

## Keep Sweet.

The very words will help you. Think of them when people rasp you, when your own sensitive, self-willed spirit chafes and frets; let a gentle voice be heard above the strife, whispering "Keep sweet—keep sweet!" And, if you will but heed it quickly, you will be saved from a thousand falls and kept in perfect peace.

True you cannot keep yourself sweet, but God will keep you if He sees that it is your fixed purpose to be kept sweet, and to refuse to fret or grudge or retaliate. The trouble is, you rather enjoy a little irritation and morbidness. You want to cherish the little grudge and sympathize with your hurt feelings, and nurse your little grievance, and justify yourself a little. And so God lets you have your way. So you eat your little roll, and, after one taste of sweetness in your mouth, lo! it is as bitter as wormwood and gall, and there is a scar upon your soul and a cloud upon your sky, and a sad sense in your spirit of a lost opportunity of wearing a jewel for your crown, and scoring a victory for faith and love.

A friend once asked the writer why God did not always give her victory of perfect love, and he answered her by asking if she always really wanted to love, and if, on the contrary, she did not sometimes rather prefer to dislike some people, or, at least, to gratify her instinctive desire "to give them a piece of her mind." She sadly confessed it was true.

Dear friend, God will give you all the love you really want and honestly choose. You can have your grievance, or you can have the peace that passeth all understanding; but you cannot have both.

There is a balm for a thousand heart-aches, and heaven of peace and power in these two little sugar-coated pills, which the reader can have for nothing.

## The Place to Put Riches.

"You'll help, Rufus, of course, won't you? All the boys intend to lend a hand, which in this case means giving money."

"I would if I could afford it, but indeed I've got to keep all I can earn and all I can get this summer. There's something special I want to do."

The boys in Mr. Carson's class were collecting a little sum to buy some comforts for a sick comrade. Mr. Carson heard the talk between Rufus and Ralph, and it troubled him. He had heard from others that Rufus was bent upon being a rich man, and had even now begun to hoard his earnings, hoping to have a certain sum in the bank by a given time. He was getting an anxious look in his face, and showed in various small ways that he was carrying some sort of a weight.

Hoping to help Rufus without speaking to him directly, Mr. Carson gave

out this subject for the next monthly meeting of the class club, which was an institution much prized, with its informal discussions:

"The place for money—what position should it hold? How important is it, and what should we do with it?"

There was an animated discussion, you may be sure, and a helpful one too, but you shall not be treated to the full minutes of the meeting. As his contribution to the discussion, Mr. Carson read from an old, old book, words written by one Thomas Taylor, in the seventeenth century:

"When a man takes a heavy trunkful of plate, or money, it makes him stoop, but if the same weight be put under his feet, it will lift him from the ground. In like manner, if we put our wealth above us, it will press us down; but, under our feet, it will lift us toward heaven."

"How this voice," continued Mr. Carson, "rings out from the long ago! Let us take heed, boys, that we keep riches in the right place. They are to rise by, not to stagger under. Make stepping-stones of them, not weights."

## Manliness.

There is nothing in Christianity incompatible with the highest and truest manliness. This needs to be emphasized, for there is an opposite idea quite prevalent which keeps many out of the kingdom. One can fully carry out all the precepts of Christ when they are properly understood without being a weak, colorless, inoffensive, insignificant sort of a stick who submits to be trodden upon and kicked about without limit.

There is no call for us to abdicate our common sense in seeking to become wholly consecrated. Reason need not be sacrificed at the shrine of superstition. A true Christian is not a "worm," but the noblest style of a man. There is nothing mean, or fawning, or cringing, or crawling, about him. He is the child of the King. He stands up straight. He has plenty of backbone. He gives his opinion, if called for, with emphasis. He has pluck in abundance, and plenty of spirit. He can flame forth against wrong, and blast it with the hot lightning of his hate.

Manliness does not at all consist in touchiness, or sensitiveness to a slight, or inability to bear a gibe. It is not the same as hotheadedness. Still less has it any connection with obstinacy, or bravado, or haughty insolence and superciliousness. These things are elements of cowardice, not bravery. The bully is never a hero.

True Christian manliness enables a man to be firm without being mulish, to respect himself and yet be free from pride, to be temperate in all things, to speak the truth, to be strong and independent. It endows him with that

moral courage so shamefully lacking in most of those who take their ideal of manliness from worldly sources alone. The devout, the godly, fortified against all temptation by established Christian principle, is the only one who can properly lay claim to genuine manliness.

## Courtesy

Oftentimes we fail to realize the influence of a kind word, a bright smile or an attentive action. An old white-haired gentleman recently said that he would always remember with what pleasure he once received a smile and a few courteous words from a young lady on one of the crowded ferry-boats. He had asked for directions as to how he should go on reaching the other side, expecting the brief, somewhat cold answer which strangers so often receive. But the young girl's frank smile and the ready way in which she gave him minute directions made him feel, as he afterward said, as though he had met a friend.

It is hardly likely that we shall be ready with kind words and considerate acts when the opportunities come as suddenly as they must come in railroad cars or on street crossings, unless we are habitually thoughtful of the feelings of those around us. People may safely judge us by our conduct on these unexpected occasions.

A few days since a middle-aged lady was coming out of a store in one of our large cities. The rain was pouring in torrents and the wind was blowing a gale, so that she found some difficulty in attempting to open the storm-door and at the same time raise her umbrella. Suddenly the door was pushed open by a strong arm, the umbrella raised and placed in her hand, and, with a polite lifting of his hat, a young man passed on before her.

If young people would stop to think how many traits of character may be shown by a single word or action, the kind deeds and gentle words would become more frequent in our busy every-day life.

Hood's Sarsaparilla, taken at this season, will make you feel strong and vigorous and keep you from sickness later on.

## Lessons from a Car Window.

It is a great thing to be able to do a little thing for one's neighbour. The greatness is not in the deed, but in the thoughtful and willing spirit that prompts it. This same spirit lies back of big deeds and little ones alike, and it can be cultivated for all-sized deeds by the doing of little ones. There are persons who will "rise to great occasions," to whom the lesser occasions are invisible as opportunities. We grow, not so much by waiting for the

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great occasions, as by taking the opportunities daily afforded by the little ones. A young lady who took her seat on the sunny side of a railway car, was observed to turn and look at the person back of her once or twice, and then she said, "Does this sun annoy you?" The sun shone obliquely through her window back into her neighbour's face. But how many persons look to see whether the sun that comes through their window annoys any one but themselves? The average rider acts as if he thought the sun and the wind extended no further than to himself. A car window is a good place to practice that thoughtful regard for ones' neighbour which will strengthen the spirit and enlarge the capacity for doing deeds that are larger and more heroic.

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