

FEBRUARY 7, 1920

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

UNSELFISHNESS

Suppose life was only a battle for self. And nobody pitied or gave. And none of the dead who has journeyed ahead. Neither scholar, nor soldier, nor knave. Ever thought of the children that followed him on. Or tolled without claiming his fee. Can't you picture today as you go on your way. What a horrible world it would be? If nobody cared whether others survived. Or whether or not they were glad. If each of us here labored year after year. For only the gold to be had. If life were but striving for raiment and food. Then the beasts in the field that we see. Would be one with the plan that is fashioned for man. And a horrible world it would be. But the joys that we know and the charms that we claim. Are ours because somebody cared. The pleasures we boast of and treasure. Are ours because somebody dared. The dead have gone on leaving us to be glad. In the gardens they planted, and we must leave something behind, for the future to find. We must work for the ages to be.

AS-GOD LEADS

We are never to go faster than God leads. We are to stand in patience at the closed gate till He opens it; we must never force it open. Wait until His plan is fully ripe. Even for the fulfillment of His plainest promises, wait until His time has come. Many men wreck their lives and their destinies by determinedly carrying out their plans, without reference to God's plan. God has one great plan into which each life, as He designs it, fits perfectly. Keep your eyes on the pillar of cloud and fire that lead you on. Rest where the pillar rests; move when it moves. You can make the clock strike before the hour by putting your hands to the wheels; but if you do, it will strike wrong. You can hurry the unfolding of God's providence by your own impatience; but if you do, you will mar the divine plan. Stop meddling with the threads of your life as they come from the hands of God. Every time you interfere, you simply make a flaw. Keep your hands off, and allow God to weave as He pleases.—Anon.

WILL POWER

Our great mistake is that we consider the saints made of different material from ourselves. We think that they were born saints, and then that they were very much helped by environment and heredity, a fine intellectual shield to cover our own cowardice. Man is not moved by heredity. He is moved by will power. When the fates stood opposing, he bent them. There is the saint. Ignatius was not born a saint. He was much like ourselves. He did such human things as to be vain and fall in love. Then came sickness and he read a book. When he arose from his bed, the world was changed. This was not sanctity—it was a right use of reason. Certain truths are exemplified in the life of each saint. Abstract truth then becomes concrete. That particular truth steps out from the dead pages and we see it living and breathing.—Catholic Sun.

FORGET THE PAST

The constant looking backward to that might have been instead of forward to what may be, is a great weakener of self-confidence. This worry for the old past, this wasted energy, for which no power on earth can restore, ever lessens a man's faith in himself, weakens his efforts to develop himself for the future to the perfection of his possibilities. Do in the best way you can the work that is under your hand at the moment; do it with a good intention; do it with the best preparation your thought suggests; bring all the light of knowledge to aid you. Do this and you have done your best. The past is forever closed. No worry, no struggle, no suffering, no agony of despair can change it. It is as much beyond your power as it is were a million years behind you. Turn away from it with its sad hours, its weakness and sin, its wasted opportunities and graces, as so many lights in hope and confidence upon the future. The present, and the future are yours; the past has gone back, with all its messages, its history, its records, to the God who loaned you the golden moments to use in obedience to His law.—The Echo.

A THOUGHT THAT HAS HELPED MILLIONS

Life is full of worries and joys. It makes a difference whether a man looks on the bright side of life or on the dark side. It is always easy to find trouble but why let ourselves dwell on things that are sure to worry us when there is so much in God's beautiful creation that can inspire us with real happiness. The War is over. It took its toll of life. It caused untold misery. Yet the sadness is only temporary.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

"WEEP NOT FOR ME" Weep not for me, O tender heart! Thou know'st my wish that all thy part In life should be a happy way As sunlit as a summer day. Weep not for me! In life thy tears were bitter drops, In death thy woe's a hand that stops The current of Eternity. And smiles thy echoed grief to me. O tender heart! No tears, O Love! be happy now! "A little while," and know shalt thou What 'tis to lie and wait in earth The resurrection and the birth. Weep not for me!

THE EVE OF FIRST FRIDAY

Hey there, Aloysius, come out to the front gate! Got something, I want to tell you! "Hey there, yourself, Mat!" Aloysius Spaulding called back to his chum, Matthew Hall, as he looked up from the cut-glass jar before him on the hall table, "you come in here!" "Whatcha doin' in there, Al, playin' anything?" "No," came back the answer. Then Aloysius held up the jar for Matthew's inspection, and explained to him that the fragile waters that filled it were altar-breads.

THE KIND WORD

(Bishop Healey, O.S.B.) It would be a happy thing if the black vice of calumny were less common than it is. But it cannot be denied that there are men, and women too, so dead to the thought of their Creator and Judge as deliberately to invent abominable stories about other people. These crying sins of calumny, which strike the foundations of all social intercourse, are the darker manifestations of an evil spirit which lurks in the heart of even the best of us. It is a spirit which must be fought against and may be overcome, by the grace of God, and the sacraments, and the imitation of Jesus Christ. It must never be forgotten, also that it is forbidden by the law of God to mention without necessity or justification, even true stories about our neighbor. Doubtless there are

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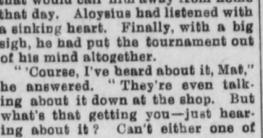
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