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Why Margery Became a Deaconess.

(Lucretia A. Gaddis.)

Margery Davis astonished her family one morning at breakfast table by announcing that she desired to leave home for a while, and perhaps permanently. This young woman was not in the habit of doing anything very startling. Indeed, she was quite a proper, steady person, going on in the even tenor of her ways. Early in life Margery had had cherished plans of her own to carry out, but one by one these had to be put off, or given up, as she gradually settled down in the old homestead, and assumed the burdens of the household. These burdens were by no means small ones, for she was the oldest of a large family of children, with an invalid mother, and a father who could never make money fast enough to keep up with his growing family. In fact, the head of this family had more brains than business tact, and was far happier in pursuing some of his pet temperance schemes than he was in making money. He was a good man, beloved by all who knew him, and had brought up his children in the fear of the Lord. He was very active in good works, and the kind of a man his pastor could count on when he needed him, and yet he was by no means a brilliant success as a financier.

As the wants of his family constantly increased, it became necessary that someone should be sacrificed for the good of the rest, and the lot fell on Margery. The boys must be educated, and she gave up her plan of going to college. The young girls, too, must be fitted to take care of themselves; so Margery dismissed the servant, and took charge of the house work, that her sisters might become proficient in painting and music. The boys called her the 'G. M.,' which meant 'General manager,' because they said she knew how to 'run things.' Everything went smoothly when Margery was steering the family ship, and if for any reason she should leave her place at the helm for a time, they were sure to sail into deep waters. Such was the family verdict, and they had really come to believe that this sister's pleasure in life consisted in ministering to their comforts. Perhaps it did, for Margery was learning the lesson of losing her life for others. She was the true older sister described by Whittier in 'Snow-Bound':

'A full, rich nature free to trust;
Keeping with many a light disguise
The secret of self-sacrifice.'

But no one knew what all this had cost Margery, for this young woman thirsted for knowledge, and when she was baffled in one way, simply tried another. She found time between her duties as family dressmaker, housekeeper, and general home maker, to take up the Chautauqua literary course, and faithfully to pursue these studies. After this a general reading course in history occupied her spare moments; and thus in a few years she had a fair knowledge of books, as well as of domestic affairs.

But her cares grew lighter as time passed on. When Margery had reached her twenty-eighth birthday, the boys were well settled in business, the girls were earning their own

pin-money, and the family struggle with poverty was well-nigh over. It was then that she began to have convictions as to her mission in life. She had long been a faithful Sunday-school teacher, and had deep desires to spend her life for the Master. About this time some articles concerning deaconesses and their work for the poor and out-cast fell into her hands, and interested her greatly. While attending an Epworth League convention, she listened to a thrilling address on this subject, by a tall young woman with a sweet face, who wore a black bonnet and white ties. Margery's heart was stirred to its depths, and a great longing took possession of her to enter this work herself. It seemed to her the most Christlike life of which she had ever known. Then followed the greatest struggle of her life. It had been comparatively easy before this to take up the duties lying nearest her. She

was perfectly sure it was right for her to sacrifice herself for her family when they needed her, but it was hard to leave them for other fields of labor. Yet she was also sure that they needed her no longer, and she had lived too long for others to enjoy doing anything else now.

The struggle was ended at last, and Margery decided to apply for admittance into a deaconesses' training school, and find out if she had any qualifications for this kind of work. Hence her decision was made known to her family. She rather expected that they would think her very foolish and object to her plan, but she was not prepared for the intense look of reproach with which each member of the household regarded her. Her mother, who had always been Margery's best counsellor, felt grieved that her daughter thought of leaving her. The boys told her they hoped she would not turn



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OFFICERS OF THE WORLD'S WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

The World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union meeting in Toronto the third week in October represents the work of white ribboners in about fifty different countries, with an estimated membership, including children, of five hundred thousand. One delegate represents a thousand members but on account of distance not all the coun-

tries will be represented. The president of the World's Union is Miss Willard and Miss Anna Gordon is her secretary. Lady Henry Somerset, of England, is the vice-President, and Miss Agnes Slack is the honorary secretary. The treasurer is Mrs. Sanderson, of Danville, Que., the president of the Quebec Provincial Union.