius, the poet, Sedulius, the author of the poet, Sedulius, the author of the poet, Sedulius, the author of the poet, Sedulius, the poet, Se

To her we sing Who bore in time the World's Eternal King, And peerless in the human race has found.

A mother's joys by virgin honors crowned.

non-Catholic historian Lecky in his history of Rationalism says:
"The world is governed by its ideals, and seldom if ever has there been one which has exercised a more profound and a more salutary influence than the mediaeval conception of the Virgin. For the first time woman was elevated to her rightful position, and the sanctity of weakness was recognized as well as the sanctity of sorrow. No longer the slave or the toy of man, no longer associated only with ideas of degradation and of sensuality, women rose in the person of the Virgin Mother into a new sphere, and became the object of a reverential homage of which antiquity had no conception. In those holy maidens who for love of More, here experienced the resolution. Mary have separated themselves from all the glories and pleasures of the world to seek in fastings and vigils and humble charity to render themselves worthy of her benedic-tion; in the new sense of honor, in the chivalrous respect, in the softening of manners, in the refinement of tastes displayed in all the walks of society—in these and in many ways we detect its influence. All that was best in Europe clusters around it, and it is the origin of many of the purest elements in our civiliza-

The sight of the Mother and the child presented to the eyes of onlookers in the bookless ages by means of the masterpieces of great artists which have no counterpart today, kept enshrined in the hearts of the people the love of God and His Blessed Mother. Generation after generation has viewed these paintings reduplicated innumerably through the ages, and drawn inspiration, courage, and mercy from what they represent.

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We who can see her in paintings, read about her in books and have the doctrines concerning her frequently expounded, should be better than they. We should possess a clearer ideal and should follow it more tenaciously, for we have received more than they have

The feast of the Immaculate Conception has a message every year but to Catholic women who this year enjoy greater privileges and greater responsibilities, it comes as an inspiration for them to carry on Christ's work of the Christian emancipation of women according to the ideals portrayed by Mary. Woman's complete intellectual moral, social and religious emancipation can come only through Christ, and from Him through Mary.-The Pilot.

### REGRETS ANTI-CLERICALISM

Paris, Oct. 28. - M. Franklin-Bouillon, recently dispatched on an extraordinary mission to Mustapha Kemal for the purpose of concluding peace in the Near East, has just returned to Paris in the company of Father Ludovic, of the Assumption ist Order. Some of his political friends appeared greatly surprised at the cordiality existing between the religious and the statesman, for Franklin-Bouillon, before his defeat in the elections of 1919, was one of the most prominent representa-tives of radical-anti-clericalism in the Chamber of Deputies. Seeing him in the company of Father Ludovic, many of his friends were quick to remind him of this fact.
"When I think," Franklin-Bouillon replied shrugging his shoulders.

lon replied, shrugging his shoulders, "that I was among those who voted for the expulsion of the religious congregations! How I deplore it

"Do not deplore it," Father Ludovic said to him. "If we had not been expelled, would we have had an opportunity to defend the

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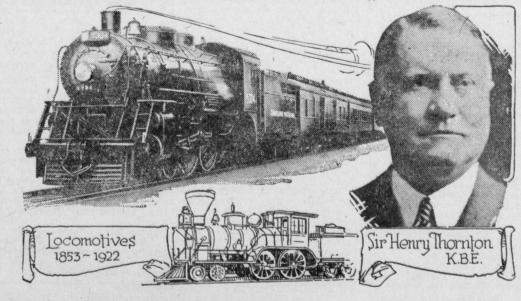
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