

at will. Come with me and I will show you the ups and downs, the joys and passions of human life. The poets of Rome can lead you through the empty, echoing halls of a vast empire; the philosophers of Greece will show you their concepts of life, and their ideas of the universe.

"But perhaps you are weary of travel; maybe your heart is heavy? Here in the poet's corner are friends experienced in the art of refreshing the weary. Bobby Burns will sing immortal songs of his bonny country over the sea; or perhaps Wordsworth or Tennyson will cast on you his magic spell. You may be carried to the land of the lotus-eaters, or sail to the very ends of the earth. Yours is the privilege of entering the virgin forests with the pioneers of your young country; you can see Canada grow up with them and listen to their songs.

"Great men of all ages can speak to you in the common language of faith. Here unrolled is the wonderful drama of the birth of the Church. You may listen to the Teacher of Galilee, and see His word flower and spread down through the years—ever fresh, ever the same, something that does not change."

The voice gradually faded to a slow tick-tocking, and Jack stirred and looked about the friendly room. The books seemed to be inviting him to lose himself in distant places. He could understand now why his grandfather found so much comfort there. When the present means less and less, and one lives more and more in the future and in the past, then this is the proper retreat—the library.

—JOSEPH KANE '50.

TOMORROW-ISM

"Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today." So goes the adage, and ever since the time that it was first expressed, there have been people who have done their best to follow its teaching; also, there have been those who have gone the opposite way, and have developed to the minutest detail the art—shall we call it—of "putting things off."

Those happy-go-lucky people who always leave things till tomorrow are occasionally termed lazy by those who are continually doing things today. But let's follow one of these "tomorrow" individuals and see for ourselves that it is he rather than the "today" character who has a truly adventuresome spirit, an optimism, and a philosophy of life which makes every one else's actions seem dull indeed.

"After all," he or she reasons, "why not put off till tomorrow what I can do today? In the first place, just because an old proverb says so, it doesn't mean that I have to follow it. It hasn't been made law yet, and until it is, I'll have nothing to do with it." You see what spirit he's showing!—a slightly rebellious one it's true, but spirit nevertheless.

Then from a different angle, he will convince you of his stand by saying, "I like to leave things till the last minute; it's exciting to watch the hours slip by, and then at the very last minute to race about and do things in a mad rush. I like to see just how close I can come to not getting a job done on time; and besides it impresses people." Don't you see the adventuresome spirit—that reckless sense of dare-deviltry which shows itself in our "tomorrow" friend?

Again he may argue: "If I leave it till tomorrow, I'll make a better job of it because I'll have more time then, and besides I'll feel more energetic," or, "If I leave it long enough . . . I might even get by without having to do it at all." See how conscientious and optimistic he is.

Finally our friend reasons that the word "tomorrow" lets him out anyway; it provides a foundation for his policy of leaving things till some vague future date. "After all, when you come right down to facts, when is tomorrow?" he questions. "If I do a thing today, am I not really doing it tomorrow? For, since today is the tomorrow of yesterday, I can't do it today. Therefore, I'll leave it till tomorrow, and when tomorrow comes, it's no longer tomorrow but today; and so, I'm forced to leave it till tomorrow's tomorrow . . ." You see, he's a philosopher as well as an adventurer and an optimist.

But away with generalities, and away with our prototype for putting things off! Let us now consider a few means of attaining that happy slant on life, and allow us to tell you how you may acquire those habits which will make people apply to you the rather envitable title of "tomorrowite."

In the first place be firm with yourself, especially if you already have the annoying habit of doing things promptly and on the dot. You can loosen the hold this habit may have on you by a studied carelessness in trivial things. One of the easiest ways to start is by reforming the relationship which exists between you and your time-piece, be it a wrist watch or an alarm clock. Up to this point, you have been meekly obeying the dictates of one or other of these devices. A bell rings, and you feverishly grab your coat and head for the nearest exit; the alarm goes off, and you obediently leap to muffle its clamor.

Now there is nothing wrong with a bell or a clock as long as one doesn't take them too seriously, or become their willing slaves.

It's interesting to know, for example, that at a particular bell it's approximately eight-thirty-five. But, as for jumping into action at the first gong of a bell or of an alarm clock—why that's sheer nonsense. It's too much like taking orders, and that is one of the few things that a "tomorrow-ite" refuses to take. So then, lessen your devotion to your alarm clock. When it blares at you in the early morning stillness, give it the cold shoulder. Let it have the last word, and then you can ignore it completely. After this quarrel, in which you have shown **your** aggressiveness, get up if you feel like it. You may have to put on an extra burst of speed to get wherever you are going on time, or you may even be late, but that is not important. You have made an honest effort towards attaining that freer, easier pattern of living—"tomorrow-ism."

A second field in which you can experiment in reforming your habits is the rather familiar one of class assignments. Let's suppose you are given an important one which is to be duly submitted at the end of two weeks. Restrain your zeal. Stop being one of those eager types who start research on the very day the assignment has been mentioned, and please don't be one of those students who are continually bothering Librarian for books on the subject, and who interrupt their neighbor's day-dream by asking questions about it in class. Instead, just think about it long enough to realize rather vaguely that you've been given an assignment, and that it's due in about two weeks. Keep that realization deep in the sub-conscious until there are only two days left for you to accomplish your task. It's almost time to commence working now; so, at the point where you know you can barely get it done on time, start moving!

If you get panicky at the last minute, so much the better: it will make your hand-writing more distinctive. After you've finished, you'll begin to feel a deep sense of pride in your ability to post-pone things, and those last few hours or so—weren't they exciting? With three or four such exhibitions of efficiency, the habit is firmly established. Your professor will love this sort of thing, and your fellow students will come to regard you in an entirely new light—one of admiration for your dashing method of meeting a dead-line.

The same method can be applied in the preparation for examinations. Here is a real chance for you as a student to show how brave you are. You can demonstrate your bravery by leaving the greater part of review till the night before the test. Such a practice will keep you so busy at the last minute that not a second will be had for worry—a disturbance which often accompanies imminent threat of examinations, and consumes valuable time. Again, such recent review will have so fixed things in your memory that you will have merely to start writing, and they will reveal themselves to you; and the finished paper will indeed be a revelation to your examiner.

Do not, however, confine your experiments in "tomorrow-ism" to your studies alone. Bring it into other activities as well. In fact, you cannot call yourself a true "tomorrow-ite" until your every action is affected to some extent by its practices. Consider such exacting tasks as letter-answering, bill-paying and visits to one's dentist—in all of these there is almost limitless scope for experiments in our easy policy of putting things off.

But the final test of your worthiness to remain among the true adherents of "tomorrow-ism" lies in the new attitude you adopt towards the all too familiar, but nevertheless necessary, activity of train-catching. This, considered in the light of our new creed, can take on an entirely new aspect. How stimulating can be a half mile dash in competition with a moving train which has a head start! And the excitement varies with the number of spectators and with the importance of your journey on this particular train. Life can never become dull, nor can your good sportsmanship ever be questioned, if you take up this fascinating pastime of pursuing trains. Its chief merit lies, perhaps, in the fact that it is one of the best known ways of appealing to the emotions of your fellow-travellers, and of establishing a friendly bond between you. For who can watch a late-comer race briskly along a station platform and not applaud his success or sympathize with him in his failure at getting aboard? In the light of "tomorrow-ism", how dull appears the old habit of being at a railway station minutes ahead of time, and how wasteful to spend the best hours of one's life waiting for a thing which never waits a second for you.

So, don't you see why you must never, under any circumstances, fall into the deadly routine of being on time for trains; or, why you should ever, in fact, do anything on time?

Since it is not hard to understand, and since you have come this far, the rest is easy. You have merely to make a start in following the advice given. But should you begin right now? Definitely not! You'll feel much more like doing it later on and besides, there will be lots of time . . . tomorrow.

—MARY O'SHEA '49.