

to you that she required your sympathy infinitely more than your disapproval? Maybe instead of a cat it is a cause she embraces, "Woman's Suffrage" or "Foreign Missions," or "Women's Institute," and again you deride or disapprove and harangue of "Woman's highest duty," and all the rest of it. Have you any reason to believe that if it had been possible for this woman she would have infinitely preferred a home under different circumstances. We all have our faults, but be careful how we tell one another of them.

Beware how we judge others, not knowing all about them, for you will be judged that way yourself. Believe in the goodness of those about you—doubts will vanish and you will find that your faith in people will be worth a kingdom of glories. Believe in them once—then try to keep alive your faith, for it will help others to bear their burdens. If you have faith in your friends they will not want to fail you—it will be an incentive to be true where they might have been false.

Then there is the critic who sizes up a person and then says, "I cannot stand him—never could stand a man who wears such clothes. Why it is a perfect crime. He cannot have any refinement or taste." "But you do not know him," you may argue. "No! and don't want to know him, wouldn't take the trouble to know him," is the reply. Or the discussion might be a woman—"Oh, she is hopeless. I never could stand stout people, and the way she dresses is awful." Have you ever talked to her? "The saints forbid. I can always tell at a glance what a person is like."

That is just, my friend, what we cannot do. In the first place the man may be an artist and the jolliest person you could meet, and the woman (possibly she may wear funny clothes) but—under them—the kindest heart may beat and quite the keenest wit you can conceive, so you see how wrongfully we sometimes judge. I have known women who were deemed angels, who in reality were perfect demons; smooth-tongued little creatures, one would think butter would not melt in their mouths, who in hushed tones of shocked regret, whispered abominable bits of gossip and sighed that the world was so wicked, and when the collection plate was passed would give five cents to the poor fund, and on the other hand a sour-visaged woman with a repellant manner, would practise all sorts of economies to send some little delicacy to a sick child, and woe betide the woman who said a slighting word about another woman in her presence.

Women, did it ever strike you that oftentimes, when some one is called bad-tempered and crochety, they are perhaps carrying some trouble that is breaking their hearts, generally miserable, cannot tell the world of it. In fact needless to do so,

"Down in the human heart, Crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that Grace can restore;
Touched by a loving heart, awakened by kindness,
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more."

The world has not time for our sorrows, only our joys. Again others are just longing for some one to say a kind word, to love them, or tell them they know they are doing their best in the position they have been placed in. Go speak a kind word to the retiring one, do not think them haughty, proud or cold. They are just longing for some one to make something of them and love them. Do not make the mistake of calling a broken-hearted person a bad-tempered one.

They say familiarity breeds contempt. No doubt it is so in some cases, but when the curtain is pulled aside, we may see characteristics we despise, but on the other hand, there are hundreds of people whom we must know in their daily lives to appreciate in any measure the greatness of their souls. Let us cultivate clean thoughts, for out of a clean heart comes a clean life. As some wise person has said:

"There is so much bad in the best of us
That it does not become any of us
To criticise the rest of us."

Then why not bridle those unruly members—our tongues, and withhold our sweeping criticisms, based on nothing so much as our lack of knowledge or insight.

Try to get more at the heart of a person, and have a LITTLE MORE HEART OURSELVES. Do not forget, that, just as the thistle-down is carried here, there and everywhere, just so a word, a look, a shake of the head, may root some unkind thought or story about our neighbor that may take months, years, to uproot, and perhaps the mischief we have done may never be remedied.

We cannot one live without the other. We are each beholden to the other for our lives. So let us live them as God would

have us live them, looking for the good in one another, not always for faults. The most stupid person has some redeeming quality, if we will only look for it. A very good practice is that if we cannot say anything good of a person, do not say anything.

Remember, God never created anything in vain. There was some purpose in it or it would not have been made. Let us try and govern ourselves and look for good and not evil in each other.

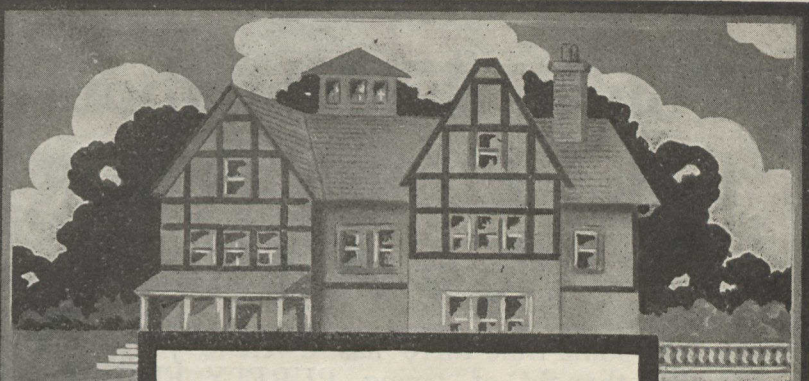
A DAILY THOUGHT

Life is the daily web of character we unconsciously weave. Our thoughts, imaginations, purpose, motives, love, will, are the underthreads; our words, tone of voice, looks, acts, habits, are the upper threads; and the passing moment is the shuttle, swiftly, ceaselessly, relentlessly weaving those threads into a web; and that web is life.

Pointers for Officers and Members

At the conference of Institute lecturers held late in June, Mrs. Laura Rose Stephen, in speaking upon Institute work, made some suggestions which are very much to the point.

She said, "The officers should know the importance of their duty. When there is an Institute formed, some one has to assume the different offices. These officers should feel that it is a duty they owe to the community to take office. A person may feel a lack of fitness for the position, but others may see that she is fitted, and, if she can take it, she should not make excuses. Among the different excuses given are, 'lack of ability,' 'no time,' 'not interested,' 'no executive ability,' 'lack of tact.' Nothing grows with cultivation like ability. It is the busy woman who has learned to conserve her time. If she is not interested, she will get interested if she takes hold of the work. It is not the person who works hard herself who makes the Institute a success—it is the one who is able to get other people to work. An Institute often fails because an officer does all the work. An officer should have tact; she should not be dogmatic,



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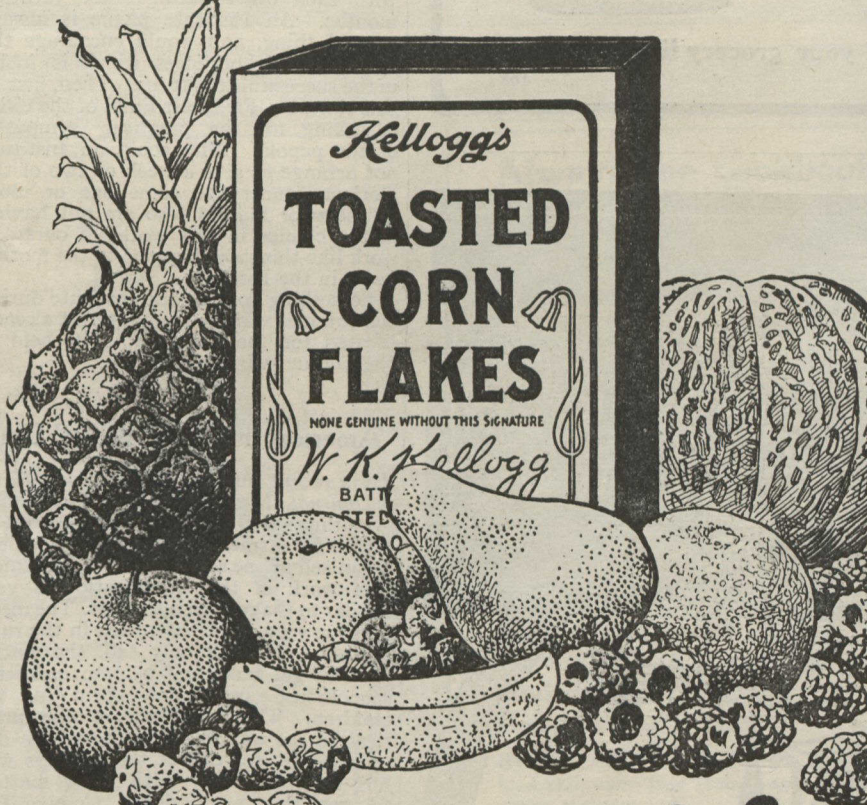
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