

It takes great love to stir a human heart
To live beyond the others and apart.
A love that is not shallow—is not small,
Is not for one or two—but for them all.
Love that can wound love for its higher need;
Love that can leave love—though the heart may bleed;
A love that asks no answer, that can live,
Moved by one burning, deathless force—to give.
Love, strength and courage: Courage strength and love
The heroes of all time are built thereof.

—Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Crusts and Crumbs

By Albert Ernest Stafford.

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AS a Nation we do not possess great mentality. We discourage anything original or heterodox, and glory in our average development and attainments. As a result we have an undue development of snobs, for those who find themselves different from the average are thrust into a separate class, to be worshipped or abused, instead of being counted into the average, and permitted to modify its mediocrity. It is no disgrace to be of the average, and one may conceivably be proud of such average stature. The evil comes when one is proud of not being something better. I hear people boasting that they do not like Wagner, and cannot bear Shaw, and loathe Whitman. The flour is very good, but when it objects to the leaven which makes it bread, it is trespassing on account of ignorance, for which there is only one cure, and the cure must be accepted voluntarily. These truisms are always necessary in stereotyped and conventional communities where the majority of people live as they do and think, when they do think, because their fathers did so before them. Perhaps my own sympathies are too much with the leaven, the yeast of the spirit that is hid in the three measures of body, soul and mind, which is to leaven our social flour into good wholesome community bread. But what I want to emphasize is the fact that the leaven exists. Small in quantity though it may be, it will effect its purpose. And we have all to determine whether we belong to the leavening principle or to the material that is incapable of being leavened.