

mental rubbish be pushed out of place. It is better, as many parents have learned by sad experience, to keep a boy and a boy's friends under your eyes, than to care for parlor carpets and such like. If it is a question between mere decoration and the boy's presence at home after dark, give the parlor carpet to the poor. This radical measure, however, is not in all cases necessary; boys and their chums are not so very dreadful when you understand them, and they have been known to amuse themselves without chipping the marble-topped table or using the mirrors for foot-balls.

By all means, keep the children at home these winter nights, and bind them together with the Rosary.

What we need above all things in this country is family union, family life. Given cheerful, Christian homes, and there need be no fear for the future of the Church in the United States.

How few fathers are really *heads* of their families nowadays? Children are often so many creatures to be fed and clothed. Everything else is left to the mother. There is no family prayer, no family reading, no family enjoyment. Each member goes and comes as he pleases. Often there is no family meal.

Catholic progress will remain a thing to be talked of, until fathers resume their place of authority and kindly headship. The first step toward this is the nightly saying of the Rosary. It is the chain which binds families closer to the Holy Family.

The family that has the custom of having a chapter of some pious book read out to its assembled members every evening has built a bridge to heaven and put up a barrier against evil. One good thought a day sown in the souls of the members of the same household could not fail to have a harvest of virtue. A chapter of good thoughts a day ought to make saints of those who hear it.

#### DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

This is the summing up of a vast deal of homely wisdom. Do you love any work? Is there anything, if you were independent, you would do before anything else? If there is—do that. There is your success; that way lies all the money, the rewards; the respect of others, all the real honest happiness you will ever find. Boys make a mistake in thinking that only the lawyers, doctors and merchants succeed. It is a terrible blunder to leave a trade in which you may make a first-class workman and have a chance to win a home, comfort and independence, to go into a profession you do not love. There is only one end to the road—a life of ill-paid drudgery and failure after all. Look at yourself; you are to yourself the most important personage in the world. Find out what sort of a man you have in the interior. What is your body good for? What sort of a mind have you received? Look at your tools—your hands, your senses, your brain. What will they do best—make shoes or preach a sermon? Choose now according to your tools, according to your love of your work. There is only one fellow who can decide this for you, and he lives in your house.

#### MORAL COURAGE IN DAILY LIFE.

1. Have the courage to tell a man why you refuse to credit him.
2. Have the courage to tell a man why you will not lend him your money.
3. Have the courage to prefer comfort and propriety to fashion in all things.
4. Have courage to discharge a debt when you have the money in your pocket.
5. Have the courage to own that you are poor, and thus disarm poverty of its sting.
6. Have the courage, in providing