

cesses, we shall yet be constrained to overcome ourselves, for the Spirit is always with us. The fact always is: We cannot voluntarily go wrong and yet feel comfortable. When there is condemnation within us, the trouble is within and not elsewhere, and the only cure is from within.

We should every day be about our Father's business. Doing right constitutes righteousness. It is a simple, plain doctrine, stripped of all formality and display, encumbered by no dogma or system; indeed human words are not always needed, for it is beyond the tongue to fully express; it is a feeling, an experience that springs up between ourselves and our God.

When our will is right, the narrow but always straight road is always near by when we come seeking to .now.

God permits many things that he never designed. We fall and rise again many times in life. It is our school, our life-word. This re-establishing our feet is the directing voice within and revelation to us; it is God working within, and we grow in this capacity of understanding and receiving until at last we not only believe but we *know* that He is our Father, and is always with us to direct and to guard. What a beautiful ending to a life like this, when the soul will go no more out, but will abide with the Father for ever more.

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### A PLEA FOR MUSIC.

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My attention has recently been called to the subject of music with greater ardor than ever before. I feel that there are two sides to be presented, both for and against. The hurtful tendencies that accompany music are the direct results of its abuse. There is a distinct line to be drawn between its evil and its good. In the home circle, where it draws the young people of the family together and in a gentle manner tends to refine their feelings,

it certainly has its mission for good. Music of the highest order, such as the classical, often soothes by its quiet symphonies, and could never lead to any demoralizing effects. In our asylums many a poor distracted mind has been calmed into perfect repose by the gentle and touching melodies.

I think that Friends of the past had just cause to reject music, as they beheld naught but its *ill* effect. Now everything has undergone a change, and we must keep pace with the present and be willing to receive whatever is good at this time.

Music, if it belongs anywhere, belongs in the home circle. I heard an eminent Friend, of Philadelphia, say she thought that music was truly necessary to every fireside; it had a refining influence, if properly used, that would act as a sort of uplifting and a rest. I trust that no one misunderstands me in my assertions, because I desire it distinctly understood that I draw a positive line between music and its evils. We do not want our Young Friends to enter ballrooms or places of a hurtful tendency, neither do we desire to combine music and religion; they are, in my opinion, to be kept in separate grounds.

As the poet seems born with power of rhyme in his brain, so have the great composers of music made living poems of their compositions. And it seems to me, while giving the subject due reflection, that the *good* effects of music must counterbalance the *evil* if rightly regulated. As a wrong indulgence in an appetite of any kind proves disastrous, let us remember this in connection with the harmony of sound, and so use it, if we use it at all, that its results may not reproach us for any unreasonable abuse.

ELLA WEEKS.

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All that I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.—[Emerson]

Under all speech that is good for anything there lies a silence that is better.—[Carlyle.]