

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

LUCK—OR PREPARATION
A well known actor who was listening to a theatrical discussion, made this reply to the remark that when a play was once "hoodooed" no amount of advertising or hard work would make it a success again:

death of McKinley—as a mere incident in his life, which had very little to do with his real success, for that is a personal matter, dependent upon one's own efforts. There is no pull in it, there is no "luck" in it. It is simply what a man does for himself, what he does with the success material that has been given him; what he does with the opportunity that is given him; what he is.

"You see," said Mike, "the boys were all the time imposing on the little cub because he wouldn't lie, swear, nor smoke cigarettes. One day last week he was picking up a bundle down at the Battery for a poor old lame woman. A big boy pushed him over, and he fell against the woman, and she was hurt so much that two of the cops took her to the hospital, and another cop took Little Billy to the station house, and he was fined \$5, and because he couldn't pay the \$5 they locked him up for thirty days."

OUR CHURCH AND THE BIBLE

It is the very old calumny against the Catholic Church that in the Middle Ages she had the Bible "chained" and withheld from the perusal of the common people. The fact is that in those days she had copies of the Bible "chained" at the doors of her churches in order to give the faithful an opportunity of consulting the sacred pages.

These days of unbelief the Church has become the champion of the Bible, and the chief defender of its inspiration. She stands for its integrity, its divine origin from the pen of inspired writers, its spiritual value and comfort. She encourages her children to read the Bible, her priests to establish Bible classes in their congregations, her families to cherish it as their best book on the parlor table and most treasured ornament of their libraries.

The next morning Joe went downtown with a sad heart. Every window he passed seemed to contain a hobby horse, and yet his poor, lonely, lame little brother could not have one. He thought of how many homes in that rich city would be made happy Christmas morning, and of how drear it would be in at least one home; and that one his own. He did not realize the sad fact that in hundreds of homes in the great city there were clouds darker than those that seemed to obscure the sunlight from his own little room.

The night before Christmas Little Billy and Joe worked hard in the latter's room, a ter Tom had gone to bed, lamenting because his brother told him he must not expect Santa Claus, who had too many places to visit. His surprise may be imagined in the morning when he found a Christmas tree, beneath the branches of which stood the famous hobby horse, on whose back was a large package containing everything the child could imagine or desire. He was not less delighted to see Joe dressed in a handsome suit and fur-lined overcoat, ready to start to church to be present at early Mass.

MORE CONVERSIONS

SEVEN ANGLICAN CLERGYMEN SECEDE TO ROME
REMARKABLE SEQUEL TO THE CONVERSION OF THE CALDEY BENEDICTINES
Written for The Catholic Standard and Times

The Romeward movement from the Church of England has continued at an accelerated pace since the conversion of the 70 monks and nuns who endeavored to live as Benedictines in the Establishment. Both Caldey Abbey and St. Bride's Abbey have become spiritual centres for distressed High Church people, and many scores have already followed the "religious" into the fold of Rome.

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How solicitous the Church was to preserve the Bible and to spend her best genius on the elevation of a recent public exhibition of the Morgan collection of bibles and prayer-books given at Columbia University in connection with the Episcopalian convention. Professor Smilkovitch, who is an authority, describes them: "Massive jeweled manuscript covers, a thousand and more years old, are there, and marvelous hand-illuminated manuscripts, their gorgeous colorings and exquisite workmanship the result of years of toil by ancient monks and medieval artists. Many of them were once the dearest pride and delight of kings and emperors and Popes. Only potentates such as these could command the services of the men who produced most of the Morgan manuscripts—men whose talents and skill were the rarest of the time, and a few of them true masters whose gifts to the centuries have not been surpassed."

It was at this time that the parchment took the place of the rolled papyrus. It came first from the law schools and was known as the Codex, and was the copy used for the Scriptures. Thus the Bible gave mankind the form of all its books to-day. The new shape did much to popularize the use of the Bible. Men and women took up the work of copying it as an avocational task—which sometimes earned them their daily bread. Where there had been plain copies in an unskilled hand, we now find sumptuous books made of finest parchment, with purple tinting, and with the sacred text written in gold and silver. Sometimes the margins were covered with fine paintings.

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