

laces and gauzes of her butterfly attire were crushing against the dark serge over the knees she caressed in her ecstasy. "There's such many peoples, and they's all so nice and they all loves me and I loves them—don't you? And I just wish they'd live here always, 'cause I don't think there's anything so nice as togevverness, do you?"

The dull eyes above the child grew suddenly misty. "Togetherness!" What did she know of it? What would she not have given for the clear sight of that little child whose love was too spontaneous and selfless to even see external differences?

To her own genuine surprise, she responded without effort and with real pleasure when her hostess again introduced a friend, and for a moment stood chatting brightly with them both. It was much later than she had supposed when at last she descended the steps of the big house with a smile in her eyes.

She repeated the little happening to the one friend of the earlier years whom her oversensitiveness and mistaken ideas of independence had not estranged.

"Dear," said the older woman, gently, "I've lived half as long again as you have, and do you know I have come to believe that that is about all there is of life—all its beauty, its worth, its happiness—just 'togetherness'—with God and with each other; and all our suffering and sorrow come from the want of it—from the building of walls about ourselves—fences of foolish pride and suspicion of unlovely motives in those about us."

"Oh, but it wasn't that I was envious," interrupted the other. "It was they who could not but see the difference. I feared that they—"

"That is just it," returned the white-haired woman. "It was you who 'feared,' you who felt and emphasized the superficial differences, you who shut off the 'togetherness.' Your sensitiveness is as much a dividing line as another's superciliousness. The beggar can be as self-centred and exclusive as the Croesus. It is sweetness of soul and self-forgetfulness, little woman, that make for that beautiful togetherness, and it is only those who are children in heart if not in age, who ever reach the heaven of their hopes."—*Youth's Companion.*

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