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Editorial

Is It Worth While?

"Reader, whosoever thou art, if thou hast entered in any measure into the experiences of life, thou hast learned to ask 'Is it worth while?'"

Perhaps no soul has begun to GROW until, through loss, disappointment or disillusionment, it asks that question even of LIFE itself.

"He fought his doubts and gather'd strength,
He would not make his judgment blind,
He faced the spectres of the mind
And laid them: thus he came at length
To find a stronger faith his own."

From stage to stage in the individual life, through youth and the earlier years of physical maturity, some mirage vision engages the fancy or holds the heart. Just beyond this experience or in that attainment in sight, lies the shining land of better than gold—contentment, rest. It matters not that the idea of rest may mean the reverse of idleness; that it may involve fuller knowledge of the thoughts of the great souls of the universe, satisfying service, and sustained mind and heart development on the part of the searcher,—entrance into fuller *life*.

In the grey dawn or the sombre twilight these "obstinate questionings" of life and death make their recurring appeal. They come to us as individuals in the "struggle for existence," or in efforts towards the development of mental and spiritual life, whatever may be our position in the world or the nature of the daily round and common task allotted to us.

Probably never more than in these shadowing days of December, with not a little to discourage us in the conditions of the great war, may the question arise or be asked—Is it worth while?

It Depends

It depends what the end or ideal is for which we strive. If it be a case of mere argument about opinions, continuity of conflict may not be worth while. But if we recognize that there is a principle involved—that there are such things as essential Right and diabolical Wrong, we shall also recognize that there are times when lasting Peace can come only through Conquest,—through the utter subjugation of the Evil.

In these times the most trying and tiresome people, whether they hail from south of the United States boundary line or elsewhere, are those who, with a manner which suggests the lofty interest and ill-concealed superiority of those who have kept clear of a quarrel, ask—"What are they fighting about, anyway?"

No sane person who scanned the printed records of cablegrams and correspondence that, prior to August 4th, 1914, passed between the representatives of the governments now at war, and who is acquainted with Germany's own words and attitude towards Belgium then, should need