

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

SENSITIVENESS

Time was, I shrank from what was right. From fear of what was wrong; I would not brave the sacred fight, Because the foe was strong.

But now I cast that finer sense And sorer shame aside; Such dread of sin was indolence, Such aim at Heaven was pride!

So, when my Saviour calls, I rise, And calmly do my best; Leaving to Him with silent eyes Of hope and fear, the rest.

I step, I mount where He has led; Men count my haltings o'er; I know them; yet though self I dread, I love His precept more.

REMEMBER

That it is not work that kills men; it is worry. That if you and your job are not friends, part company.

That the longer you live, if you live right, the less you will think of yourself.

That following the line of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked.

That determination reduces hard work to nothing; procrastination makes hard work out of nothing.

That to keep watching, to keep working, to let the brain and hand go together—that is the secret of success.

That if you divide the mind, you scatter the effort. It is not only necessary to concentrate, but it is necessary to concentrate on one thing at a time.

That the man who is an optimist is usually a success, for his mind is never worrying about the reasons why a thing cannot be done. He doesn't think that way.

Many people miss being efficient because they think that to be so they must be wizards or super-human beings.

Becoming efficient is a process simple to follow and should be practicable to all.

The efficient man is capable because he knows. The inefficient man is incapable because he doubts or fears his knowledge.

Efficiency depends not only upon whether you know or don't, but if you know how well you know it.—The Tablet.

BE LIBERAL WITH PRAISE

Don't be afraid to praise people. It is very well to say that it hurts a boy or man or a woman to praise; there may be those who do their best work without encouragement, but let us remember that nearly all of us who live on this earth are human beings and work best when encouraged.

It is a great mistake not to tell people when you are satisfied with them. If the cook sets before you a dinner fit for a king, tell her so. Don't be too loffy to praise the office boy if his work is commendable. Tell him so.

Do you like to be praised yourself? Then depend upon it the other fellow will like it.

Pour the oil of encouragement on the wheels of progress and watch 'em whirl.

I'm not advocating soft soap or flattery or gush. No one likes to be gushed at, and any fool can tell flattery from the real thing.

But when a man has made a hit with you, tell him so. He may be dead before you can get another chance, or you may die yourself.

It takes quality to appreciate quality, so when you praise a thing to yourself, really offer a compliment to yourself. Doesn't that appeal to you? Will you let all the good things in life pass you by and you as mum as a dead owl?

Wake up, man, watch out for a chance to praise someone; admit to yourself that you like what he has done, and then—tell him so!—Catholic Transcript.

DO THE HARD THINGS FIRST

A successful business man, being asked by a friend how he had managed to climb the ladder so fast, pointed to a neatly framed motto hanging over his desk, reading, "Do the Hard Things First," and said:

"I had been conscious that I was not getting on so well as I should. I was not keeping up with my work; it was burdensome to me. When I opened my desk in the morning and found it covered with reminders of things to be done during the day, I became discouraged. There were always plenty of comparatively easy things to do, and these I did first, putting off the disagreeable duties. Result: I became mentally lazy; I felt an increasing incapacity for my work."

"But one morning I woke up. I took stock of myself to find out the trouble. Memoranda of several matters that had long needed attention stared at me from my calendar. I had been carrying them along from day to day. Fastened with a rubber band were a number of unanswered letters which necessitated the looking up of certain information before replies could be sent. I had tried for days to ignore their presence. Suddenly the thought came to me, 'I have been doing only the easy things. By postponing the disagreeable tasks, my mental muscles have grown flabby. They must get some exercise.' I took off my coat and proceeded to 'clean house.' It

wasn't half so hard as I had expected. Then I took a card and wrote on it, 'Do the hard things first,' and next day I had the line printed, and there it is where I can see it every morning. I assure you, I've been doing the hard things first from that day to this.—Ave Maria.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

"IF ONLY THE MAN WOULD LEAD"

There isn't a boy but wants to grow Manly and true at heart, And every lad would like to know The secret we impart. He doesn't desire to slack or shirk— Oh, haven't you heard him plead? He'll follow a man to play or work if only the man will lead.

Where are the men to lead today, Sparring an hour or two, Teaching the boy the game to play Just as a man would do? Village and slums are calling— come, Here are the boys indeed, Who can tell what they might become if only the man would lead?

Motor and golf and winter sports Fill up the time a lot, But wouldn't you like to feel you'd taught Even a boy a knot?

Country and home depend on you, Character more we need, How can a boy know what to do If there isn't a man to lead? Where are the men to lend a hand? Echo it far and wide, Men who will rise in every land Bridging the great divide. Nation and flag and tongue unite, Joining each class and creed. Here are the boys who would do right, But where are the men to lead? WHAT THE ALTAR BOY SHOULD REMEMBER

Nothing can be small or unimportant which is connected with a dignity the angels covet. The first requisite is punctuality. Who would keep royalty waiting his own convenience?

When one is invited to a dinner party, he dresses, not to gratify his own vanity, but to honor his host.

You recall the fate of one who neglected to clothe himself in the wedding garment. There should be no carelessness or untidiness in the person of the King's page.

Every article worn by the priest when saying Mass has a deep religious significance; so, too, have the garments of the server a special meaning, and are to be treated with the reverent care due to sacred things.

Punctuality and proper attire are only the preparation for public worship—which consists outwardly of reverent attitudes and of adorning and supplicating words placed upon the lips by Holy Church herself.

All this, the altar-boy, in his conspicuous place in the Sanctuary, should consider, and remember especially when making the responses in the Mass.

So great is the care of Holy Church to treat the Word, when He becomes flesh and dwells among us, with proper deference, that she has set apart a language for this purpose. In the house of God our mother tongue is forgotten, and the noble Latin language is used.

Respect for a superior can be shown in no way so manifestly as in the tone and manner of our address. We strive to speak deliberately, grammatically distinctly. With an equal one may use contractions and colloquialisms; but when God is publicly addressed in the language He Himself has chosen each word should be perfectly enunciated, dropping from the lips like beads of gold.

Surely this was one of the ways in which St. John Berchmanns performed his duties perfectly. No unbecoming word, we know, was ever spoken by him. Words have wings, and once they are set free, like wild birds, can never be recalled. "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a door round about my lips," was the prayer of quick-tempered King David, and might well be the prayer for each of us, but most especially of him who serves the priest at the Altar and whose lips utter sacred words.—Selected.

ONE WAY OF DOING A FAVOR

One day in spring a young girl, who had been visiting friends in the country, stepped on one of the electric cars which pass a great railway station. Besides her suitcase and a variety of parcels in all shapes and sizes, she carried a bunch of lilies, the fragrance of which pervaded the car.

A little woman in black sat beside the girl, and she looked at the flowers with eyes that seemed to be looking back into bygone years. In spite of an air of refinement, her dress showed poverty and the girl knew that here was one whose circumstances had been better.

Notwithstanding the wistfulness with which her seat mate looked at the lilies, the girl did not venture to offer them to her. The sensitive pride in every line of the delicate old face forbade it.

But the generous impulse in the kindly young heart was too strong to be thwarted, and in a minute or two the girl had formulated a plan of action. Turning to the old lady and holding up the lilies, she said,

"It seems too bad to bring them so far and then have to throw them away, doesn't it?"

"Throw them away?" the old lady repeated in shocked tones. "My dear, don't think of it."

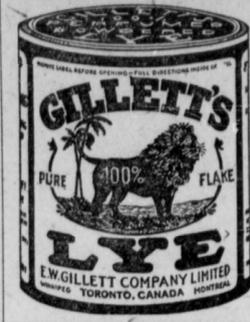
"But I've got so much to carry," said the girl, gravely, though her eyes twinkled under the long lashes. "My cousins came down to the train with me, so I did not mind it much at the end, but when I got off the train here I dropped these things and the brakeman had to pick them up for me. And when I leave this car I don't know how I shall manage it with such a load. Would you mind," she hesitated a minute, "would you care for the lilies? I'd be sorry to bother you with them if it was trouble, but really they're too pretty to throw away."

The old lady took the flowers, looking as if she did not quite know whether she was doing a favor or accepting one, but evidently feeling too delighted to trouble herself over that fine point. And the girl whose tact had been more than a match for the other's pride left the car carrying away a memory even sweeter than the fragrance of the lilies.—Catholic Universe.

THE STRENGTH GIVEN IN HOLY COMMUNION

A certain gentleman went to visit a hospital which was under the care of the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul. During his visit an operation had to be performed on one of the patients, which caused her intense pain, and her cries of anguish resounded throughout the house, rending the hearts of all who heard them. The gentleman could not endure them, and instantly left the ward. The Sisters alone remained calm and firm at the side of the poor woman. "How can these good Sisters stand there so courageously," he asked of the superioress, "when even I, who have strong nerves, cannot endure it any longer?" "Sir," she replied, pointing to the door of the tabernacle in their chapel, "it is there where they get that courage and strength you so much admire. It is Jesus Himself who gives it to them in the Holy Eucharist."

A Protestant minister, who admired the heroism and wonderful success of the Sisters of Charity in caring for the sick and the unfortunate, was desirous of starting similar works of charity. He therefore applied to the superior general of these Sisters for information. The superior general took him through a number of their institutions and gave him all the necessary information and explanations concerning their working. When the minister was about to take his leave, the superior general said to him: "My dear sir, I am sorry to say, you will never succeed." "Why not?" "Because,



although you can imitate the machinery of these institutions, you do not possess the fuel to make it go?" By the fuel she meant Holy Communion, which alone promotes and keeps up the heroism requisite for such works.

There never yet was a fine, pure soul that might not be ruined by evil habits, nor an evil inheritance that might not be sweetened and ennobled by good ones.

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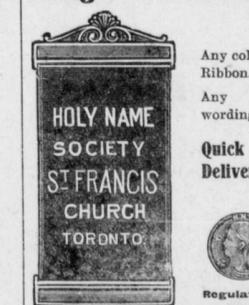
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