

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

How to express One's Thoughts. Mr. Frederick Harrison, a man of letters, whose literary judgments are as right as his philosophical judgments are wrong, tells us that the making of many books and the reading of periodicals obscure the reception and accumulation of fresh books must hinder any real knowledge of the old; for the multiplicity of volumes becomes a bar upon our use of any. In literature especially does it hold that we can not see the wood for the tree. I am not about to advise you to add to the number of useless leaves which hide the ferns of noble trees; but, if your resolve to write outlives the work of preparation, you may be able to give the world a new classic, or, at least, something that will cheer and elevate. This preparation is rigid. Two important qualities of it must be keen observation and careful reading. It is a pity that an old dialogue on "Eyes or No Eyes" is no longer included in the reading-books for children. The modern book-makers have imposed it out of existence; nevertheless, it taught a generation of two boys on a country road. Common things are about them wild flowers, weeds, a ditch,—but one discovers many hidden things by the power of observation, while the other sees nothing but the outside of the common things. To write well one must have eyes, and see. To be observed it is not necessary that one should be critical in the sense of fault-finding. Keen observation and charitable toleration ought to go together. We may see the peculiarities of those around us and be amused by them; but we shall never be able to write anything about character worth writing unless we go deeper and pierce through the crust which hides from us the hidden meanings of life. How tired would we become of Dickens if he had confined himself to pictures of surface characters! If we weary of him, it is because Mr. Samuel Weller is so constantly dropping his w's, and Sissy Gamp so constantly talking to Mrs. Harris. If we find interest and refreshment in him now, it is because he went deeper than the thousand and one little babies with which he distinguished his personages. To write, then, we must acquire the art of observing in a broad and intelligent spirit. Nature will hang the East and West with gorgeous tapestry in vain if we do not see it. And many times we shall judge rashly and harshly if we do not learn to detect the true-heartedness that hides behind the face which seems cold to the unobservant. We are indeed blind when we fail to know that an angel has passed until another has told us of his passing.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

The Key to it. The story is told of a young girl who was not only homely, but awkward with it, and, being dull at her books, became the butt of the school. Painfully conscious of her shortcomings, she fell into a morose state, withdrew into her schoolmates, with one consent, avoided her. Her kind-hearted teacher, inquiring into the cause, was met by the words, "No one loves me, I am so homely." After a moment of thought, the loving teacher said: "Come with me, dear, leading the way to her desk, she opened the drawer and taking a small object from it, held it toward the girl. "It is not beautiful now, but plant it and watch it develop, dear child. Be sure to give it plenty of water and sunshine for a week or two." And so it was planted and carefully tended: first came the green leaves, and later a golden Japanese lily budded out into perfect beauty. With a heart full of happiness the girl took it to her friend, "Oh, see what you have given me! she cried, her face aglow with joy. "My dear child," was the loving answer, "that plant was not beautiful to begin with, but it took heart, and attained rare perfection." The lesson sunk deep into the heart of the young girl. "My face must always be homely," she thought, "but I might be able to light it up with a beautiful soul." Then she set about her course in steady purpose; where she had been careless and indifferent, she became careful and solicitous. She found happiness in doing for others. In school she applied herself with untiring effort and teachers and pupils alike recognized the change, and meted out a respectful notice into a quicker action. As the years sped by she became one of the most kindly and lovable of girls, eagerly sought as a leader by all. "My dear," said one of her friends to her, "there is a secret underlying all this success of yours. I wish I could find the key to it." "Ah, dear one," was the answer "the key is a simple one, and has unlocked the door to many a heart when all else failed. It was just a kind word, spoken to me at the very time I needed it."

OUR BOYS.

Judge O. M. Spencer of St. Louis is one of the successful lawyers of Missouri, but few people were aware that he was a brilliant writer. A short time ago a St. Joseph paper asked him to write a letter to its newboys. His response was short but eloquent, and shows that his professional work, has never quieted the youngsters about him. "There is nothing in the world nicer than boys, unless it's girls," he begins. "I love them all and although I have passed my fiftieth mile post in the journey of life, I feel and act like a boy oftener than a bald-headed man should." There is more of the same kind, after which the writer concludes in this eloquent strain: "Every man was a boy—it seems strange, but it is really so. Wouldn't you like to turn time backward and see Abraham Lincoln at twelve, when he had never worn boots—the lank, lean, yellow, hungry boy, hungry for love, hungry for learning, tramping through the woods, and spelling it out crouched before the glare of the burning logs. "Distinctly and vividly, I remember a squat, freckled boy who was born in the 'Patch,' and used to pick up coal alongside railroad tracks in Buffalo. A few months ago I had a motion to

gather new words and grow familiar with their use.

Read aloud as much as possible. In that way you will become acquainted with the musical rhythm of words. 2. Talk—Listen closely to the conversation of good talkers and never talk yourself below your very best. 3. Look up new words. Use your dictionary freely. Never allow yourself to hear a new word spoken without putting it down for reference; and when you know it use it yourself. 4. Write—Take every possible opportunity to express your thoughts in writing. Many of the best writers of to-day learned to write through their social correspondence. 5. Memorize—Whenever you find a beautiful thought in words preserve it by committing it to memory. The thought and the language will each be seed in your garden. A prototype of the Pope. Orsini Chiesi, a poor boy of fourteen, with well developed artistic tendencies, has just succeeded in obtaining an audience with the Pope, to whom he presented a portrait sketch of his own design in an elaborate gilt frame. The Pope was much pleased with the gift, highly praised the lad's artistic ability, gave him written permission to visit the Vatican museums and galleries at any time, and gave him money for paints, brushes and canvas, making him promise to show His Holiness all his work as soon as finished.

A STRONGER CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Archbishop Ryan in an interview on the Pope's encyclical and the situation in France says that all the Catholics of France or anywhere else ask is the same freedom from government as they enjoy in the United States. "That must be the result," said His Grace, "and that result will be attained by another, as an effect of persecution; a stronger Catholic Church than ever. "The movement seeks to destroy the constitution of the Church. Some people imagine that the Pope could help, but the Pope was powerless to do anything else than what he has done. "He must uphold the constitution of the Church. He and all the bishops together have no power to grant a

single divorce.

He and all the bishops have no power to consent to the propositions of the French Government to overthrow the constitution of the Church. If there was disloyalty to the Government anywhere they should punish the disloyalty. "It is difficult for minds accustomed to the complete liberty which we enjoy in this country to understand how a civilized government can, in the name of liberty, subject an entire Christian people to the yoke of official atheism."

There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy.

By being happy we say anonymous benefits in the world, which remain unknown even to ourselves, or, when they are disclosed, surprise nobody so much as the benefactor. The other day a ragged, barefoot boy ran down the street after a marble with so jolly an air that he sent every one he passed into a good humor. One of those persons, who had been delivered from more than usually black thoughts, stopped the little fellow and gave him some money, with this remark: "You see what sometimes comes of looking pleased." If the boy had looked pleased before, he had now to look both pleased and mystified. For my part, I justify this encouragement of smiling rather than tearful children; I do not wish to pay for tears anywhere, but I am prepared to deal largely in the opposite commodity. A happy boy or girl is a better thing to find than a five pound note. He or she is a radiating focus of good will; and their entrance into a room is as though another candle had been lighted. We need not care whether they could prove the forty-seventh proposition; they do a better thing than that, they practically demonstrate the great theorem of the livableness of life.

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