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Home Life of Canada's Authoress. Nellie L. McClung

As Observed by Different Individuals. Pen-Picture of the Home

"Mother, who is the woman with the red roses on her hat, that we know?" inquired a fair-haired little chap of five or six years, of his parent, at a recent conference session regarding a newspaper acquaintance of the family, whom he spied in the assembly taking notes, the name of the person having slipped the enquirer's memory. It was not so much the description of the person, as the quaint personal interest and the partnership of the little fellow and his mother, when speaking of people and things, implied in the we-know.

How many children, especially of this age, have the delightful companionship which this child enjoyed with their parents, which makes all events and social acquaintances of equal importance to mother and son alike.

This apparently trifling enquiry disclosed the enviable intimacy between parent and child which is so rare in these days. Surely the parent must hold a place, a wonderful place, in the child's affections and respect, which can only be cultivated by a true mother and the fine womanly qualities which encourage the confidence and supreme contentment of a child to whom his mother's friends are his, and her interests equally a pride and joy to him.

This exquisite relationship exists between a mother and lad, as well as the rest of the devoted family of a woman who is a public figure of international renown.

Just a peep into the home life before revealing her name, to prove, from one who can speak from actual knowledge,



Nellie McClung's home, Edmonton.

that a number of people are laboring under a wrong impression and a warped illusion of the real state of affairs.

It is a real joy to be so favored as to spend an afternoon or partake of a meal in this well-ordered household, the machinery of which is oiled by kindness and tnorough knowledge of housekeeping. The rules are all observed, the rooms clean and tidy, as well as especially attractive and exceptionally artistic.

A canary sings and warbles, flowers bloom in the windows, fine pictures adorn the walls, and choice books are on the tables and, above all, the children's stockings are darned, much as a certain portion of the community declare the reverse. Hospitality reigns supreme and a cup of tea daintily served is no trouble —an extra coyer can always be laid with no confusion.

And most important of all, the children "who never knew a mother's love," because of the interest exercised in the affairs of the community and state, lavish the greatest devotion and filial love on the so-called neglectful mother.

Mother is consulted on all subjects, an arm is about mother's neck, even in the presence of acquaintances, or the youngest is curled securely in mother's lap if the slightest indisposed.

Horrors! How can all this domestic happiness reign in the home of a suffra-

If some of the public could have its way by talk and wagging of heads.

could not be; but by actual contact, such is the beautiful home life of Nellie L. McClung, and her bright and clever family. Her husband (Mr. R. W. McClung) also thrives in the atmosphere and adores it all.-M.L.S.

The home of the well known writer, Mrs. Nellie L. McClung, is looked after in a careful manner, love pervading all. There is a husband and five childrenfour sons and one daughter. The eldest son was overseas, having spent three birthdays in the trenches, receiving a lieutenancy on the field and merit as a soldier. As showing the extent to which home ties are carried, it may be stated that, when this son returned, Mrs. Mc-Clung cancelled meetings she was due to attend, saying "Jack is home and I must be with him.

Mrs. McClung looks after her own household duties, keeping a maid, whom she does not call either servant or maid. but housekeeper. The help is treated largely as one of the family, and is allowed considerable latitude so long as conduct is what the lady of the house considers correct. When any extra work, such as washing, house-cleaning, etc., is on at the house, additional help is pro-cured, Mrs. McClung overseeing what is at hand. During an attack of scarlet fever the lady was nurse for her own baby. She looks after her own clothes making, having a woman in for the sew-ing. When little meetings are being held at her home, any members of the household present are allowed in, being treated as "one" with herself, each being at liberty to take part in the conversation before and after the session. At her home gatherings, Mrs. McClung makes the tea, coffee or cocoa, and serves it herself or with assistance of the home folk. At one time the good lady busied herself considerably at crocheting, but has let it be known that now, between her writing, and the phone, and necessary home duties, she has no time for such. Mrs. McClung almost always answers the phone in person, rarely ever being known to allow anyone else to do so and pass it on.

The author considers her family first, her home life being that of an ideal mother. Promptness is a large part of her make-up. This enables her to make much of the day. Mrs. McClung has strong convictions, though ready to concede to others what she would not countenance herself. She is reliable in all respects, and quick at decision. At the phone, when ordering goods, there is little time wasted in conversation, the decision as to requirements being made before the receiver is taken in hand, so that there is but the giving of the list to be done. She does her own shopping largely, seeing after the home cooking herself.

Mrs. McClung has frequently remarked that we were here to make others happy, and that appears to be a dominant spirit of her life as exhibited in her home. She is quite sympathetic, entering into the feelings of those she comes in contact with in a wonderful manner. Mrs. McClung is quite a worker in her home church and has a regular class in Sunday School.

Her husband generally calls for her at the close of any local gathering, or sees that provision is made for the homebringing. Together they believe in the household making the most of life, joking and conversing freely at the family circle—the children being allowed the freedom that comes to a well-regulated home, and are full of life.

It is believed that the success of Mrs. McClung is her love for her fellow-beings, love seemingly entering into the very make-up of her everyday life. She is a citizen that any country should be delighted to have—the community being enriched by her presence.-M.S.C.

A pen-picture of the McClung home you ask for. The building is a two-

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