

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

March 31, 1925

Are Seniors the Biggest Fools?

I

"Seniors are the biggest fools spiritually. I'm one; I think I know. I have stayed away from Communion for weeks at a time, and fell for most temptations. When I wake up and start back I can overcome any temptation and lead a good life. Holy Communion is the greatest force for good in the world."

II.

"Why are fellows fools to the extent of thinkin that they know more than their confessors? I have nothing but the highest respect for the real man of Notre Dame and nothing but contempt for myself and the way I have ignored my opportunities. However, I can never bring myself to go to confession until I am certain that I have things arranged for the future."

III.

Our Lord's answer to that predicament was, "Thou fool, this night thy soul is required at thy hands." You don't know that you are going to sin again; and you do know that right now your will is dead set against sin. The purpose of amendment is an act of the will: you are confusing it with a judgment that you will sin again, if past experience repeats itself. For goodness' sake, take your confessor's advice for once.

III.

"Paternal discipline is wrong in principle, because character strengthens under temptation.....I feel myself slipping a little. My girl's companionship keeps me out of company which is not of the best kind. If her influence over me is removed I think I might slip into sin..."

Those half-truths are terribly dangerous---as you can see when two parts of your questionnaire are brought together. It is perfectly true that you can't teach a child to swim without putting him into the water; but would you be savage enough to throw him into deep water without any guards in the spartan hope of improving the race? Paternal discipline does not remove temptation, but it points out and lessens it. You are asking your girl to do for you exactly what you don't want paternal discipline to do for you. Parents are a divine institution: do you want God to abolish them? Soviet Russia does.

IV.

Question proposed for the next Survey: "Are you one of those who can tell the broadest of stories and bandy the filthiest of words and yet salve their consciences after half an hour's talk, by saying, 'Shut up, I am going to Communion.'"

From another senior: "Holy Communion has made me careful of my thoughts and actions. Before I began the practice of frequent Communion, I was often lax in my thought, words and actions. I would let things happen that now are repulsive. I used to be the kind that would laugh loudly at a dirty story or rotten insinuation. Only yesterday I heard a fellow make a degrading remark about a girl, a stranger to me, and I experienced a sickening feeling. I think that's a good sign."

V.

"I am about to leave dear old Notre Dame forever as an active student. During the few remaining weeks of my collegiate career I am firmly resolved to go to Communion daily. Personally, I think the daily Communion here is one of the finest and one of the greatest factors in character building that I have come in contact with. A lot depends upon the individual, of course, but Notre Dame has done its duty in showing the way."

VI.

"I wish I could convince the 'slacker' what he is missing. I am incapable

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of expressing the benefits to be derived from daily Communion. I meet them and feel them always. I always feel at peace with the world, and there seems to be no limit to the graces and benefits derived."

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
Prefect of Religion.