

THE BEST WE CAN.

When things don't go to suit us,
Why should we fold our hands
And say "No use in trying—
Fate baffles all our plans?"
Let not your courage falter,
Keep faith in God and man,
And to this thought be steadfast
"I'll do the best I can."

If clouds blot out the sunshine
Alone the way you tread,
Don't grieve in hopeless fashion
And sigh for brightness fled.
Beyond the clouds the sunlight
Shines in the eternal plan,
Trust that the way will brighten
And do the best you can.

Away with vain repinings,
Sing songs of hope and cheer,
Till man's weary course
Grows strong of heart to bear.
He who sings over trouble
Is apt the wisest man.
He can't help what has happened,
But—do the best he can.

So, if things won't go to suit us,
Be never fume and fret;
For finding fault with fortune
Ne'er mended matters yet.
Make the best whatever happens,
Bear failure like a man;
And in good or evil fortune
Do just the best you can.

The Story of Nelly.

"Strawberries! Strawberries! Strawberries! All ripe, all ripe! Two boxes for twenty-five cents!"
I had heard the harsh, monotonous cry of the strawberry man a dozen times that June day, but this man's voice attracted my immediate attention. It was such a full, round voice, with none of the singsong quality of most men of the class. In fact it was quite musical, and he sang rather than called out the words. When I stepped to the open window the man lifted his hat respectfully, and said: "Any strawberries to day, ma'am?"

I noticed that he was walking along by the side of his little old wagon, and that a little girl sat on the seat driving the slow-moving old white horse hitched to the wagon. The child had on a shabby, brown straw hat with a band of faded ribbon, and a faded and patched, but clean, calico dress. She seemed to be about twelve years old. When I appeared at the window her father turned to her and said: "Stop a minute, Nelly."

She reined up the horse and her father took a box of the berries from the wagon and came toward me. He was an honest looking man and neater in personal appearance than most men of his class.

"They ain't the best of berries, ma'am," he said, "but they're the best I could get in market to day."

"It is an honest man," I said to myself, and I said aloud to him, "You have a driver, I see."

"Yes'm," he replied, glancing smilingly toward the wagon, "that's my little girl, Nelly. It's quite a help to have her along to drive the horse. It saves me gittin' out and in so much. She can drive a frigate, and it tickles her to think she's helpin' father."

The little girl seemed to know that we were speaking about her, although she was too far away to hear our words. She turned and looked shyly toward us, and I saw a sound, unburned, solemn looking face under the old brown hat.

When I carried the boxes of berries into the kitchen to empty them, Nelly, the cook, was taking a box of hot sugar cookies from the oven. I put several of them into one of the empty boxes for Nelly and carried them to her father, who was waiting at the door.

"Oh, thank you, ma'am," he said, gratefully, "she'll enjoy them as we go along. It'll be just like her to save the last one of 'em for her ma and Billy, her little brother. She's just that way 'bout things."

"It proves that she has a kindly, generous heart," I said, "tell her that I want her to eat at least two of the cookies herself."

Then I engaged to take twelve boxes of berries for calling on the following day. "I'll have 'em here by nine o'clock, ma'am, and just as good ones as I kin get," he said.

But he did not appear on the following day nor yet on the next.

"I guess he forgot it, or he turned the next corner," said Nelly. "It's the way of them folks, ma'am."

"Something happened to prevent him from keeping his word," I said, stoutly. "He was an honest man, I'm sure of it."

Three days later the rear doorbell rang, and a moment later Nelly came up to my room and said, "It's your berries come, ma'am, but the man didn't bring 'em."

I went down to the door. There stood Nelly with a dozen boxes of very nice, clean berries in a basket at her feet.

"I'm sorry to be so late bringin' 'em, ma'am," she said, with downcast eyes and quivering lip. "I couldn't fetch 'em sooner or later he—she—"

She passed the back of one hand quickly over her eyes before adding, "father, he got killed the day after he was here. There was an accident down to the wharf, a runaway, and father got hurt, so he died 'fore he got 'em home."

"I am very, very sorry," I said, "and you are going to bring berries around in his place?"

"Yes'm. We've got the horse and cart you see, and one of our neighbors peddles berries too, and he helps me about bringin' 'em in the market. He's real kind that way, and I've gone with father so much I know how to sell 'em. I'll bring good berries, ma'am, and give good measure, just as father did."

"I am sure of it," I said, "and you may bring me three boxes every day. I'll speak to my neighbors about you, too. You are a very brave and good little girl."

Every day after that at about nine o'clock, I heard Nelly's sweet, piping voice calling out, "Strawberries! Strawberries! All ripe, all ripe! Strawberries!" It was quite touching to see and hear the brave child, and sympathy for her secured many patrons among those who knew her sorrowful history. When the strawberries were gone she brought raspberries and then melons

and finally grapes. But when the grapes were gone there would be nothing for Nelly to sell.

"I don't know just what I'll do then," she said one day in October when she brought me my daily basket of grapes. "Father used to buy up rags and bottles and things of that sort, but I'm afraid I couldn't do that; I don't know what I'm going to do."

Her grave, womanly face wore a troubled look as she added, "I might get a place as cash girl in the store mother sews for, but it'd take about all I'd make for my fare and the cheapest of clothes, and it takes all mother makes for the rent and fuel. I've got to do something."

Three days later she asked to see me particularly when she brought my grapes.

"I thought I'd like to say good by, ma'am, and thank you for your kindness to me," she said. "This is the last time I'll be 'round. Mother's brother, who lives on a farm out in Kansas, has sent for us to come out there and live, and we're going right away. Ma thinks 'the West will be good for her weak lungs, and I think it'll be beautiful to live in the country. It was very kind and good of Uncle William to send for us, wasn't it?"

"Yes, it was," I replied, "and I am glad for you, and if I knew your uncle William I would write and tell him that he had a little niece coming to live with him of whom he might well be proud. Can you write, Nelly?"

"Some, ma'am," she replied, with a blush, "but not very good, but uncle says there is a good school near his farm and maybe I can go to it."

"I hope you can," I said, "and I want you to write and tell me all about your new home. I'll give you a card with my name and address on it, and I shall be anxious to hear from you."

"I'll do the best I can, ma'am, but it won't be very good writin' nor spellin', but I'll write the best I can."

And that was the last time we heard Nelly's sweet, clear voice calling her wares on our street and I, for one, missed her sorely.

Her cheerfulness and courage often silenced my own repinings and my life of ease and plenty, and I and others on our street learned many a lesson from little Nelly Wade.

One day, early in the following spring, the postman brought me a letter in a bright yellow envelope with the stamp in the wrong corner and the address zigzagged across the envelope in blue ink. I knew it was from Nelly the moment I saw the Kansas postmark. This was what she wrote:

Dear friend: I take my Pen in hand to let you know that I have not forgot my Promise to write but I have put off doing so until I could write better. We got here all safe and sound. Uncle Will went to the Deeps to meet us and fetch us out to the farm where Aunt Mary made us all welcome. Aunt Mary is such a kind and good lady and so is Uncle Will. They have not got any children and ma sez they are spoiling me and little Billy. They give us 3 rooms in there house and we keep house but we tote together Most of the time and always on Sundays. We have a cow and 2 pigs and so we keep our own and frute in Abundance and I go to school and to Sunday school. Ma's health is so well here. Her cof is gone and little Billy is so rozy and fat and—well, I think Kansas a beautiful country. We keep both in the line and so we are happy but I have not forgot you nor one who was so kind when I peddled berries and grapes and I wish you all well and if you should ever come to this country we would love to see you. You know the Calike Trade Uncle Will and I and so with best respects and love I am and in this spirit he passed away.

With the accusing face of his dead friend before him, and the sob of the heart-broken child, Philip realized fully the terrible wrong he had inflicted upon that one who was now beyond the reach of tears or prayers. Too late the helping hand had been extended, and no matter how deep and honest his repentance, it could not restore the dead to life, nor give back the hope and faith he had so cruelly destroyed.

S. S. Times.

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Too Much Hurry.

We of to day live in a quick frenzied hurry. We care never go quickly enough; we are forever discovering short cuts to reform, improvement, and happiness in general, and straightway plunging headlong into them; and when one after the other proves to be an impasse, we hastily turn aside and look for a new one. There is plenty of time in the land, if we rush to discover a means to make all men rich. Somebody or other offers to do it for us, if we will but give him so many thousands of pounds and our full confidence. "Quick, give him the money," is the cry, and a host of indignant voices raised against those who propose to stay our hand and reflect. There are too many public houses. We are far too impatient to live the life ourselves, and watch the gradual improvement of our race, we long to push them on by the hand, to goad them on in the path of virtue with acts of Parliament.

And the same with our expressions of opinion; we rush in the wildest haste to deliver them, to administer praise or blame. If any man be accused, he is hurried into the pillory and roasted before he has time to utter a word of defence; if any one please us he is hailed as a hero, and loaded with honors and adulations even before we know exactly what it is that he has done—the result being that we are constantly making ourselves ridiculous; a result that matters less than the time we never really leave ourselves time to contemplate the ludicrous figure that we cut. In our private life we are in no way better. We have never time to enjoy to-day, because we are always living to-morrow; and when to-morrow comes it finds us, and our attention fixed on the day after. Too soon we rejoice; too soon we are deposed; and we are forever either in the extreme or the other. Too soon we pour out our complaints in the newspapers, too soon we bring accusations against our neighbors, too soon we try to push ourselves into the front ranks, even too soon do we wish to enjoy the fruits of the earth. The forced strawberry and the too early asparagus are typical of our hurrying appetite. How much more comfortable and pleasant a place the world would be if we were only content to hurry less and enjoy more.—The Spectator.

Alex. Stephen, senr., Esq. of Halifax says: I answered some letters with asthma and bronchitis, accompanied with great nervous exhaustion; and using three bottles of Putnam's Emulsion was completely revived, and perfectly free from either asthma or bronchitis, and my nervous system much invigorated

Undoing a Wrong.

The homely truth that it is much more easy to do than undo a wrong, had striking application in the recent death scene of a young man, who, through the influence of a college friend, had been led into infidelity.

Philip Standish always said that it was the inconsistencies of professing Christians that shipwrecked his faith; that if they had all been like his mother, he would never have wandered so far out of the way. Be that as it may, when he entered the junior class in a Western college he took his skeptical views with him, and though he did not intrude his belief upon others, he was very free to express his opinion when the occasion seemed to demand it.

He was a genial, whole-souled fellow, and his fine social qualities soon gave him a very undesirable influence over the students with whom he associated. His room-mate, Hugh Edie, a young man of great promise, who had entered college with the ministry in view, was fascinated by his brilliancy, and soon fell prey to his false logic. Young Edie had been reared in a Christian home, and had never read an infidel book, or heard the Christian religion assailed, until, gradually, Philip began to undermine his faith by ridiculing the Bible. At first he was shocked at the young man's irreverence, then he began to listen unasily to his arguments, and finally he was led to abandon his God and embrace infidelity.

After completing his college course, Hugh turned his attention to business, and amidst the hurry and bustle of city life soon forgot the sorrow and disappointment he had caused his widowed mother.

A year or two after Philip left school, during a wonderful revival in his native town he was hopefully converted. That memorable night, he went to the church for the purpose of criticizing, but before the close of the meeting an arrow of conviction had pierced his heart, and he who had gone to mock, remained to pray. So deep was his feeling of responsibility to God, that he immediately gave up the study of the law, and began preparation for the ministry.

Some time after this, while he was still a student in the divinity school, Hugh Edie was injured in a railroad accident, and, at his earnest request, was carried back to his mother's home, to die.

Having heard of the wonderful change that had taken place in Philip Standish, Hugh's mother telegraphed to him to come to her dying boy, and try to undo the wrong he had done him.

Philip obeyed the summons; and when he entered the death chamber, the sufferer looked wildly up into his face, and gasped, "Philip, you taught me how to live, now show me how to die."

Acknowledging the wrong he had done, Philip attempted to point him to the Lamb of God; but, with a scornful gesture, the dying youth stopped him, and, with a look of intense earnestness, said, "You destroyed my faith, and took away my hopes of heaven; now point out the comforts that infidelity has in store for a dying man."

With deep emotion, Philip assured him that there were none, and again offered to him to give himself up to Jesus, whose blood could cleanse from all sin.

With a look of agony upon his white face, Hugh turned away, crying, "I will not be so mean as to come back to God and have him give me back my faith; the best years of my life in fighting against him. I will die in the faith. I have lived, cold and cheerless as it is." And in this spirit he passed away.

Taking Mother's Picture.

I was waiting, not a great while ago, in a picture gallery, and after amusing myself looking around on the many faces, old and young, handsome and ugly, that decorated the walls, and resting in my quiet corner, I was roused by a heavy footfall on the stair. The door opened and a young man entered. He had an honest, sunburnt face, on which a smile of quiet satisfaction beamed, and he was wearing the robe of a countryman, his long old lady, neatly but plainly dressed. He led her tenderly, almost reverently, to a chair, and seated her. She seemed quite fatigued and trembled from weakness. The son looked upon her with such genuine affection and honest delight, that I thought I could not to my eyes. Nothing could be more touching or striking than the contrast. He, just on the threshold of life, full of hope and freshness, everything veiling the rose-colored tint of early morning, beaming all the way with her snow-white locks and trembling age, leaning on his strong arm in faithless trust, the time of her departure near at hand, life's toils and labors over, its strife nothing to her.

"Can you take a picture? I hope that you can, for I am so tired and so old, and I don't know if I shall ever get a good one. I don't want to come for fear of being so blind and old you couldn't make a picture of her. Please try your best, sir, for you see she is my mother and I have plenty of money to pay for a big one. I don't want to take a picture of me to leave with her—you see I have to leave her, sir; I have the living to make now. No more hard days for her old eyes. I am the last one left of seven. Though she says she may not be able to see my picture, she can hold it in her old hands and kiss it and know it is me. Say, mister, if you have to tint either of us, don't tint mother. I feel like I don't like to lose none of her; don't make it too little."

The son was requested to lead his mother into the ante-room. As they retired he was told in his praises to the artist at the success, and the humble little mother, clinging to the strong, manly arm of her boy as she passed out, had a calm, holy expression, as if she already discerned the golden gates of the New

Jerusalem, which she must shortly enter. How gayly he chatted and laughed as they descended the stairs! I could but say "God be with him! Such a tender, loving son."

If you have a feeble old mother, young man? If so, don't hide your love, but, like this bonny boy, let it be seen in every glance of the eye, heard in every tone, felt in every action. This little scene in the picture gallery inspired pure and lovely emotions and enriched my heart with precious memories.

The Old and the New Italy.

BY REV. J. C. BRADY.

The transformation of Italy would almost suffice to make this an epoch-making century had nothing remarkable been done by other countries. One hundred years ago the Italian peninsula was scarcely more, to use Metternich's much commented phrase, than a "geographical expression." It was divided into no less than fifteen kingdoms, and principalities. The most of the head of these political divisions ruled with the arrogance of conscious power, and terrorized the population by their heartless cruelty. The petty Italian aristocracies made the life of the people so hard that many were forced into brigandage through sheer despair. Everywhere were seen the workings of political and social systems akin to the Ancien Regime in France, but often more cruel. Home despotism was but the corollary of the despotism in which Austria held the whole country. To the abuses of political power, compounded municipal absolutism, made more unbearable by local interest and by family feuds. The hostility of the states among themselves, that of the cities, and the lack of a national spirit were the worst features of the Italian condition. Spoilation was common, lawlessness was a matter of course with those in power, and what was worse, the Pope and his high clergy taught that these things were by divine right.

Napoleon brought the people nearer one another, and despotic despotism was still despotism, but the despotism of intelligence is less bad than that of prejudice and self-interest. Much political and municipal evil was driven away by the Napoleonic love of systematization and centralization. Napoleon failed to afford relief in rheumatic cases. Although electricity has only been in use as a remedial agent for a few years, it has cured more cases of Rheumatism than all other means combined.

Our treatment is a mild, continuous galvanic current, as generated by the Owen Electric Belt Battery, which may be applied directly to the affected parts.

WOMEN.

The Owen Electric Belt is par excellence the woman's friend, for its curative effects as a preventive and curative for the many troubles peculiar to her sex. It is nature's cure for all the diseases of women. The following are among the diseases cured by the use of the OWEN ELECTRIC BELT:

Rheumatism, Diseases of the Chest, Neuralgia, Spinal Diseases, Catarrhs, Sexual Exhaustion, Lumbago, General Debility, Nervous Complaints, Kidney Diseases, Liver Complaints, Female Complaints, General Ill-Health.

This movement was, however, favored from without. France helped Italy, and Magneto and Solferino. Though defeated in 1866 by the Austrians, the Italians, on account of their alliance with the Prussians, recovered the Venetian provinces. In 1870 the misfortunes of France enabled them to establish Rome as the headquarters of the Kingdom of Italy. The Italian people, however, were in spirit. In a short time they have passed through the process whereby a people become a nation, with Rome, the city of the Catholic world, as their capital. The Italian society has moved from the aristocratic, past the autocratic, to the democratic stage. Its spirit has changed from the sacerdotal to the secular. The Italians have a good government, giving the people liberty and security. They have a national system of education, important institutions of learning, numerous scientific and literary societies that denote a great progress in the things of the mind. The public men are no longer ignorant slaves who obey the will of a despot, but liberally educated men, with a countryman's heart, and men with a scientific education in politics. Their legislators have endowed the country with an organic system of laws framed in keeping with the spirit of our day and resting upon modern scientific conceptions of man and of the state. Their history and constitution have often caused foreigners to be ashamed on account of the inferiority of their own. They have destroyed clerical oppressions and have proclaimed liberty of conscience. They have now a press, not only able but free. They have reformed the clergy for fourteen years; they have taken the endowments out of the hands of the clergy, who often used them for purposes foreign to the intentions of the givers, and have put the management under the control of the state. They have almost all the known industries, boards of trade and banks. Though they have many poor they have no industrial proletariat. The highways and railways have brought the people together. Brigandage has disappeared, and while in Italy, as in other countries, are still to be found great evils, gross ignorance, appalling corruption, they are the exception where they were once the rule. Some of the results attained do not satisfy idealists. A score of years of national experience has disappointed many too sanguine patriots. The traces of ancient Rome, the countryman's heart, not disappeared, the Roman question is ever prominent, the finances are in a deplorable condition, and yet the fact remains that only one European country has possibly made greater progress than Italy during this century.

There has been a *risorgimento*, real, visible, comforting, not only of Italy as a nation, but also of Italy as a power in Europe. She has come to live of her own life, and to continue a glorious history so long interrupted. She has ceased to be the bone of contention of Europe, and the world, every large minded European man now looks for a throne for a younger son. Her appearance among the Continental powers has brought no complication, and has singularly simplified the diplomatic life of Europe. Both for Italy's sake and for the sake of the world, every large minded European man now looks for a throne for a younger son. Her appearance among the Continental powers has brought no complication, and has singularly simplified the diplomatic life of Europe. Both for Italy's sake and for the sake of the world, every large minded European man now looks for a throne for a younger son.

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Invigorating Syrup,

and one bottle has made a cure of me, for I have not been troubled in the same way since.

Yours truly,

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HUMORS OF THE BLOOD, SKIN, AND SCALP, whether itching, burning, bleeding, scaly, crusty, pimply, blotchy, or copper-colored, with loss of hair, either simple, hereditary, or contagious, are speedily, permanently, economically, and infallibly cured by the CUTICURA REMEDIES, consisting of CUTICURA, the great skin cure, CUTICURA SOAP, an exquisite Skin Purifier and Beautifier, and CUTICURA RESOLVENT, the new Blood Purifier and greatest of all Humour Remedies, when the best physicians and all other remedies fail. This is strong language, but true. CUTICURA REMEDIES are the only infallible blood purifiers.

Sold everywhere. Price, CUTICURA, 75c. SOAP, 25c. RESOLVENT, \$1.50. Prepared by PUTNAM DRUG & CHEMICAL COMPANY, Boston. Send for "How to Cure Skin Diseases."

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is found wherever man is found, and it does not respect age, sex, color, rank or occupation. Medical science has utterly failed to afford relief in rheumatic cases. Although electricity has only been in use as a remedial agent for a few years, it has cured more cases of Rheumatism than all other means combined.

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