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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

A Good Time to Take Stock.

The approach of Lent brings to mind the ever recurring question: "What are we going to do in the way of special observance this year?"

We all have many things to be thankful for when we take time to ruminate on our blessings; the only trouble is that most of us keep our eyes fixed on the blessings of others and forget our own.

The Key-Note to Self-Expansion. You will say, "We can not all be employers; we can not all be business for ourselves."

But you will tell me that there are plenty of managers and superintendents, and all sorts of employees, who could not do any better if they were working for themselves.

There is always room at the top for those who have learned to be skillful by patient, assiduous labor.

The pupils of the Sisters know very well that some of their devoted teachers are gifted with a quiet sense of humor which enlivens school life most satisfactorily.

He was a little boy, about eight years of age, freckled faced, snub-nosed, bare-footed and dirty.

He stood silently surveying me for a few minutes. He was evidently taking my measure—"sizing me up," as he would say in his street gamin vernacular.

Generosity, courage and energy are dispositions which ought to be brought into exercise by the young man in order to faithfully discharge his duty.

Men are generous when self-interest requires of them an open and a helping hand. Comparatively few make sacrifices for the welfare of others, with no view at ulterior personal compensation.

True, sterling generosity is not foreign to courage. The young man should be a man. He is no longer a child. He should not think as a child, understand as a child nor speak as a child. He should put away the things

of a child, as St. Paul advises. Defects which are among the tempers of mind, which are childish, should be eliminated from his life.

Energy is the necessary accompaniment of courage in the development of character. Man naturally dislikes exertion. His tendency is downward.

My advice to all boys is "Work!" It is God's law of progress: We have but what we make, and every road is blocked by Nature in a granite hand.

There is always room at the top for those who have learned to be skillful by patient, assiduous labor.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS. SISTER'S BOY. The pupils of the Sisters know very well that some of their devoted teachers are gifted with a quiet sense of humor which enlivens school life most satisfactorily.

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and put them in my book, and then we'll talk again." "O, by all means," I answered. "Is this everything? I have nothing else to do, I suppose, so I am quite at your service, my dear Jamesy."

He placed his hand on his heart, made a profound salutation, and said: "Don't mention it, my dear Gaston."

I assured him that when some people held the cords they made quite a pretty picture, so he expressed his willingness to "have a try at it."

I gave him a "try," put on full current, but he did not even squirm. After a few moments I threw back the switch and asked him how he felt.

"That's a drinker-cup, for I saw one that would fold up and down."

"I made no reply. He removed the glass stopper, and, naturally placed the bottle under his nose. For over a minute he could not look at him.

"Beautiful! I wish you would be clean one in a while."

"Well, you'd only have to get a turn-down."

"I went away, feeling he was 'turned down,' but returned in a little while, and said: 'I've been thinking about that collar—I couldn't bear a collar; and I said I'd only have to get a turn-down.'

"I don't believe God would mind a bit if you looked at me. But how do you know I look at you if you do not look at me?"

"I know you look at me because you like me, and what we like we like to look at."

Countless incidents I could relate, but these will suffice. Here was a child brought up in the streets, homeless and parentless, but a cleaner mind, a purer soul or a more golden heart a child never owned.

"I am going away. Some one has come to take me for three days, but I don't want to go. I want to stay with you. Oh, keep me!"

I shall help him to fight life's battle or, better still, we shall help each other as in the old days, we strove to brighten each other's way.

THE OUGHT TO BE'S.

(Written for The Catholic Standard and Times by Rev. J. T. Roche, author of "The Obligation of Hearing Mass," "Our Lady of Guadalupe," "Month of St. Joseph," "Baker and Unbaker," etc.)

It is an accepted axiom among priests that the censors, critics and chronic fault-finders of a parish sooner or later give up the faith. It is easy to understand why such should be the case.

The bond between the priest as pastor and the people committed to his care is one of the closest and most intimate that can exist between the members of the human family.

There is a story told of a great French churchman who was sent by the Holy See to investigate a quarrel between a certain Bishop and some of his priests.

It is related of St. Philip Neri that when a certain person much given to the evil habit of detraction, came to him for advice, he made use of the lim for advice, he made use of the lim for advice, he made use of the lim for advice.

There was a wealth of hidden wisdom in the old priest's answer. The people of the man is so rare that the species may be truly said to be extinct.

It not infrequently happens that the parish rebels are the first to welcome a new pastor on his arrival, and in the early days of his administration are the loudest in their approval of everything he does.

The children of the priest-hunters, as a rule, turn out badly. Reverence and respect for the man who ministers at the altar is essentially a Catholic virtue.

The parish critic is, in many cases, a disappointed little boss who has failed to rule the pastor. The number of those amateur bosses, male and female, is legion. Their presumption is monumental.

That was a year ago. He went, and I have not seen him since. I know we shall meet again. But when? Where? What the circumstances? Whenever I go on the city streets I look for him and whenever a little hand steals into mine I wish it was my Jamesy's.

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