

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

PRaise

We're eager for money, we hunger for fame, We battle for things to possess; The houses we build we want to have filled With the treasures that stand for success. But when it's all over and peace settles down, In the glow of the low sinking sun, We want to recall, be it ever so small, Some unselfish service we've done.

offered to a man with any intelligence in his head. Keep a boy away from drink during the silly years in which he thinks it shows how much of a man he is to make a swine out of himself, and he's not likely to ever become a drunkard.

All of these are factors in the great reformation in thinking that the war is bringing about, and that will almost justify it in the eyes of women who have found King Alcohol as deadly an enemy as ever the Kaiser is.

Another good thing that this War is going to do for the youth of the country is to give it the discipline that it needs. American parents are too soft, they have too little backbone and nerve to stand up and fight their self-witted children to a finish.

The iron hand of the army will do for these spoiled boys what their parents failed to do. It will take no heed of their likes or dislikes, their dispositions or their tempers. It will teach them for the first time the meaning of duty. It will hold them to a hard task until it breeds in them determination and endurance.

It will develop what is worth while in them, and many a man who will make a big success in life after the War is over will owe his achievement to the discipline he got in the army.

Let mothers everywhere consider this golden side of the shield of war. For it is just as real as the leaden side over which they weep.—Catholic Columbian.

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OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

The school was out, and down the street A noisy crowd came thronging; The hue of health and gladness sweet To every face belonging.

Among them strode a little lad, Who listened to another, And mildly said, half grave, half sad; "I can't—I promised mother."

A shout went up, a ringing shout, Of boisterous derision; But not one moment left in doubt That manly, brave decision.

"Go where you please, do what you will," He calmly told the others; "But I shall keep my word, boys, still; I can't—I promised mother."

Ah! who could doubt the future course Of one who thus had spoken? Through manhood's struggle, gain and loss, Could faith like this be broken?

God's blessing on that steadfast will, Unyielding to another; That bears all jeers and laughter still, Because he promised mother.

THE BEST FRIEND A GIRL HAS Girls who look up to and try to make their mothers happy are indeed only doing their duty, yet most of us know young women who are not by any means so considerate.

The girl who regards her mother's views as passe, who is so engrossed with modern affairs that she loses track of what is transpiring at home, may for the time being find the world all-satisfying.

But such a young woman will eventually be brought to her senses, and as sure as day follows night the hour will come when her heart will go back longingly to her mother and her home.

No matter how clever or able a girl that she is, she is not by any means as important as she fondly imagines herself to be.

Youth has a lot to learn in connection with what it has absorbed from text books, and the young woman who looks upon her mother as a back number simply because that good woman's ideas are not "modern," needs to take up another and very necessary course in every day philosophy.

There are, indeed, many girls who do not appreciate what their mothers do for them. Such young women may declare that they go to business every day and help defray the home expenses; but if they were alone in the world and had no home, life would, without a question, mean a serious problem to them, and, furthermore, they would have to pay, and pay well, for doing the "thousand and one things that every girl's mother does" for her.

The young woman whose heart is in the right place always thinks of her parents first. The world's applause is sweet—that no one will deny—but there's a hollow ring to it. The smart companions of a girl's triumphant hour will admire and flatter her, but quickly go their way if she is brought face to face with financial or other difficulties. The world hasn't time to bother with bruised hearts or failures, but a girl's mother always has time to listen and to sympathize.

True, there are exceptions to all rules. That some indifferent and in-

considerate mothers exist we all admit, but the average working young woman owes her mother a debt of gratitude that she can never repay. She is only doing her duty in helping defray the home expenses.

Most of us have had to do the same thing, and it probably was the best investment we ever made.

The girl who delights in making her home, even though it be small and humble, bright and attractive is always on good terms with her parents. Such young women know what it is to give up this or that dainty blouse or bit of finery in order that new pictures may be purchased for the dining room, or a pretty rug bought for the parlor.

Girls of this type—splendid, womanly, home-loving girls—are as far superior to the selfish, ungrateful young woman as a pure diamond is when compared to paste.

A girl's mother is her best friend; indeed, the only friend that will stand the test of time. Remember this, and if you are blessed with a good mother, even though her education is not as "finished" as yours, recognize the obligations that lie before you. Forget the world outside.

Give the best that is in you for your parents—the only ones that will take you as you are. Try to cheer them in their declining years, and try to make them happy. Fine friends, indeed! How quickly they will go their way, forgetting all about you and your achievements; but your mother—well, her every heartbeat will always be for you.—The Echo.

HEROIC IRISHMEN IN THE TRENCHES

TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND OF THEM ENLISTED IN GREAT STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY

Father Henry Flynn of Menilmontant, Pa., at present in Ireland, whose brother, Patrick Flynn, P. P. of Suresne, Paris, a chaplain to the French forces at Verdun, has given an interview to a Free man representative, Father Flynn, whose parents are Irish, was born in Paris, and having served in the French army, he became a priest.

He recalled that the records of the French war office show that between 1891 and 1914, a period of fifty-four years, more than 450,000 Irishmen died in the service of France. "And now," he added, "I think of Ireland's sons—200,000—who have enlisted to help France in this terrible struggle for liberty. I wish you to know how deeply grateful we are for their assistance and sympathy. It is with hearty welcome that France receives the heroic sons of Ireland who come to mix their Celtic blood with the Celtic blood also flowing through the veins of our French soldiers—a splendid fraternity of souls, renewing and completing the centuries' old friendship."

Turning to the position of the Church in France to-day, Father Flynn expressed a very hopeful view of the effect which was being produced by the War. "A great number of clear-sighted and intelligent men in France, among whom are a number of radicals and socialists, begin to understand," he said, "that for forty-five years they have in all good faith, followed the policy of Germany, and even obeyed the injunctions of Bismarck himself. Convinced that the war against religion would conduct France to its ruin, Bismarck managed to have his policy to establish a socialistic atheism imposed on the French leaders.

"In France there are now men, even amongst the adversaries of Catholicism and the Church—men of sincere mind, and patriots, who, seeing at last that they have been the unconscious tools of their great-est enemy, will be firmly decided to avoid helping Germany in continuing anti-religious persecution inspired by her leaders. In a word, the most violent and bitter anti-Catholic propaganda in France has been the work of Germany."

Father Flynn, after declaring that France today was sound at heart, pointed out that when the government had taken from the French priests a sum valued at \$24,000,000 in 1903, upon which they might have lived, the clergy did not die, which proved once more that there remain enough Catholics in France to support their priests and ensure religious worship.

THE SOLDIER-PRIESTS The religious work of his parish was at present being done, he went on to say, by members of religious orders who had been expelled from France and had returned. No less than 6,000 of the expelled French priests had voluntarily returned to France to act as soldiers since the outbreak of the War.

"It happens now that the presence of these curés among the soldiers, in the same shower of bullets and shells on the battlefield, or in the same trenches and ambulances, has created between them a respectful and brotherly sympathy which, if it has no other result, is at least as efficacious as the best of sermons. It is a fact that since the days of Joan of Arc never have the French soldiers been so careful to say their prayers, to attend Mass, to go to confession and holy Communion. Six hundred thousand Masses every month—between twenty and twenty-five thousand daily—are offered by all these soldier-priests in the trenches or near the trenches.

GROWTH OF THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

Replying to a question as to the condition of Catholicism among the French population who are not directly participating in the War, Father Flynn said that in one of the parishes in Paris with a population of 50,000 there were before the War 163,000 holy Communion every year. In 1916 there were 273,000, although the population had diminished owing to the number who had gone to the front. In this same parish the parishioners had been so generous as to give to the parish priest about £80 per week to procure presents for the soldiers at the front.

Father Flynn's own experience had been of a similar kind, about £6,000 having been given to him with which to purchase gifts, which he had taken to the front himself for distribution among the soldiers. There were 3,200 Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, Sisters of Charity, and Little Sisters of the Poor nursing the wounded in France. During the six years following the separation of the Church and State, 1905 to 1912, forty-nine new places of worship had been one in Paris alone; and anywhere a chapel was opened it was filled immediately.

Father Flynn mentioned a circumstance which indicated the present relations between the authorities of the Catholic Church in France and the French government. He said that the government appealed to the Bishops, who appealed through the priests, to the people, to send in the gold to the bank in order to increase the credit of France. Through their agency 49,000,000 of francs had been collected by the priests; and in Paris alone nearly 9,000,000 of francs had been collected in this way.—Catholic Transcript.

VALUE OF FRIENDS As surely as the air we breathe will affect our bodies, as certainly as the food we eat will either sustain or poison, so surely and so certainly will the company we frequent have an influence on our lives, says the Pittsburg Observer. That is the main reason why we should choose our friends slowly and carefully, not

judging so much by mannerisms and externals as by the things which really matter—truth, sincerity, broadness of mind—all that goes to make up sterling worth.

For this reason it is impossible to have a great many friends; acquaintances, yes, they are to be had in

abundance and help to make life less lonely; but there are comparatively few who are worth admission into the inner circle of our hearts. Consequently, when we are so fortunate as to find such a companion we ought to so act as to be worthy of the treasure.

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