

THE CROP OF ACORNS

There came a man in days of old
To hire a piece of land for gold,
And urged his suit in accents meek
"One crop alone is all I seek;
The harvest o'er my claim I yield,
And to its lord resign the field."

The owner some misgivings felt,
And coldly with the stranger dealt;
But found his last objection fail,
And honeyed eloquence prevail;
So took the proffered price in hand,
And for "one crop" leased out the land.

The wily tenant sneered with pride,
And sowed the spot with acorns wide.
At first like tiny shoots they grew,
Then broad and wide their branches threw,
But long before these oaks sublime,
Aspiring reached their forest prime,
The cheated landlord passed away,
Forgotten with his kindred clay.

O ye whose years, unfolding fair,
Are fresh with youth and free from care,
Should vice or indolence desire
The garden of your souls to hire,
No parley hold—reject the suit,
Nor let one seed the soul pollute.

My child, the first approach beware,
With firmness break the insidious snare.
Lest, as the acorns grew and throve
Into a sun-excluding grove,
Thy sins, a dark, overshadowing tree,
Put out the light of heaven from thee.

BEAUTY.

It is wonderful how the love of the beautiful springs spontaneously in the heart of every girl in her right senses. I doubt if ever there was a girl who did not long to possess beauty, who did not study her own face to see if the germ of beauty did not lurk there.

Each one found her answer, and some not what they hoped for; but perhaps they did not see the hidden graces that yet may transform the plain face, and make it beautiful.

It is better to be very homely, girls, than vain; a lovely spirit shown in all the duties of life is better than beauty of form and face only.

These two kinds of beauty should go hand in hand. One cannot possess a loving heart, and a true spirit, and an alert mind, and not in some way have their impress written upon the face.

Your nose may be pug, irretrievably so, your mouth large, your eyes not the colour or size you wish, or be at

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cross purposes with each other; but you can be so kind and gentle, so willing to help all about you, that nobody could describe you as homely.

I will tell you a secret; for all do not know it, or they would live up to it better. If you are really loving-hearted (not gushing or insipid), you open out such a broad scope for life that others forget, and you forget yourself, that you are plain.

If there is a mother to see you live this beautiful life, she will be prouder of you than she would be of the fairest daughter whose face, though beautiful, was written all over with the marring lines of selfishness.

If there is no mother to smile approval, if there isn't any real home, if you are a working girl without either, then it is very sad. To be motherless



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and homeless is pitiful. I cannot bear to dwell upon it; and yet if there is no one to care for and protect you, there is the more reason for you to be watchful over yourself.

Be careful about your young girl companions, and choose some girl of your own age, and in your own station in life, who needs just what you do—some one to think of and care for.

Some make light of girl friendships and girl confidantes; but for a girl who has neither mother nor sister to confide in, a worthy girl friend is a source of great comfort, and may, perhaps, be the unconscious means of keeping her in right paths.

In studying girls, I am often much surprised how little useful service they render their mothers; and this, for

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every girl in her own home, ought to be her first duty.

If no servants are kept, do the daughters take their share of the household tasks? Do they take some care and relieve the mother of this part of the work? Sometimes the mother is to blame if the girls are not helpful.

One mother said to me: "I never taught my girls to work; I couldn't

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