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HIGHEST AWARD ST. LOUIS, 1904.

ers laughed at a story of Clay's, he was thinking. "She is, perhaps, singing now. See looks so sweet when she sings. And then old Torrance will come in and Egbert with their violins; and she will play the accompaniment and turn her head to smile at them when the harmony charms her." Then a surge of anger went through him, remembering the defiant "I am going to Schneider's."

Her husband had suddenly remembered that it was Isabel's custom, of an afternoon coming uptown, to stop for a few moments at a church near here, always open in the daytime. The sexton lived next door.

"She is so tall and fair," he thought, "the man might remember seeing her." He knocked him up, and he proved to be an old fellow, garrulous and amiable. He was interested at once.

"A very tall young lady, with light brown hair? Did she have on a little green hat, with a wing? Yes? Why, he did notice her, for she brushed against him in the vestibule, and said, 'Excuse me.' She came in time for Benediction, but he did not see her again. Locked in! Impossible, sir. Never did such a thing in my life. But to satisfy you—dear, dear, I do not blame you—at such an hour!"

He fumbled about the keys and a box of matches. A side door swung open, and a gas jet in the vestibule was lighted. Another in the church faintly discovered the light arched ceiling and the pillars, a picture here and there; the dim sanctuary lamp in front of the far altar. Their low voices sounded hollow in their unpeopled vastness.

"There is no one here, you see," said the sexton; and just then a figure stirred in a pew, and Keith saw Isabel, and gave a great sob of relief.

"She came to him, shivering slightly, but with a brave attempt at a smile. 'Do not mind,' she said, at the sexton's consternation, 'it was a little cold, but I have slept, I think, once or twice. It was my own fault, not noticing when the church was closed. I did not expect to get out before it was opened again for first Mass.'

She could not trust herself to meet her husband's eyes; nor could he speak in the few moments before they reached the carriage and Egbert. The latter's amazement was veiled under his usual serene practicality.

"All's well that ends well," said he. "I am glad your abstraction was devotional. But, Isabel, there is a time for prayer, and a time for dinner. Well, good-morning, for it is four o'clock. Try something hot before you go to bed."

She tremled more violently as her husband helped her up the steps, and inside the hall her strength failed utterly. He lifted her in his arms, carried her along the passage to their room, and laid her on a lounge, gently removing her hat and gloves. A glass of wine stilled the chattering of her teeth; and then she broke into heavy sobs, her hands pressed to her face.

"My poor child," he whispered, gently. "It was early," she whispered brokenly, "when I came from Ridge street—where I only went to be hateful to you—as I had already been. Then I was so unhappy, I could not stay at mother's—and then the cattle loose on Broadway—I saw one gore a horse; I ran down Nineteenth street to the church and went in, and was afraid to come out until all was quiet. And praying in a dark corner—to be better—did not notice anything until I found myself locked in the church. But there was the sanctuary lamp, and I wouldn't have minded, but thinking of you—Norman—Norman!" His arms were around her. "Dearest, have you begun to believe my wedding outfit hired?—when such little matters could make trouble between us?"

"No more than my own, sweet-heart. Where were the loving patience and manly consideration I counted on in myself? Hired, surely for they had vanished at the first touch. But do not talk any more now. You are worn out with this day and night."

"Yes, one thing more," she whispered, with tremulous lips. "I thought—in the church—that I would, after this, acquire some qualities that might endure."

"My sweet soul," he answered, drawing her nearer with a very tender laugh. "while you acquire them—think of me, as one not past praying for, at least."—Jeanie Drake in the Catholic World.

Is It Worth While

It is worth while to fret and worry because certain things have been denied you, when you could scarcely enumerate your blessings if you tried? Better spend the time in endeavoring to cultivate a grateful, happy spirit, and the sunshine that wells up in your heart will overflow and come back to you in a thousand ways. Is it worth while to make yourself miserable if others speak ill of you and attribute your actions to wrong intentions? Their judgment, after all is feeble and may vary with the wind. Learn to live in a beautiful, calm, atmosphere of religion and high ideals and the ill-natured words of others will scarcely be heeded by you. Is it worth while to look with envious eyes upon the possessions of your neighbor, when by rejoicing in his good fortune, you become, to a certain extent, a sharer in it? Is it worth while to let the little, petty annoyances of every day sour

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your disposition and make you a burden to others? If you have learned to smile when the meat is tough or the cook leaves unexpectedly, you are pretty sure to leave a happy home. A man may overlook a bad dinner occasionally, but he grows weary of a frowning face.

Is it worth while to be discouraged because you have failed in some undertaking? Success comes only to the brave of heart and after repeated effort. If we work for an object and long for it with all our hearts, it will most probably come to us, though seldom at the time or in the manner we expected, and should it never come "this trail life is not our final rest."

Is it worth while to say unkind things to others, when by doing so, we injure ourselves more than we do them? Better a word of pity for a fallen brother, since we know not but that we may share his fate.

In a word, is it worth while to stoop to gather thorns and thistles, when fragrant flowers are beckoning to us from tree and hedge; but we must reach up to gather them; they will not come down to us.

Our Lady Without Sin

Of old, of old, in Galilee, A little maiden dwelt, Whose blessed soul the bitterness Of sin had never felt; Her heart was like the lily buds That open to the sun; Aye, fairer than the fairest flower God ever smiled upon. To her the Holy Spirit came, And dwelt that heart within, To make her His own chosen Bride, Our Lady without sin.

Of old, of old, to Bethlehem, When winter winds blew wild, A Virgin Mother came to seek A birthplace for her Child; The little town was full of folk, Of bustle and of stir, But, weary-worn and travel-spent, There was no room for her. She turned her to the rocky cave, Both dark and damp within, And there—her Blessed Son she bore, Our Lady without sin.

Of old, of old, on Calvary, Stood Mary, full of grace; Close to the Cross where Jesus hung, And looked up in His face. Full tenderly our Lord bent down Toward her who gave Him birth, Then placed her in the hands of him He loved the best on earth, So that disciple took her thence, To dwell his home within, And she became our Mother dear, Our Lady without sin.

Above, above, in Paradise, That city of God's peace, Where evil cannot enter in, Where sorrow hath no succour; The silver mirror beneath her feet, Our Lady sits as Queen, Crowned with a starry diadem And clad in glorious sheen. God grant us of His blessed grace, An entrance there to win, That we may see her face to face, Our Lady without sin.

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