

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

IMPELLING NECESSITY
Most of the best work that men have done in this world was done because they had to do it.

Of course there is this great difference between the work that is done by men to gain life bread or pay a debt and that which comes from the inward conviction that they were the bearers of a message which they must deliver in the most perfect and end during form.

How often we see men with every gift except motive power. All their attainments are pained by incorrigible indolence.

What a curse is laziness! It robs the most gifted man of the power of production. It makes of him who might have been an ornament to his age, a benefactor of his kind, an honor to his family, a useless hulk.

Consider the inventions that have revolutionized life in modern times. Not one of these marvellous machines has been evolved except at the expense of sleepless nights, laborious days, monastic self denial and a perseverance all but incredible.

The men who have done great things in our land in statesmanship, in the professions, who stand to-day the leaders of the nation, have worked harder and more constantly than the laborer in the trench.

Whether they worked for mankind, for fame, for wealth, need not concern us. They have proven themselves, overpowering benefactors to men, and these blessings we would not have had not necessity compelled their discoverers to go on until they found them out.

Consider now the great books that men have written for the instruction and enjoyment of their contemporaries and posterity.

Finally the highest and most important work that men have before them in life is the salvation of their souls.

Yes, necessity is indeed a blessing to mankind. Let those, therefore, whose lives are hard and duties end less and responsibilities without number cease repining and be thankful that this is their lot, for they are the most fortunate, the most beneficial of mankind.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS
FLOWER LEGENDS
There are some very pretty flower legends woven about the history of the Christ Child.

The penansory of Spain say that rosemary brings happiness, with its perfume on Christmas Eve, because the Blessed Virgin hung the little frocks of Jesus to dry upon rosemary bushes.

The snowdrops or "fair" flower of February blooms in memory of the time when the Virgin presented Jesus in the temple.

The pretty little wayside flower known as "Lady's Bedstead" was so called because Mary made the manger bed of it.

The scymore stains its great vitality and verdure because the Mohammedans say, it is the trees of Joseph and Mary, and sheltered them in their flight to Egypt.

The rose of Jericho is also called Mary's rose. It sprang up wherever the Blessed Virgin's feet touched the earth on her way to Egypt.

His path of mercy through a forest lay; And mark how all the drooping branches show What homage best a silent tree may pay.

Only the aspen stood erect and free, Scorning to join the voiceless worship pure. But see! He cast one look upon the trees: Struck to the heart, she trembles evermore.

An old legend tells that by the fountain where Mary washed the swaddling clothes of the Holy Child beautiful flowers and bushes sprang up—Sunday Companion.

PIGEONS IN HISTORY
Doubtless you admire the pretty, graceful creatures that perch upon the eaves of your house, or daintily trip across your yard, but did you ever think what a factor they have been in the history of the world?

Pigeons, as commonplace as they appear, are characters of antiquity. We hear of them when the waters of the Deluge covered the face of the earth, when the faithful dove flew from the hand of Noah and returned to her master, bearing the significant olive branch.

"Dove" is the Anglo-Saxon name; "pigeon," the Norman name.

During the fifth Egyptian dynasty, three thousand years before Christ, it was the fashion to domesticate pigeons, and to train them as carriers and messengers.

The price of a handsome pair of pigeons in ancient Rome was not a trifle, for Axius, a Roman knight, once sold a pair of pigeons for forty denarii—about \$65 in our currency.

Among the many pathetic incidents connected with the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots, she begs earnestly for a pigeon, and writes in a letter: "I beg you to procure for me some pigeons. I wish to rear them in cages; it will be such a pastime for a prisoner."

BETTER WHISTLE THAN WHINE
As I was taking a walk early in September I noticed two little boys on their way to school.

RELIGIOUS WAVE SWEEPS GERMANY
The London Times prints an account of war conditions in Germany written from Luebeck by a well informed correspondent who has an intimate knowledge of Germany from the inside.

The correspondent, who says the Germans are preparing for a long war, tells of a religious wave which has swept over the country since the opening of the war.

"They may run short of wheat," he says, "and eggs are so dear that they can be used only for the wounded and children. But there is an abundance of other foods, and we must not forget that there is hardly another European nation that is so economical and so easily satisfied as Germany."

Knowing Germany as I do, I venture to insist that the war is far from being popular among the people as a whole. The newspapers say that it is, but they would not dare to speak otherwise for fear of being at once suppressed as "Vorwarts" was a little while ago.

As in Paris, all fortune tellers are now forbidden to practice throughout the German Empire. Since the war broke out they had been consulted by an enormous number of wives and relatives of soldiers in the field, who wanted to know the fate of those who were dear to them.

It is not enough, however, that Catholics are bound to follow truth; they should strive to communicate it to others.

There are great opportunities for the Catholic layman to day, not only to give to the world a proof of the faith that inspires his life, but to dispel the ignorance of non-Catholics regarding the Catholic Church and her teachings.

The press, the spoken word, good example, are weapons most formidable for the extension of truth and the repression of error.

The public is deluged with trashy books that deal the death blow to innocence, and impart to the mind false and silly notions of life with its varied responsibilities.

A heart moulded according to the teachings of the Church will eloquently declare the sovereign goodness of God to man and the responsibilities we, as creatures, owe to God our Creator.

Catholics should realize, then, that their apostolate has many and wide openings and that true charity which sows the seeds of truth and love into the hearts of men falls well within the range of a good Catholic life; and sheds luster upon God's Kingdom both here and hereafter.

GILLETTS PERFUMED LYE
"GILLETTS LYE EATS DIRT"
For cleaning and disinfecting—For softening water—For disinfecting closets, drains and sinks—and 500 other purposes.

THE CATHEDRAL

A Free Translation of Rosset's Sonnet, by Frances C. Fay, in New York Times
"Deathless" is graven deeper on thy brow; Ghouls have no power to end thy endless way.

The Greek of old, the Frenchman of to day, Before thy riven shrine are bending now.

A wounded fortress straightway lieth prone Not so the Temple dies; its roof may fall, The sky its covering vault, an azure pall.

Doth droop to crown its wealth of lacework stone. Praise to you, Vandal guns of dull intent! We lacked till now our beauty's monument

Twice hallowed o'er by insult's brutal hand. As Pallas owns on Athens, golden hill, We have it now, thanks to your fang and brand!

Your shame—our gain, misguided German skill! OUR DEBT OF HONOR TO BELGIUM

"THE TABLET" FUND
The Catholic people of Canada, cannot realize the unbounded suffering and distress in Belgium which still remains so alleviated.

The Cardinals and Archbishops have proclaimed in letters not only this urgent need, but the very special duty and responsibility of Catholics in regard to martyred Catholic Belgium, and their flocks have realized that this special duty is also a very special privilege.

Were the amount subscribed, ten or twenty times as great as that which is already given, the needs of Belgium would remain pitifully unmet.

But as it is, the misery in that country, the starvation and nakedness and homelessness in this bitter cold (over and above the mental and spiritual agonies of its people) are a great part at least unnecessary so long as we are spending any money idly or luxuriously these things must pierce the heart of every Catholic in this country.

The Tablet of London, Eng, has established a relief fund, and contributions may be forwarded to Mr. W. E. Blake, 98 Pembroke St., Toronto, who will in turn have them forwarded direct to London, and the amount will be acknowledged in the columns of the Tablet.

Kindly send amounts by express order, postal order or money order. If by cheque, please have cheque marked payable at par in Toronto. Any amount of money sent will be very gratefully received.

DUTY OF CATHOLICS

Truth is the object of the human mind. The scientist, the professional man, the humble laborer, all seek truth which alone satisfies the heart and the mind.

Catholics are blessed by God with truth in the knowledge of the great and eternal doctrines of Christ. They possess more than the world can give.

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A STRANGE ROAD TO ROME

David Goldstein, who has been doing some strenuous work for the past few years as one of the Knights of Columbus lecturers on the subject of Socialism, and was in Winthrop, Mass., recently, explained to an interested audience at the K. of C. hall how he, a Jew by race and a Socialist by training, happened to find his way into the Catholic Church.

Mr. Goldstein for years found the brotherhood of man in the ideal of Socialism, but now he sees clearly that it exists only in the teachings of the Catholic Church, "for there is the Fatherhood of God, without which all searching for the brotherhood of man is vain." Mr. Goldstein, describing his youthful enthusiasm, said:

"As a boy, surrounded on all sides with poverty, my heart yearned to do something in the world to make the conditions of life happier. No lad of sixteen was ever prouder than I when I was permitted to carry a torch in the procession when Henry George was the mayoralty candidate of the United Labor Party in the city of New York. Thus early it was that I really became a propagandist for

the revolution, for, as you know, the Socialists played a most active part in that campaign.

"Not long after that, my father removed his family to Boston. It was there, where all the fads are given a cordial hearing, that I came in contact with a first Nationalist Club, which was founded upon the inspiration of the book 'Looking Backward,' written by one of its most distinguished members. I read 'Looking Backward' and declared myself a Socialist. Its minutely drawn pictures of a new civilization captivated my imagination.

Of course, there was no use of my trying to get into the First Nationalist Club of Boston. Only the big bugs and the literati of Boston could get in there. So I joined the Socialist party of that day. There, for the first time in my life, I found an outlet for my imagination and my zeal."

A lad without any definite religion—he appears early to have shaken off his racial faith—Mr. Goldstein worked night and day for the Socialist cause. But as time went on, he began to see that Bellamy's 'Looking Backward' was rightly to be classed with the Utopias of Plato, Campanella, More and others, and that although Socialists circulated it to attract attention to their propaganda, they did not accept it in the smallest degree as an ideal of the collectivist society for which they were striving.

At last after much study he came to cast off the false notions concerning man and his origin which he held as part of his Socialist belief.

"I was led to the conviction," he said, "that man was, as the Church has always said, a special creation. Of course, this is exactly contrary to the Socialist doctrine which makes out man to be a mere evolution from the lower animals. But the argument from the ground of right reason was so plain that I must perforce accept that dogma of the Church, though at the time I did not relate it to Christian faith but I accepted it rather as the truth.

He continued: "So it was that after years of mere naturalness I came to the realization of the existence of God; and simultaneously I began to get some appreciation of the dignity of man and of the responsibility of the individual to the will of the good God Who is the cause of man's being. Then, too, I began to appreciate the intelligence with which we are endowed and our power of creating our own designs by which we may work out this, that, or another purpose.

"Yet best of all, with the realization of the existence of God came the positive belief in free choice,—free will—one of our great gifts that makes us like unto God Himself. For, when I got a grip on the real meaning of self-direction upon our power to go to the right or to the left, to go up or to go down, to do good or to do evil, it was a vision that opened up a new world to me. It showed me the infinite possibilities of man in attaining to the greatest heights of happiness, here and hereafter, and, too, the possibility of falling to the lowest depths. Then was God's goodness and power made known to my own consciousness as it is laid down in the 31st chapter of Deuteronomy, in which God says: 'I call heaven and earth to witness this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Choose therefore life that both thou and thy seed may live.'—Sacred Heart Review.

USE FOR CATHOLIC PAPERS
In South Africa, before a Catholic reading guild, Bishop McSherry said: "Never throw away a Catholic paper. An old paper used for the purpose of packing led to the conversion of a whole family, whose father, in glancing over it, found parts of a reported sermon delivered by Cardinal Gibbons, which not only set him thinking, but led him and his whole family into the Church."

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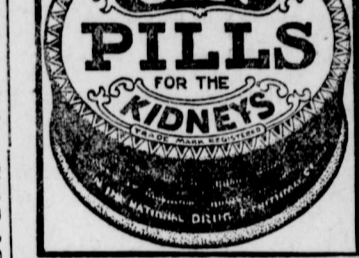
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