

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE PLUGGER

He isn't very brilliant and his pace is often slow, There's nothing very flashy in his style; He has to dig and labor for the things he wants to know...

But, a curious thing is, that the example of others is so powerful an influence that it draws us to do things that we do not desire to do. That is a strange thing, strange, yet, unquestionably true. Men and women even sometimes sin without any particular desire to do so, merely because it is fashionable to do so.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

COME UP SMILING

Come up smiling; Laugh and grin; Cheerfulness is not a sin. The past is gone, Today is here; Great new worries With a cheer.

Come up smiling, Laughs are cheap; The world's a stage, Pick out a seat; No one ever does just right; Try again, Come to and fight.

Come up smiling, Life's too great To waste your time In cussing fate. Do your best As best as you can, And you will be A happy man.

THE MUSIC OF AN ANGEL'S SONG

Kind words are the music of the world. They have a power which seems to be beyond natural causes, as if they were some angel's song which had lost its way and come on earth, and sang undyingly, smiting the hearts of men with sweetest wounds, and putting for the while an angelic nature in us. Hard words, on the other hand, are like hailstones in summer, beating down and destroying what they would nourish were they melted into drops.

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA

One sunny morning, in a palace in Gandia, in Valencia, a little boy, velvet-clad, moved softly up and down the steps of an altar. His pages waited upon him, following his movements with an earnestness of mind that showed their careful training.

BAD EXAMPLE

Nothing so easily inclines to virtue, nothing so powerfully attracts to vice, as the conduct of those around us. The virtuous behaviour of a good man is a thousand times more impressive than the most eloquent discourse. To vice, the virtue of the good is a reproach more emphatic than any that language could express.

All the crime, vice, profligacy in the world have been propagated and confirmed by example. Woe to that man, says Christ, by whom scandal cometh; better were it for him that a millstone were tied about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

The example of those who are more conspicuously in view, is, of course, more powerful. An ordinary man's going to week-day Mass will not be much remarked upon; but when General Foch does it, it is talked of all over the world. On the other hand, if General Foch were a bad man, many a man would take courage from his example and follow him in his bad habits.

It is many many centuries since the chosen people of God, the Israelites, were induced by bad example and by the desire to have the favor of an idolatrous prince, to neglect their duty of going to Jerusalem there to adore the true God, to go elsewhere to worship an idol; but men and women are still following bad example, and still neglecting the worship of God to bow down before idols, one of the most powerful influences in the human mind is the knowledge that other people are acting in a certain way. When the example, by reason of numbers or of the distinction of those who give it, is in accord with our own personal inclinations we rush joyfully to follow it; it becomes our cloak, our means of pretending that we have fooled ourselves.

Political difficulties obliged the Duke of Gandia to flee from the town, to Saragossa, where he placed Francis under the care of the archbishop who was the boy's uncle, his mother's brother. Here again, the first thought in regard to Francis' education was that it should be Christian. The archbishop was proud of his young nephew's fine mind, scholarly attainments, and polished address, but these alone do not make a man. The soul must be the guiding force, and so he trained the youth in virtue and holiness. The result of this training was evident when Francis was given a household of his own to govern. The emperor of Spain looked with favor upon the young nobleman and aided his father, Duke John, to bring about a marriage between Francis and Eleanor de Castro, a Portuguese lady of high rank, and, better still, of high character. Their family life was beautiful and holy. Eight children were born to them and in various ways aided their parents' zealous labors for God. Francis presided over a true Christian home. There were appointed hours for the daily Mass, family prayer, good reading; and always the saintly master was ready to advise and encourage his dependents. The fashionable vices of the court circle were sternly denounced by Francis. He used to say that gaming caused men to lose four things—money, time, devotion to God, and conscience.

By the death of his father, Francis became fourth Duke of Gandia. His new honors but served to promote his plans for God's service, and on the death of the Lady Eleanor, Duke Francis, then thirty six years old, decided to consecrate the rest of his life entirely to religion. Legally resigning his title and estate to his eldest son, after providing for his other children, the Duke retired for a period of years—spent in study and prayer—at the end of which he put on the habit of St. Ignatius, and thereafter led the life of the perfect religious. The humblest duties were most pleasing to him, and only obedience made him accept the office of General of the Order, in 1565. He died as he had lived, like a saint. In our Lady's month of October, the tenth day is set apart in honor of St. Francis Borgia, who had so holily filled his place in the world and in the Church.—Sacred Heart Review.

and happiness in this life. To the end of the world, the uneducated man will be more or less at the mercy of the man who is educated. Worse than that, he will be at the mercy of the man who has the outward appearance of being educated. Catholic parents who have boys and girls of an age to take a college education ought to consider carefully where their duty lies. The Catholic Church is needed by the world more, perhaps, than ever before; and the Catholic Church needs first, vocations to the priesthood and the religious life; second, teachers; and lastly, educated laymen fit and equipped to represent it, and to explain it, and to extend its influence in the world. Consider the matter carefully. In some way or other, your boy should be educated. He should, if possible, be given a good general education, and a special education in some useful branch of the world's work. The usefulness of a good, sound general education is as great in one walk of life as another—speaking generally. All occupations are equally honorable; and a machinist may to-day have a sound general education without thinking it necessary to try to force himself to be a lawyer or a physician. The old idea was that if a boy went to a college, he must enter one of certain professions. That is now recognized to be nonsense. A few years in college ought not to lead any young man to turn his back on any useful occupation for which he may feel fitted. The man in overalls has just as much use for a general education as the man in a lawyer's gown; and mechanics who read the best magazines and have good libraries in their homes will one day be as common as half-illiterate mechanics are to-day. If the wide dissemination of education necessarily led to a constant emptying of the ranks of the trades to overflow the crowded ranks of the professions, we should not advocate such general dissemination of knowledge. But though that has been seen in the past, we regard it as a passing phase; and, we hope, nearly passed. The time is coming, let us hope, when education will be valued for its own sake as well as for the worldly advantages which it may or may not lead to. The fuller mind, the broader outlook, the power to see error, the ability to state truth, the joy of thinking the happiness of thinking right—these are the benefits of education; not the chance of earning enough money to buy an automobile or to build a big and lonesome house.

FRANCE'S TRUEST FRIEND

From present indications it would appear that the Peace Conference will leave France shorn of a great deal of prestige in the Orient. The pre-eminence of influence which has been hers for centuries seems destined to disappear on account of the new partition of territory which will make for an increase of British, and perhaps also for American influence, but will leave France in a position much inferior to that which it possessed at the beginning of the War. The blame is laid on the French Government which has failed to get justice from the Allied Powers. In marked contrast to this failure is the attitude of the Pope, which has continued to use the whole weight of its authority to preserve undiminished the glory of the French Catholic Protectorate in the Orient. This is the more remarkable in face of the offense given the Vatican by the French Government. Leo XIII, Pius X., and Benedict XV. have invariably guaranteed to France against all claimants the exclusive right to represent and defend the interests of all Catholic communities of no matter what nation, with the Ottoman Government, as for instance again William II. of Germany in 1895. In doing this they were following the example set them by their predecessors of centuries. The consequence has been that France has played a role of supreme importance both in European and Asiatic Turkey.

THE CHURCH'S OPEN DOOR

There are many Christians, and among them not a few Catholics, who deem it no harm to take a vacation from religious exercises during the summer months. They remain away from church because the weather is too hot or because the call of the wild cannot be resisted and the early Sunday morning hours are the best for fishing, motoring or other forms of amusement which, at another time, would be quite legitimate.

Then, too, many Protestant churches close their doors during the summer months while the minister in charge takes a vacation, leaving his people without a shepherd and without the usual opportunities to satisfy the religious obligations imposed upon them during the rest of the year.

The Catholic Church, of course, never closes her doors. Not only on Sunday but during all the days of the week, the portals stand invitingly open and the passerby may drop in from time to time to worship his Creator. Even non-Catholics admit that the Catholic Church never sleeps, but is always ready to welcome her children to her sacred enclosure.

In the course of a sermon on, "Are the Protestant Churches Dying?" preached in New York on the last Sunday in June, Dr. Stratton, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, paid the following tribute to the Catholic Church:

"I am glad of the fact that the Catholics never shut up shop from the Cathedral down to the humblest parish in this city. They continue their activities twelve months of the year. I am altogether opposite from them in all my religious thoughts, but I do say in frankness and honesty that they are giving to the city far more consistent service to their convictions than many of our Protestant churches. Some complaint of Catholic success in this city. Why should they not succeed with this situation? They deserve to succeed."

Continuing, he said: "Within our own Baptist denomination, for example, there are twelve churches that have gone out of existence. We now have left only one self-supporting Baptist church on the eastern half of Manhattan Island from the Battery, all the way to the Bronx. And this sole survivor continues because it is buttressed by helpful endowments given by the consecrated people of previous generations."

Dr. Stratton said that a clergyman of another denomination told him that the New York City Church Extension Society ought to be called the Church Extinction Society, because it was "burying churches and merging them with other churches so rapidly. We see many of our greatest and richest churches closing their doors completely for three and one-half or four months and suspending their work during that season of the year when the best work might be done for God's Kingdom." The sentiments expressed by Dr.

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Do not hesitate to take others into your counsels. One head knows just enough for one head, and no two heads are alike.

TO BE EDUCATED OR NOT?

The vacation season is passing rapidly by, and in a few weeks the schools and colleges will be re-opening. Have you thought of what duty may be before you which ought to be taken up this year? Sound Catholic education is an absolute essential to the safety of the world. There is a sinister restlessness in the air; and daily one is confronted with the dangers which lurk in the ignorance which leaves great masses of the population at the mercy of leaders who have little or no moral sense and no respect for any authority now established in the world, whether moral, legal or political. No greater danger can menace any nation than an appeal to popular passion, accompanied with glittering promises of impossible things; the whole based upon the human desire for more money and more property. Education based upon religion is essential if mad experiments in sociology are to be avoided; and if large bodies of the people are not to be led to abandon the realities of religion and to forget the eternal verities, by reason of the glamour of the promise of ease

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