

The Grace of Cheerfulness.

I said: I will be glad to-day!
The rain-clouds drift along the hills,
The grass is drowned in lakes and rills,
The birds of song are chilled and mute,
The dreariness seems absolute;
And yet I will be glad to-day!

I will be glad, be glad to-day,
Though many tiresome tasks are set
My patient hands, I will forget
The frets that trouble and depress,
And think on things of pleasantness;
And so I will be glad to-day!

I will be glad to-day, to-day;
For summer suns again will shine,
The air will thrill like tonic wine,
The birds will sing as n'er before,
And with these blisses yet in store,
Why should I not be glad to-day?
-Emma A. Lente, in 'Christian Endeavor World.'

The Personal Relations of Fathers and Sons.

I was afraid of my father. So were my brothers. We loved him, but there was no community of interest between us then, nor in later life.

I have observed hundreds of families, only to find that my boyish experience is all too common. The father may be 'too busy' to get acquainted with his sons.

Your dignity and parental authority will not suffer if you use godly judgment. 'Familiarity breeds contempt' only when it ought to! Most people lack tact, partly because it was not developed in youth.

'When my boys get along in their teens, I shall go off with them a good deal and devote time and thought to training their character,' said another friend, whose only hours at home are mostly spent in bed.

The first time my youngest boy did a job of painting at the house, he made a mess of it, though I had shown him how.

'Yes, but the boy would not have had the experience, nor I the fun.'

Mother looked thoughtful, and then remarked: 'How true that is! It is little enough our boys have to do, because we live in a town house, but this is all the more reason for encouraging them to do everything possible.'

Let the father make the first advances toward a community of interests, and the way in which the boys respond will surprise and delight him. The benefit will be mutual.

The personal relations of fathers and sons are intended to supplement each other. Nature meant it that way. But here, as in all other respects, how often are we blind to the joys and responsibilities nature offers!

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Peterboro, March 21st, 1905.

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L. FAUX.

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