

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

JESUS

Jesus, to Thee from ways of sin and sadness, Trusting we turn for rest amid the strife; Thou, Thou, alone canst give true peace and gladness, Thou art alone the Way, the Truth, the Life.

Lord, be to us all that Thou hast promised; Be Thou our guide to shun the paths of sin; Sow in our souls Thy sweet and saving lessons. Fill us with strength eternal life to win.

EASY TO BARK

Fault finding is an easy job and thousands of people are working at it without pay. It takes an effort to accomplish things worth while. One writer illustrates it this way: "A dog hitched to a lawn-mower stopped to bark at a passerby. The boy who was guiding the lawn-mower said: "Don't mind the dog; he is just barking for an excuse to rest. It is easier to bark than to pull the machine."

BE INDULGENT

There is a word which cannot be said too often to every Christian whom God has destined to live, converse, and labor in the society of his fellow-creatures: be indulgent. Yes be indulgent; it is necessary for others, and it is necessary for your own sake. Forget the little troubles that others may cause you; keep up no resentment for the inconsiderate or unfavorable words that may be said about you; excuse the mistakes and awkward blunders of which you are the victim; always make out good intentions for those who have done you any wrong by impudent assertions or speeches; in a word, smile at everything, show a pleasant face on all occasions, maintain an inexhaustible fund of goodness, patience, and gentleness. Thus you will be at peace with all your brethren; your love for them will suffer no alteration, and their love for you will increase day by day. But, above all, you will practise in an excellent manner Christian charity, which is impossible without this toleration and indulgence at every instant.—Russell, "The Art of Being Happy."

FABRE'S ONLY LESSON

When the great entomologist Jean Henri Fabre was a young man he earned his living as an instructor in physics and chemistry at the College of Ajaccio. But not yet had he found his true calling, as Mr. Perrey F. Bicknell relates in the Human Side of Fabre, nor was he to find it until after he was thirty years of age. A French botanist from Avignon, visiting Corsica for the purpose of cataloging the plants of the island, fired him with added zeal for botanical research, and the entomologist Moquin-Tandon, professor at Toulouse University, also coming to Corsica at the same time, kindled his enthusiasm for the study of insects. On the eve of his departure the professor remarked: "You are interested in shells; this is something, but it is not enough. You must study animal life. I will show you how to go about it."

Taking a pair of scissors from Madame Fabre's sewing basket and hastily thrusting two needles each into a bit of vine shoot, he showed his breathlessly-attentive young host the anatomy of a snail; he dissected the mollusk in a deep plate filled with water. One by one he explained the organs thus displayed. "And that," says Fabre, "was the one and only and never-to-be-forgotten lesson in natural history I ever received in all my life."—Youth's Companion.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln is looked upon by all Americans as one of the greatest men our country has produced. He was born in a rude log cabin in the midst of the woods of Kentucky. In those days all schooling had to be paid for, and Abraham's father was poor in worldly things. Young Lincoln had a keen desire for knowledge and a sharp quick mind. He studied by fire light; he used a shovel and charred stick in place of paper and pencil. Often he had to walk miles to secure a book. However, he did not spend all of his time studying and reading. During

the day he chopped trees, split rails and performed other chores with such zeal and rapidity that he became famous in a small locality. He grew strong and energetic, his brain keeping pace with his body.

An admirable trait of Lincoln was his innate honesty. He once walked three miles to return a penny which belonged to a poor woman and another time walked several miles to return four-pence which he over-charged while clerk in a country store. He was appointed postmaster and proved so reliable and honest that he was soon promoted. He became a lawyer and attained great success. The next step toward fame was a position as Senator of his State. At last he was made President of the United States, the greatest honor the people can bestow. Almost his first act was to free the slaves and down south, every year, Emancipation Day is celebrated with great rejoicings and clamorous praises of Lincoln. As a mighty true and steadfast man, who clung with a firm, unweakening clasp to his ideals and bore on his shoulders the sorrow of a Civil War, Abraham Lincoln stands out as a great hero, worthy of the respect and admiration accorded him.—Le Conteux Leader.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

SHOWING RESPECT TO OLD PEOPLE

I saw a little fellow just today Lift his hat to age and go his way; Then saw the lady smile at his retreat, For, oh, it meant so much to her to meet This smiling boy so thoughtful of her years, And ere I passed her eyes were filled with tears. I know how overjoyed she must have been, I thought as she thought—that our coming men, To fill life's higher stations, shall some day Be found to be such as had passed our way. I followed after him with hurried stride, Until at length I drew up by his side; I noticed, first, he was not richly dressed And, too, the shoes he wore were not the best. But he was whistling—happy as could be, And just the way he walked explained to me That he was proud for something he had won. Some little feat that he had tried and done. And when his swinging arms were just to sight I asked our God to keep his steps aright; For what this old world needs is children strong To smooth away our cares when days are long. Now, little children, when you chance to meet Some poor old man or woman on the street, Bow gently to them—prove to them you know What makes their steps unsteady and slow; Then they'll be happy and shall bless the day They met you children trooping down the way.

REAL LIBERTY

It seems to me that real liberty consists in obeying God in all things, and in following the light which points out our duty, and the grace which guides us; taking as our rule of life the intention to please God in all things; not only always to do what is most acceptable; not trifling with petty distinctions between sins great and small, imperfections and faults,—for although it may be very true that there are such distinctions, they should have no weight with a soul which is determined to refuse nothing it possesses to God. It is, in this sense that the Apostle says, "The law is not made for a righteous man, but for a lawbreaker, hard, threatening law, one might almost say a tyrannical, enslaving law; but there is a higher law which rises above all this, and leads him into the true "liberty of sons."—the law which makes him always strive to do that which is most pleasing to his Heavenly Father, in the spirit of those beautiful words of St. Augustine: "Love and do what thou wilt."—Fenelon.

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

The Church has set aside the month of July as a time in which to honor the Most Precious Blood of the God-man, Jesus Christ. Nine-hundred years have passed since that innocent Blood was shed on Olivet, in the pretorium of the governor, along the streets of Jerusalem and at Calvary. And still, during the passing centuries that Blood has been daily on our altars purifying and sanctifying mankind in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The mind travels back with tenderness to that day when there was offered, not the blood of goats or of calves, but the immaculate Blood of Him Who bore our infirmities and carried our sorrows in atonement for the sins of the world. Soaking the very earth of Olivet on that Thursday evening; congealing on the knots and leashes and covering the post to which He was tied in the ruler's court, on that Friday morning; splashing upon the brawny arms and bodies of the brutal scourgers as they performed their brutal task; dripping from the thorns which pierced that sacred brain; dropping to the pavement in front of Pilate's palace and brightening each stone in the way that leads to Calvary; turning to a crimson hue that Cross and the Body of the Victim Who hung half-dead upon it; Jesus Christ, the Son of the Most High God, shed His Blood and shed it all for the salvation of the human race. That Blood which once coursed through the heart of Mary and quickened with eternal love in the heart of the Master, was shed with prodigality for man's redemption.

"Why all?" one may ask. "Was not one drop sufficient to satisfy for a thousand worlds a thousand times more guilty than ours? The Heart of Christ was not content to offer what was sufficient. Man should not measure the love of God by his own. God is Love Omnipotent, Infinite, Eternal. He empties Himself of His love by draining the blood of His Heart's Blood to prove

the limitless boundaries of His love. Man's love is a puny thing which he gives partly to God and retains partly for himself. A complete gift of one's affection is heroism, and man will not even practice heroism with God. It is quite easy to understand how a teaching, false though it be, which made the shedding of the Precious Blood a cloak to cover the sins of men, would gain adherents. Less arduous is it in a world of pleasure to place all the load of sin on the shoulders of another and to feel free of its consequences, than to struggle in a world where each action has its merit or demerit.

The shedding of the Blood of Christ was not to leave the human soul without responsibility for the evil it may do. Salvation is not simply the belief in an Omnipotent Being and His teachings. "Faith without good works is dead." Faith has to be actuated by love, and love increased by service. God demands the soul of man, which has been purified by His Blood and kept holy by sacramental graces. That Blood washes away all iniquity and sanctifies the heart and its affections. But to accomplish this, no barrier is to be placed in the way to block the impourings of God's graces. His Blood falls upon all, the just and the unjust, for their own ultimate salvation or perdition. During the few weeks of the present month, the Christian will do well to honor the Precious Blood of the Saviour. Just a prayer from fervent hearts will prove to Him Who gave every drop of His Blood for man's redemption, that there are those in this forgetful world unforgetful of the infinite love and mercy of the world's Redeemer.—Catholic Union and Times.

A GIRL'S CHARACTER

A girl cannot be too careful about her character, for like a snowy lily, the least blemish tarnishes its beauty. Some girls do not really mean any harm, but they seem to lack a delicate sense of propriety and frequently invite criticism of an unkind nature. They laugh loudly, make acquaintances too freely and consider reticence a requisite best suited for our grandmother's day. The girl who is slow to make acquaintances is generally speaking, the best sort of girl. When you get to know her, you feel her worth and place her on the list of your friends with a feeling of pleasure. A little dignity is an excellent thing. It checks the familiarity of others and affords the superior attitude of mind. The girl who is truly up-to-date in her ideals follows the dictates of good form. Thus she proves herself to be well bred and smart, shielding herself from the unpleasantness that is sure to come from a careless demeanor.—The Tablet.

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