

# CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

## GET THE HABIT

Cheerfulness is a good habit; gloominess merely a bad one. There is a world of truth in this optimistic philosophy of Health Officer Dixon of Pennsylvania, who goes further to trace a close connection between mental depression and physical illness, and claims that the person who is sick should try to cure himself by being cheerful.

Habits are so intimately interwoven with the very fiber of being it is difficult, if not impossible, to tell by the closest self-scrutiny where our habits end and where our bedrock personalities begin. But if cheerfulness is merely a habit, then there certainly is chance for all of us to begin cultivating it and making it an inseparable part of personality.

True, habits are sometimes hard to acquire. At first it may seem difficult to be always cheerful in the face of adverse circumstances. But habits stick when they are once well formed. And being always ready with the cheery smile and the cheering word is a habit that should stay with the person who seriously will go about acquiring and exercising it.

Smiles are the windows that let the sunshine of personality through to leaven with joy mountainous units of gloom. Frowns and sour looks are the shutters that not only keep a person's pessimism pent up inside him, but also depress others about him with the same melancholy effect that is likely to be wrought by viewing the exterior of a frowning house shuttered, deserted and gloomy.

"Joy," wrote Schiller, "is the mainspring of the whole of endless nature's calm rotation." Why try to run through life with your personal mainspring broken?

Smile! Be cheerful! It's a habit. Acquire it!—Milwaukee Sentinel.

## MEETING EMERGENCIES

The young man who does things, who takes responsibility, who has initiative, who does not have to wait to be told, who does not shrink an unexpected opportunity to help along the business he is with, yet who uses good judgment when "going it alone," is the man who is going to win out, be appreciated, get promoted, and have chances elsewhere offered to him.

A young man recently obtained a position as private secretary to the president of a shoe company. He was left alone in the office, and unfortunately, his employer who was absent, could not be located by telephone or telegraph. The secretary lived in the suburbs, and overheard while on the train that a serious accident had occurred on the railroad running from the town where the shoe factory was located to the city where the office was.

On reaching the office, he looked up the shipping orders and discovered that a carload of shoes had been shipped from the factory to a large retailer and that they might have been on the wrecked train. He immediately telephoned to the freight office, but could not ascertain whether or not the car in question was a part of the wreck. Further inquiry indicated that definite information could be had at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He then telephoned to the proprietor of the retail store and informed him of the circumstances. He discovered that the shoes had been advertised as a special sale to occur on the following day. He told the proprietor that he could not give him definite particulars until late in the afternoon, but that he would telephone the factory to send him several cases of the same shoes by express, which would reach him early on the following morning.

The young man took this action of his own volition. He would have consulted the president, or some other superior officer, had that been possible; but unfortunately, all of them were away on that day. The shoe store proprietor was extremely well pleased and so expressed himself.

The youth had met an emergency without compromising the house for which he worked, and had literally "made good."

It is, of course, impossible to designate how far a subordinate should assume responsibility and act on his authority. This is a matter of judgment. Some business men will not permit any of their employees to assume authority, but the majority of them appreciate any action for the real or apparent benefit of the house on the part of any employee, provided he uses his judgment and does not involve the concern in any heavy expense.

You have undoubtedly read much about following orders, that he who does what he is told to do has accomplished all that is expected of him. While the employee should not go beyond reasonable bounds and issue orders without the consent of his employer, initiative is to be commended. As a matter of fact, he who does only what he is told to do, follows without variation the path staked out for him, is not likely ever to travel beyond the road of his present environment. He will remain a good clerk, be subject to a moderate raise of salary and to slight promotion, but he cannot hope to enter business for himself or to occupy any high position.

There is always opportunity for the exercise of judgment, and he who takes the initiative becomes a marked man, sure of promotion and certain of tangible appreciation.

The trouble with 99 per cent. of employees is that they do not go beyond their prescribed duties, they take interest in nothing save that

which they are told to do, they become automatic, and can, naturally, be easily replaced.

No matter how subordinate your position may be, there will be times when you can act of your own volition, do something which is not "nominated in the bond," and this action of yours, provided it is based upon the judgment, becomes a definite asset.—Catholic Columbian.

## OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

### LITTLE VIOLET'S WISH

The Tallest Leaf in the violet bed quivered so suddenly that all the other leaves cried, "What's the matter, big brother?"

"Sh! Sh!" he whispered. "Little Violet is sighing, and I can see a big tear hanging on her eyelashes."

"Whatever can the matter be?" The broad faces looked their concern. "When you all stop your foolish fluttering perhaps I can find out." Tallest Leaf wiped the morning dew from his brow and assumed his sunniest smile before bending over to look into Little Violet's blue eyes.

A sudden whiff of her fragrant breath set his heart beating fast against his green waistcoat. Violet looked up so quickly that the tear dropped on Tallest Leaf's outstretched hand and made it tremble. His voice was very soft and low when he said, "Lonely, little sister, with only a few big fellows left in the patch?" He laid his hand gently on her shoulder as he spoke.

"Lonely! No indeed! How could I be when you are all so jolly?"

"But we're not like sisters."

"All the same you've been as good as any sisters that ever bloomed. Think how you've kept the hot sun from burning me at noontime, and how soft and shady you've made my bed, so that I've grown and grown till I'm most up to your shoulders, Tallest Leaf." Her blue eyes were so big and moist Tallest Leaf almost lost his balance as he gazed into them.

"No, it's not that I'm lonely, big brother, but I had hoped—"

"Hoped for what, little sister?" he interrupted eagerly. "Do tell me about it, please."

Violet drooped her graceful head. "I really ought to be ashamed even to wish for anything more when you are all so good to me!"

"Oh, nonsense! That's the way to make things happen. Wish hard enough and your wish will come true. So tell us, little sister, what it is you are wishing for, and we'll wish with you."

Violet tried to smile, but her voice quivered as she sighed. "It won't do any good this time, for it's such a big wish."

"So much the more reason to have us help chorused the leaves, who had been listening. They jostled each other in their effort to get near their little sister."

Violet could tell their interest, and decided to tell them the one great wish of her life.

"When I was a wee baby," she began timidly, "just peeping out of the ground, I heard some lady violets talking about sick people and hospitals and a great many things that I did not at all understand. But one thing I have never forgotten. I quite made up my mind that when I got big I would surely go into somebody's sick-room to make that somebody smile, and here I've come so late that no one will ever think of looking for me. No, all the wishing in the world can't help me now."

Again she sighed deeply. Tallest Leaf knew the time had come for quick action. He hurriedly called to all the leaves in the bed! "Attention, leaves! Tonight when the dew falls I want every one of you to join me in wishing hard that our beautiful little sister may have her wish come true tomorrow."

A gay chorus shouted, "We'll do it! We'll do it!"

"Think twice before you promise," he cautioned in a low whisper, turning aside so that Little Violet might not hear. "It means that there will be no sleep for any of us tonight."

A faint shudder passed over the patch, and one little fellow yawned at the thought. For a moment it was very quiet. Then followed a great outburst of "We'll do it! Yes, we'll do it!" until the entire patch echoed with hearty words.

New hope was born in Little Violet's heart. She beamed her gratitude. That evening she was fast asleep even before the sun had time to put on his red night cap.

It was then that Tallest Leaf called: "Attention! Fall to, every one of you, and clear the space around our little sister, so that she may be seen by the first passer by in the morning! And mind you do it quietly!" he added sternly, though his heart was very tender at that moment, for he was thinking how desolate things would be when Little Violet was gone.

They all worked the long night through, and not a murmur did Tallest Leaf hear from any one.

Next morning when the sun peeped over the hill and blinked his eye at the patch, they were startled by Betty's voice excitedly calling, "Oh, Aunt, come quickly! Here's the loveliest violet you ever saw! Won't mother be happy? She loves one violet more than other folks do a whole bunch. Perhaps it will bring a smile to her face."

Aunt quickly joined the little girl. "Yes, it is a beauty," she agreed. "See, it is a beauty," she agreed. "That's why you found it. Let's take this leaf to lay it on." She reached down and tenderly lifted Little Violet

from her bed and placed her on the big leaf.

Violet yawned sleepily, but when she felt the strong arms around her she opened wide her eyes and cried, "Oh! It's you, Tallest Leaf. How nice! Where are we going?"

Before he could reply Betty was darting toward the house.

"Go nicely, dear," aunt cautioned. "You know that mother is very ill."

Betty stepped softly. Finding her mother asleep she gently placed the violet in the white hand that lay on the coverlet, and tip-toed out of the room. She begged aunt to let her watch through the half-open door until mother awoke, adding, "Her smile will be lovely to see when she finds the violet!"

Disturbed by a sudden noise, her mother's eyes opened and she saw the little flower. The beautiful smile that lighted her face sent a glow to Betty's heart.

Tallest Leaf felt a flutter against his breast. Little Violet was breathing deeply and whispering, "Oh, it's come true! Yes, the big wish has come true!"—Frances A. Goodridge, in S. S. Times.

## THE MONTH OF ST. JOSEPH

In the calendar of the ecclesiastical year the month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph, the foster father of the Saviour, and the chaste spouse of the Immaculate Virgin. His exalted position as the earthly guardian and protector of the Son of God entitles him to a special place of honor in the hierarchy of the blessed. The Church has always honored him as one of the greatest saints; and frequent and fervent are the prayers breathed forth before his throne by her devout children. She assures us that St. Joseph, by virtue of his all-powerful intercession before the throne of God, can obtain innumerable graces and signal favors for all who have recourse to him.

During this month set apart for his special honor the faithful will redouble their petitions for his paternal help in their spiritual necessities. There is no need to fear that his loving heart will not thrum responsive to appeals which attest the confidence of the faithful in the singular power which he possesses to touch the heart of the Saviour Who obeyed him while on earth. The solemn commemoration of the feast of St. Joseph takes place on the 19th of the month.—St. Paul Bulletin.

## HAS ACHIEVED SUCCESS UNIQUE IN HISTORY

DR. EMIL REICH SAYS CHURCH RAISES EFFICIENT MEN AND WOMEN

Doctor Emil Reich writing on "Success in Life," pays a tribute to Catholic education which is of interest as showing what a modern philosopher, who follows no accepted religion, is broad-minded enough to say of a system of education which is more often condemned than praised by non-Catholics. It is satisfactory to hear from him that success in life is rarely, if ever it can be shown to have been, dependent on what is termed luck. On the contrary, we are told, everything is so well-balanced in our world that provided a man have the energy, he will be certain to find his reward at some time or other in his life.

Journalism Doctor Reich defines as the only international university; success in this department of life depends on a great respect and love for the profession, constant and diversified reading, a knowledge of history and economics and observant travel. As to the question of education, here is what he has to say:

"The immense power of education is rarely realized by people in non-Catholic countries. Whatever opinions one may or may not have of the dogmas and liturgy of the Catholic Church, one thing remains quite certain, he says, that that Church has at all times been able to raise efficient men and women for the ends it pursued, and so it has undoubtedly come to be, to the present day, a success of the most marvelous kind. In fact nothing but wilful blindness can prevent one from saying that, as a mere matter of success the Catholic Church is absolutely unique in history. No other organization of men and women, no other polity or body-politic of the same high order, has ever been known to survive nearly twenty centuries of European history."

It is scarcely necessary to prove that at the present day as well as fifteen hundred years ago, that Church wields an immense power and influence.

Such an unprecedented success must necessarily imply some fruitful lessons for individual candidates for success too.

Now, leaving aside all historical and theological considerations, it is quite clear that the wonderful success of the Catholic Church, with 800,000,000 adherents, is owing largely to a peculiar system of education carried to its perfection. This can be studied in no organ of the Catholic Church with greater facility than in the way in which the mightiest of Catholic Orders, The Jesuits, have prepared its individual members for a career of success such as no single family or class in Europe has ever achieved. It is well known to any serious student of history that the Society of Jesus has repeatedly been supreme in the affairs of the world. If one stop to think that men who as a matter of fact did not

possess any capital to speak of, have succeeded in building in thousands of towns in Europe and America, vast edifices, carrying on very large institutes for instruction and education, and allowing thousands of their members to devote themselves entirely to academic pursuits of theoretical students in all the sciences—when one considers only this side of their immensely successful career, one cannot but admire a system that has, these three hundred and sixty-six years, enabled members of that Order to achieve a most remarkable success in all the countries, in different times and under the most varying circumstances.

The central and fundamental reason of the success of a Jesuit's education, Doctor Reich continues, is this, that St. Ignatius took the greatest care to develop in each disciple the two strongest engines of success, namely intellect and will-power. He insisted that the intellect must be avoided falling into the fatal mistake of some teachers and of a number of nations, who strengthen the will-power and character of the pupil at the expense of all the other faculties of the mind and heart—as is the British method, the Jesuit voice goes through a course which when completed leaves him with a tenacious will and an intellect subtle enough to cope with every move of attack or defence. This combination in men of the world is much more frequently met with in America than in England. Above all, Doctor Reich insists the religion is an absolute essential of lasting success. Religion teaches man that egoism is not only not right, but that it is of no use in the end. It teaches us that humility helps us more than anything else. Respect for others, husbands for wives, children for parents, employers for employees and vice versa, this can only come from religion.

As Mr. Gladstone used to say, he had never seen a man engaged in active politics who was not inclined at least to credit religion with a great deal of truth.

The French disasters of 1870 and 1871 are to be put down to the fact that their religion had been forsaken by the people, says the Doctor. "They have not been able to muster courage to repair the deep injury then inflicted on their national honor and in that miserable state of irresolution and shame arising from their culpable lack of national courage they again throw belief and religion overboard."

The Bible Doctor Reich discusses with his usual effectiveness. In his opinion all the attacks made upon it by the "higher critics" have only had the effect of stultifying themselves and their originators. Some of the passages in which he deals with this subject deserve to be quoted.—Providence Visitor.

## THE CHURCH'S CARE FOR THE DEAD

The Church has ever exercised the most tender solicitude in choosing the place of burial for her departed. In early times she gathered them to her bosom, even as a fond mother unwilling to be separated from her dead offspring. Her children carried with scrupulous care the blood stained bodies of her martyred sons and daughters to her places of sanctuary in the catacombs, those underground sacred abodes in which she hid from the profaning hand of persecution and where her heroic champions rested was holy ground. Filled with faith her children came to these tombs to pray, and when their last hour came they sought the privilege of being buried near the martyrs, that even in death they might be associated with those whom they had loved and venerated for their sanctity, and might benefit by the prayers of those who would take their places in supplication at these renowned shrines. And the inscriptions which attest this practice are read to-day by the pious pilgrims who still visit these early burial places of our brothers in the faith.

When the Church was free to leave the catacombs, and build her temples above ground, she took the treasured remains of the martyrs with her and placed them under her altars. Then her children sought sanctuary for their tombs within her consecrated precincts. But for want of space, this privilege was limited to emperors, kings and bishops, and the custom of burial around the outside of the church began, and her cemeteries were called churchyards. Later even this space became too small, and burial places had to be chosen at a distance. But they still belonged to the Church, were still regarded as sacred property, and were still called churchyards. And, like her temples, they were and are solemnly blessed. Like the Church, they belong to God, they are God's acres, the cemeteries, or sleeping places of His departed whom He shall one day awaken for their eternal reward.

The Church never, therefore, recognizes a separation between herself and her children. She belongs to God, and her children belong to God, not for a period of time only, but forever. She stands beside the bedside of her dying and prepares them for death. Her minister hears the last confession, he administers the Viaticum, the sacred body and blood of our Divine Saviour, which is the soul's food for the dread journey into the valley of death, and anoints the dying person's body with the consecrated oils.

And therefore the Church is not willing that as the body crumbles into dust, it shall mix with unconsecrated soil, but using the power her

Divine Founder has given her, she selects a place, which she consecrates to the service of God a sanctuary of rest for the bodies of His saints, bodies which He has redeemed by His precious blood, and sanctified by the sacraments of His Church.—Cardinal Farley.

## POSITION IS UNTENABLE

It is obvious that the Anglicans who recognize that the doctrine and ritual of the Church of England do not satisfy the Anglican congregations and that it is therefore advisable to imitate the Catholics cannot stand still. Anglicans who assent to this habit of imitation are bound to ask themselves why they should not enter the Catholic Church instead of remaining in the Church of England, says Liverpool Times.

Rev. A. F. Webling, a Suffolk rector, who writes to the Church Times, sees very clearly that their position

in the Church of England is untenable and reminds them of the fact. He finds that in an almanac of the Anglican Society of SS. Peter and Paul one of the feasts he is hidden to observe is that of "The English Martyrs" (May 4).

Upon this discovery he makes the following remark: "I do not think I can be wrong in assuming that those who suffered under Henry VIII. and Elizabeth for their belief in the Papal claims are here intended. We all hold that many of these were holy people who were brutally murdered. But surely the Society does not ask us to commemorate them upon this ground, but for the reason for which we commemorate any martyr in the calendar, that he died for the truth. If the principles for which these martyrs contended are the truth, then the Papal claims must be admitted."

The argument is perfectly logical, and we can only hope that the Anglicans who admire our martyrs, our doctrine and our ritual will see that there is no escape from it.



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Good News to Mothers, Wives, Sisters

To have seen one you love, going down this road to ruin, and to have heard him try to laugh and joke away your fears while you watched the drink habit fasten on him; is to have known suffering and to have borne a sorrow to which physical pain is nothing. And when at last he comes to that turn in the road that sooner or later must come, and wakes to the fact that he is a slave to the drink you think everything will come right. He will fight the habit and you will help him escape it; but he can not do it. Drink has undermined his constitution, inflamed his stomach and nerves until the craving must be satisfied. And after you have hoped and then despaired more times than you can count you realize that he must be helped. The diseased condition of the stomach and nerves must be cured by something that will soothe the inflamed stomach and quiet the shaking nerves, removing all taste for liquor.

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