

-----  
A pointed Meditation.

First Point.

I looked at a carpenter, nailing one day  
Some weatherboards on, in a workmanlike way,  
And saw that the claw on the hammer he clapped  
To a nail which the moment before he had tapped;  
And, drawing it out, threw it by with a jerk,  
Took another instead, and went on with his work.  
"See," he remarked: "it bent in the driving, and so,  
Lest it make a bad job, to the ground it must go.  
We draw while we're able," he said, with a grin;  
"For we can't pull it out, once we hammer it in."

When the nail had been followed by one that was good,  
I noticed beside it a dent in the wood--  
The mark had been made by the base of the claw  
Through the strong force exerted the bent nail to draw;  
And there the depression, to eyesight quite plain,  
Though twice painted over will doubtless remain.

No marvellous incident certainly; still  
It set me to thinking, as little things will,  
How habits, like nails, be they wrong ones or right,  
Can't be drawn from their places when hammered in tight;  
And though drawn ere they sink to the head, leave behind,  
By their drawing, some traces on body and mind.

-- Thomas Dunn English, in The Ave Maria.

Second Point.

Modern employers are just about as ruthless with warped men as carpenters are with bent nails. Old-fashioned employers take enough interest in their men to straighten out kinks -- if they will straighten; but old-fashioned employers are not so common these days.

Third Point.

God wants Heaven peopled with saints -- and He will have them. God is patient, is kind, is infinitely loving in His care for those of us who will not serve Him; but Christ spoke a parable about a tree that had for three years cumbered the ground without producing fruit and that was fit for nothing but to be cut down and cast into the fire. God will have saints with Him in Heaven -- but He needs no one of us for His purpose.

Why Stop Now?

It is distressing to see how many students are so easily satisfied. The good start made during the Mission is nullified if you reject the graces that are offered now for the year's work. If daily Communion meant much to you during the Mission, why stop now? God is still in Heaven, and you still have your soul to save. Do you have to have sermons on Hell every day to bring you to God? If you have some foolish notion that is keeping you away from the Sacraments, ask a priest about it.

Prayers.

Berard Hodges asks prayers for his sister, who is very ill. Three special intentions