

Hope's Quiet Hour

Every-day Victories.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.—Prov. xvi.: 32.

Probably most of you have read that delightful story of our Canadian West—"The Second Chance." I think the description of "True Greatness" in it is a gem, so I will copy it here for the benefit of those who have not yet read the book. It is Pearl Watson's idea of everyday heroism, as expressed by her in a school composition.

"A person can never get true greatness by trying for it. You get it when you're not looking for it. It's nice to have good clothes—it makes it a lot easier to act decent—but it is a sign of true greatness to act when you haven't got them, just as good as if you had. One time when ma was a little girl they had a bird at their house, called Bill, that broke his leg. They thought they would have to kill him, but next morning they found him propped up sort of side-ways on his good leg, singing! That was true greatness. One time there was a woman that had done a big washing and hung it on the line. The line broke and let it all down in the mud, but she didn't say a word, only did it over again; and this time she spread it on the grass, where it couldn't fall. But that night a dog with dirty feet ran over it. When she saw what was done, she sat down and didn't cry a bit. All she said was: 'Ain't it queer that he didn't miss nothing!' That was true greatness, but it's only people who have done washings that know it! Once there was a woman that lived near a pigpen, and when the wind blew that way it was very smelly, indeed; and at first when she went there to live she couldn't smell anything but straight pig, but when she lived there a while she learned to smell the clover blossoms through it. That was true greatness."

Don't you think there is a mine of gold in little Pearl's philosophy? If we could only carry that style of "true greatness" out in our everyday living we should be very enviable people.

Let us study her examples and see if they can help us to be truly great.

I.—When you haven't got things, to act "just as good as if you had." It is so easy to make one's self unhappy because clothes are shabby, money is scarce, or other people have a grander social position. That is too easy to be truly great; and it is not only a nuisance to the world, it also makes the unhappy person a nuisance to himself. He is so busy counting up the things he hasn't got, that he forgets to look up and thank God for the innumerable blessings which have been showered on him. A man once took the trouble to stand outside a shop window and—looking in—to count up the numerous things he saw which he could do without. One who is great enough to be happy without many outside things, has climbed far higher than a person who is like a poor "rich" child at Christmas time, whose toys are very expensive and numerous, but he can always think of something else he wanted and has not received—an air-ship, or the moon, perhaps. The more presents he gets the more discontented he is. Of course, it is always so when a person finds his joy in receiving instead of giving, in what he has instead of in what he is, in selfish grasping instead of in unselfish loving.

II.—The bird with a broken leg, propped on his one good leg, and "singing." When a life is broken so terribly that there is no hope of mending it on this side of the veil of death, it is easy to be mournful or depressed. It is even easy to take advantage of one's crippled condition to be irritable or unreasonable with people who are trying to help. They can't find fault if the invalid or the maimed is rude or cross; they will be sorry for him that they will only try to cheer him by unfeeling kindness and good humor. But what true greatness

there is in the heart of one who absolutely refuses to take advantage of his own misfortunes, but waits and sings and laughs as if he had no fault to find to carry. We all wonder at the nobility of the dying soldier who, when offered a drink on the battlefield, refused to put his lips to the canteen because they were torn and bleeding, and he was afraid of spoiling the water needed by his wounded comrades. How few are great enough to consider others—as Christ did—when suffering themselves, refusing to spoil the brightness of their friends' lives by their own heavy cloud of sorrow. How God must delight in a heart that sings always, even when the outlook is most hopeless. God is always near, and so life can never be really hopeless or even really dark to a soul that walks with eyes lifted to the glory of His Face. "Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning"—and only God knows how near the morning may be.

III.—The woman whose washing was spoiled and who kept her temper. As Pearl said: "That was true greatness, but it's only people who have done washings that know it." That was an extreme case, of course, but there are plenty of chances offered to all of us of keeping our temper when things go wrong. It is a greater thing to rule one's spirit than to take a city, it is better to keep from being easily irritated than it is to be great in the world's opinion. Try it, the next time the oven won't heat or the sewing-machine breaks the thread, or the "men-folks" track mud over your clean floor, or somebody forgets to bring home what is wanted from the village. Try it, when you have to deal with people who are—or seem to you—utterly unreasonable. Anyone can get irritated with unreasonable, disagreeable or exacting people. That is easy, there is no greatness in speaking crossly, or in sullen silence, or in banging things about because the temper is temporarily mislaid. Someone has declared that "temper is nine-tenths of Christianity." If that is true, then we must keep it well under control. If we can't keep other people from being irritating; at least, by hard fighting and steady, prayerful perseverance, we can be great enough to refuse to be irritated by them. We can remember the woman whose hard day's work was ruined, and who was big enough to be worth describing in print. We can endure vexations—large and small—as well as she did, if we try. The trouble with us usually is that we don't try. We say that a thing is "vexatious" or "aggravating," and then seem to think we have a perfect right to be vexed or aggravated. And so we miss the fine chance of practicing true greatness.

IV.—The woman who learned to rejoice in the smell of the clover blossoms right through the odor of "pig." There, too, is a fine inspiration for us. In every life there is something disagreeable, something that can't be cured just at present; and in every life there is something sweet and lovely. We can make the most of the unpleasantness, or we can—by determined practice—learn to catch the fragrance through it. At night, when we commune with our own hearts in the stillness, we can go over and over in our minds the things which hurt us—the worries which spoil the radiance of our souls and destroy the peace of our minds. Or we can lie back on the Heart of our God, drinking in the sweetness of His Love, rejoicing in the coming loveliness which He is trying to bring out in us. Why should we despair of ever being lovely in soul? The giant trees of California grow, it is said, each one from a tiny seed. If a little seed can hope to grow up into a beautiful tree, towering high above the trees of the wood—and can patiently wait hundreds of years before that hope is fulfilled—we, too, can wait and pray and struggle hopefully, knowing that it is worth while. Every victory won is one step forward, each time we lose our temper we are losing the time when the King shall enable us to rejoice in our beauty of soul.

P. W. Robertson, says: "Therefore, come what may, hold fast to love. Though men should scorn our heart, let them not embitter or grieve it. We win by tenderness, we conquer by forgiveness." When love is in your heart, victory is yours.

In the long run all love is paid by love.

The great eternal government above keeps strict account, and will redeem its worth.

Give thy love freely; do not count the cost;

So beautiful a thing was never lost in the long run."

DORA FARNCOMB.

The Ingle Nook.

[Rules for correspondents in this and other Departments: (1) Kindly write on one side of paper only. (2) Always send name and address with communications. If pen-name is also given, the real name will not be published. (3) When enclosing a letter to be forwarded to anyone, place it in stamped envelope ready to be sent on. (4) Allow one month in this department for answers to questions to appear.]



Shawl with Bell Fringe, in Pink and White.

(By courtesy of the Corticelli Silk Co., St. John, P. Q.)

Crocheted Shawl.

Dear Dame Durden,—We take your paper in our home, and, womanlike, I am much interested in your Home Department.

Could any of the chattering give me a pattern for a crocheted shawl, and for bedroom slippers also?

AN INTERESTED READER.

The following directions for making a crocheted shawl are those given by the Corticelli Silk Co., St. John, P. Q.:

Chain length desired for the width of shawl, making 6 extra stitches for the turn.

First Row.—1 d. double crochet in 4th ch. from end, 1 d. c. skipping 2 ch. stitches, then * 2 trebles in same st., ch. 2, 1 d. c. caught in center of last tr. making 3 st. on needle, thread over and skipping 2 on the ch. catch in 3rd, making 5 st. on needle to be worked off, 2 at a time, same as d. c., * repeat, ending with 1 d. c. (The stars signify the parts to be repeated.)

Second Row.—Ch. 1 and turn, * making 3 s. c. in 2nd ch. st. on 1st row, ch. 1, * repeat.

Third Row.—Ch. 6, turn, thread over needle into 4th ch. st. just made, * thread over needle into space between s. c., make 2 tr. in same space, ch. 2, thread over into center of last tr. just made, thread over needle into next space between s. c., * repeat, ending with 1 tr. in last space. Repeat above rows for length of shawl desired, then finish ends with fringe or crocheted lace.

The border shown is as follows: Join the border wool (pink), ch. 3 loosely, thread over needle in space between s. c. on shawl, pulling thread about 2 in. long, thread over needle into space, thread over needle into same space, making 7 st. on needle, thread over, taking all off at once. Thread over needle,

through 2 st. in back of last cluster, over through space between s. c. of previous row, over into same space again, making 9 st. on needle, overdraw through all, * repeat.

Second Row.—1 s. c. in each st. of previous row.

Third Row.—Same as first.

Fourth Row.—Same as second.

Fifth Row.—Make "bells" as follows: Join white wool. Ch. 3 loosely, 4 d. c., in 1st st. of last row, ch. 2, 4 d. c. into same space, 4 d. c. made (from back) around 1st d. c. of cluster to form "bell." 2nd cluster—4 d. c. into 3rd s. c. of previous row, ch. 2, 4 d. c. in same space, 4 d. c. made (from back) around 1st d. c. of cluster, repeat to end in every other st., ending the row with 2 d. c. to keep even.

Sixth Row.—Join pink wool. Ch. 3 loosely, turn * 4 d. c. into 2nd d. c. of previous row, ch. 2, 4 d. c. into same space, then 4 d. c. make (from front) around 1st d. c. of cluster to form the bell on right side, * repeat, making 3 rows white bells and 2 rows pink bells for each end.

This shawl will require 1½ lbs. white and 4 skeins pink Columbia Shetland floss.

A knitted shawl may be easily made by knitting plain garter stitch with large, bone needles, using Shetland floss and zepher, knit together.

Directions for bedroom slippers were given in our issue for Nov. 16.

Ginger Cookies.

Dear Dame Durden,—Someone asked for a recipe for ginger cookies, and as I have a very cheap one which I have used a great many years, it may help someone a little. My children were fond of these cookies, and do not despise them now that they are children no longer, for some have homes of their own, and use my old recipes. I do not think that good cooking need be expensive cooking, and it has always been my aim to produce the best results from the least cost.

The recipe is: 2 cups molasses, 1 cup sugar, 1 egg, 2 tablespoons vinegar, 2 teaspoons soda, a little salt, 1 tablespoon ginger. Boil the molasses three or four minutes, then add sugar, vinegar, and beaten egg, soda, etc. I like lemon also, either the candied peel, or rind grated. Flour to roll thin.

HOUSEKEEPER.

Peel Co., Ont.

Ginger Snaps—(Delicious).

One cup baking molasses, 1 cup sugar (brown), ½ cup lard or pork fryings, 1 tablespoon ginger, 1 heaping teaspoon soda in 4 tablespoons hot water, a little salt. Flour to mix hard. Roll thin, and bake well through. Spread singly on a board as taken from oven, and let lie till perfectly cold. Do not cover them tight like cookies, but put in milk pan and cover with cloth or paper to keep out flies or dust. Keep in a dry, cool place.

Bruce Co., Ont.

Crocheted Fascinator.

Dear Dame Durden and Ingle Nookers,—I noticed in our Nook of November 16th, that an Ingle Nook reader from Essex County would like to get a pattern of a knitted or crocheted wool fascinator. I take very much interest in the fancy-work. It takes ten skeins of Shetland floss yarn. This is the crocheted pattern. I never knitted one. Chain 5 and join in ring, pull loop up about 1½ inches long, throw over thread, put it down through the ring, pull up 1½ inches long, throw over thread, pull through 2 of the stitches on your needle, throw over thread, pull through the other 2. Put 10 of these groups in the ring. When you do the last one in the ring, pull up the last stitch 1½ inches long, throw over thread, put it down between the first 2 groups that you put in the ring, pull it up 1½ inches long, throw over thread, pull it through the first 2, throw over thread, pull through the other 2, put 10 of these groups in this space, count 5, that is the middle of the fan (as it is called). Put your hook down between the 5th and 6th groups, pull it up short, throw over thread and pull through the 2; that fastens it there. Throw over thread, put it down between the last 2 groups and pull it up 1½ inches long, throw over thread and pull