

"A Little Blind"

in the common affairs of life. The work was wrought, not in a strange sphere, but in one to which the fishermen were accustomed. As a sudden flash of lightning reveals the presence of electricity in the atmosphere, real before, though hidden, so we see in the nets laden to breaking, the forthputting of the same divine energy which, too often unrecognized, works with men in their daily toil. We learn to look for God in the commonplaces of life.

Then the miracle is an emblem of the work which the Master gives His servants to do. The world is a vast sea, on which men are tossed about by the storms of temptation and sorrow. Christ calls us to the high and holy task of drawing them into the safety and peace of His kingdom. In this work, the patience and skill and boldness of the fisherman are our example.

We see, also, in the plentiful catch, a pledge of abundant provision. Why should the four hesitate to leave their means of livelihood at the call of One so obviously able to supply all their wants? With as little reason does the Christian worker fear that his stores will fail, while he ministers to the spiritual need of others.

There is, besides, in the miracle, a promise of success. The bidding of Jesus to cast in the net was the guarantee of a catch. In rewarding the faith of the fishermen, He has pledged Himself that no honest labor for Him shall be fruitless. Our position may be obscure, our toil unnoticed by men. But many a one so situated has lived to hear men bless him as the instrument in their salvation. And even if we should not reap such a reward here, eternity will bring to us a joyful harvest.

"A LITTLE BLIND"

By J. Crompton Edwards

"Be to his faults a little blind." You have watched and carefully led his steps from babyhood up to the present, training him to choose the white, straight path of uprightness. Now, give him a chance to prove that the good and the true will win out, even in the face of evil, backed by present advantage.

It will come hard for you to feel the sweet responsibility lessen. You will have a heart pang when you realize that, for the first time, your boy has decided upon a course of action without consulting you.

One of the surest means of driving a just developing nature in on itself, cutting down the electric current of confidence in the boy's attitude toward the parent, is to confront him at every turn with the masterful "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not," as though he were an unruly calf you were trying to head off and bring home.

Remember your own early days. Your heart was hot and restless: you were impatient of restraint. You could not discriminate which portion of your nature, the physical, the mental, or the spiritual, held the helm and guided your craft. You were plunged in a gulf of dark despair, or assumed insufferable priggishness, alternating with a disregard of conventions. You were whirled and churned on the sea of emotions, like a boat adrift on the water. At times you believed you knew your bearings; again, a cloud no bigger than a man's hand would rise, spread, and envelop you in mist and doubt.

Human nature does not change much. Do you not see your boy is going through his crucial time? Be to his faults a little blind. Do not notice every fall from the grace of gentleness. Let him have his secrets apart from you, and, if you have dealt fairly, justly, with him in the past, he will not fail you now.

O yes! your heart will ache for the little boy that used to be. You will remember his wonderful tales of daring and feats of strength at school; or the times you were allowed to look upon his budding ideals, so charming, because they reminded you of those "fair ideals of the far off days": confidences you will ponder and keep in your heart. Now a change has come. The mother must be content to do without her boy; he is eager to try his powers unaided.

This is a mother's mission, "to bear, to nurse, to rear, to love—and then to lose": to love, and give yet more love, then, at last, to send the boys out in the world equipped to fight the good fight with all