

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

Dreamers are often the true prophets. Once when Emerson was in the company of men of affairs...

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OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

Floy's Effort. Floy Harriman was "looking over the new ground," as she said in her characteristic happy way.

While "getting used to it," she often noticed, in a window in plain sight of the back door of the flat, the face of a young girl.

"I wonder who she is, mamma," said Floy with kindly interest; "her face looks so sad and white. I think she is an invalid. And she's there by the window so much that she must be a 'shut in.' Can't you send me over there on an errand, mamma?"

Mrs. Harriman smiled indulgently. "I hardly think you need me to send you on an errand, my dear," she said; "if you feel like going on a loving errand 'for Christ's sake,' just go for yourself."

"That's just what I'll do," Floy declared eagerly; and presently, with quietly speeding feet, she was on her way down the garden walk.

Floy had never known what poverty meant until she looked about that barren room. Her heart filled with pity for the "shut in."

"I'm just your neighbor," she remarked, by way of introduction; "I've seen you from our back window, and I thought you must be sick because you sat still all the time. I am sorry."

She smiled even as she asserted that she was "sorry," but the girl evidently understood and her face brightened. "I'm glad you came to see me," was her response; "it's tiresome here when I'm alone."

"Where is your mother?" questioned Floy, with kindly interest. "Out to work. I am alone most of the time."

"Do you just have to lie here and look out?" "Oh, no, that is not all I do. I work whenever I can, but I can't all the time; it makes my spine ache."

As she spoke she drew from under a pillow a little roll of knit lace and some fine knitting needles. "This is the work I do," she said, showing it to Floy.

"Oh, how pretty!" cried out the latter; "you are a wonderful little girl to do such fine work when you are lying in a chair."

"But I do—every day except Sunday I do a little. I have yards and yards of it. I hope I can sell it some time."

"You can sell it now if you want to—right off. I will be glad to buy it for my new underclothes. Aunt Mary is going to make me a lot of new ones."

Such a look came into the little pale face then, Floy had never seen before.

"I can never tell you how glad I am," the happy girl cried joyfully. "Mamma don't know about this lace—it's a secret. I only work at it when she isn't home. When I sell it I'm going to buy her a shawl; she needs one so much. Oh, it'll be such a glad surprise to mamma!"

It was truly wonderful the change, that Floy Harriman's "errand" made in one little life. To be really working for money to help keep the wolf from the door made Sarah happier than she had ever been before.

Floy ran home to consult with her mother about the lace and to show it to her, the result being that she bought it at a fair price. There were several different patterns—all desirable—and there were yards and yards of it.

"The poor little dear!" exclaimed Mrs. Harriman, tears filling her eyes. "How industrious a patient she must have been to accomplish so much!"

How true was truly the beginning of better days for little Sarah Mills. Tears rained down the face of the hard-working mother when her little sick girl presented her with a warm, new blanket shawl.

"Don't cry, mamma," begged Sarah; "I want you to laugh; I thought you'd laugh."

"And laugh I will, many a time, when I'm wearing this beautiful warm shawl," Mrs. Mills said smilingly, through her tears; "and to think it is my own dear, little sick girl who has been so lovely to me. I'll never forget it."

A few weeks later you would not have recognized the room where little Sarah sat day in and day out. It was Floy's loving kindness that had changed it. It was not "barren" now. There were flowers touching everywhere. A red geranium bloomed in the window-sill. Some books and magazines were on a little stand with a gay red cover, in easy reach of Sarah's hands when they were too weary to knit. Dainty curtains, made out of a pretty old muslin dress of Floy's, draped the two small windows. Strips of bright carpet picture on the wall. A hassock for Sarah's feet! A couple of soft cushions for her chair! These and other "heart-offerings" made life brighter for little Sarah.

Talent Must Be Cultivated. A talent is next to worthless unless one has an ability to get down to plain every day hard work. The painter, the singer, the writer must study and toil else they will never stand still in the ranks of the successful. The public fancies that the successful individual merely sits down and writes or paints or sketches and that's all there is to it. Success is usually preceded by years of driving, grinding hardship and work. Certain, any talent should be cultivated. To neglect this is like having a gift of a beautiful plan and throwing it aside. A girl who can write clever letters, who can write bright and witty, has every chance of making a name for herself. But she must not imagine that the road will be easy, or that good luck will immedi-

ately furnish her with an automobile, so she will get over the track more quickly. She must plod for time.—Catholic Chronicle.

RELIGIOUS INDIFFERENCE.

There is a sort of mental languor that attends most men, and which if they do not fight against, sooner or later overcomes them, and prevents them from performing anything noteworthy which requires mental effort.

It is a part of our poor, fallen nature to be prone to sloth and we have to fight continually lest we become victims of it, and simply idle and fritter away our time. Whilst this is true in the ordinary every-day temporal matters of life, it is especially true in spiritual matters, as we see by the careless indifference with which many regard religion.

There are some who are very active in mind and body as regards temporal things, and very indifferent and slothful about the things of the soul. They will go on long and fatiguing journeys for worldly goods; they will spend time and money in quest of health; but they will do nothing for their soul's welfare and will grasp at the fleeting and unsatisfactory and disappointing things around them to the loss of the all satisfying and lasting things of eternity. And such men may be counted by the millions.

When these are men who are prominent by the position they hold in the world through their wealth or their talents, the bad example they set influences thousands and thousands of others who strive to imitate them as far as opportunity allows. The work man will catch the spirit of his master, the clerk will copy the ways of his employer. It is always the rule that men look up to those who are above them and copy imperceptibly their ways and their doings, their manners and methods. The apostle bids us to take heed lest we become a stumbling block to the weak; and our Lord Himself said, "Woe to the world because of scandals: but it were better for you that one of these little ones should be scandalized than that one of these little ones should be scandalized."

What is the cause of religious indifference? It is in the case of many a vague idea of God and the things pertaining to eternal life. Men have no definite views regarding their creation or the purposes for which they have been created, whence they came or whither they tend, and so what they do not see clearly, they follow irresolutely and listlessly. There are others who do not persevere. Such are well described by our Lord in the parable when He says the seed in this case falls upon a rock and takes no root, for they believe for a while and, in time of temptation, they fall away. Perseverance is necessary for success in all things, but particularly is it so in the case of religion. It is the Lord spoke, for He said: "He that will persevere until the end shall be saved."

It is only to the valiant and the invincible that the crown of eternal life will be given, for "the kingdom of heaven is won by violence and the violent bear it away."

Religious indifference on the part of many may be traced to the lukewarmness of those who profess the faith but are cold and careless in the practice of it. The careless Catholic is, indeed, a stumbling block to many who might have some spirit of religion and which would increase with time if his Catholic friend or neighbor would only have the fervor and piety that his faith supposes and imperatively demands. There are, unfortunately, too many that are Catholic only in name.

It is unfortunate for mankind that there are so many in the world who have no religion, for they give to life a coldness and gloom that make it at times trying and almost unbearable. It is in fact the reason for most of the suicides that occur. Men have nobody outside of themselves to look to, hence they despair. They have no life only in the world, so they are left to themselves and to their own devices. They desire one day to bring them to Himself never to be separated from Him, they would be buoyed up amidst life's struggles and disappointments, and no matter how much they would know of suffering, they still would have hope and, like Job, would exclaim:

"I know that my Redeemer liveth." Religion, or the union of man with His maker, is the panacea for all human sorrow, and is its only remedy. He is a valuable member of society that is religious in his life, for his fortitude is a prop to help others to keep up under affliction, and his word and example are a light to guide everyone who is grovelling in the gloom of despair.

It is for Catholics to lead all others to God by their faithfully following in the footsteps of Him Who has said, "Deny thyself, take up thy cross and come follow Me." With those of the household of faith true to their obligations the well-disposed who are not members will be brought within the fold. It is this which that our Lord expressed when He said, "O her sheep I have who are not of my fold, and these I behove Me to bring that there may be one fold and one Shepherd."

Let us, then, be truly religious in mind and heart and not ashamed to show that we are when occasion demands it, for our Lord has said, "He that glorify Me before men, I will glorify him before My Father who is in heaven." Religious indifference may suit the infidel, but it has no place in one who calls himself a Christian, much less a Catholic. The fires of faith must be kept burning and give evidence of its life through the boundless hope and unceasing charity of our lives, and thus we shall bring joy to our souls here and help others to know joy too, whilst we shall insure for our selves unending joy hereafter.—Bishop Colton in Catholic Union and Times.

KING EDWARD AND THE LITTLE FRENCH NUN. A CHARMING INCIDENT SHOWING HIS MAJESTY'S GOOD WILL TOWARDS CATHOLICS. King Edward, writes Mrs. C. E. Jeffery in the London Catholic Times, has given many quiet proofs of his kindness and good-will towards Catholics. Here is an anecdote which illustrates it. I read it some time ago in a French paper—the Semaine Religieuse, of Cambrai, if I remember rightly—but I don't think it has ever appeared in an English newspaper. I only hope the "loyal" Orangemen of Ulster may not get hold of it or their "loyalty" will be severely strained I fear.

A little band of exiled French nuns, expelled from their convent by the generous and chivalrous Government of that country decided to take refuge in England and landing at Folkestone, found themselves helpless and bewildered in the big, unfamiliar railway station. The boat passengers had hurried to the train and when the young nun who was in charge of the forlorn band, because she alone knew a little English searched up and down for a carriage that would hold herself and her companions she could find none, she feared to be separated from them, and looked around for some official to whom she could appeal to have another carriage put on for them. Just then her eye fell on an individual wearing a

whit cap who was talking to a group of gentlemen. He had an air of being some one of importance, and in her simplicity she took him for the station master. She therefore timidly addressed him, explained who she was and what she required. The "station master" listened with polite attention, and promised that her request should be complied with and presently an official approached and conducted the nuns to a compartment which had been put on for them. The young nun drew back; they had only second-class tickets and this was their first class. The official assured her it did not signify, and bowed her in with her companions.

Some time after the young nun had occasion to interview some rather notable personages on the subject of a convent they desired to open. A gentleman was present who said with a smile: "I remember you, madam. You are the lady who was talking to King Edward." "King Edward?" said the nun. "I have never seen King Edward in my life." Pardon me, madam, King Edward had just come off his yacht when you spoke to him on the platform of the station at Folkestone, and desired that he would have a fresh carriage added to the train for you." The nun was overwhelmed with confusion, as may well be supposed.

Open, then, thy heart to Jesus. When, without reserve, thou shalt have made over thy heart to Jesus, for ever, then shall great peace be thine, nor shalt thou be easily put out, or distressed by the troubles of thy daily life.

Children's prayers bring happiness to the family and are one of its greatest treasures, for the parents have in their children the most loving and powerful of intercessors. Their souls, so cherished by the angels of God, are necessarily very near to their Creator.—Abt. Belo.

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