

## Our Young Folks.

### THE CHILDREN'S ROOM.

How peaceful at night  
The sleeping children lie,  
Each gentle breath so light  
Escaping like a sigh!  
How tranquil seems the room, how fair  
To one who softly enters there!

Whose hands are those, unseen,  
That smooth each little bed?  
Whose locks are those that lean  
Over each pillowed head?  
Whose lips caress the boys and girls?  
Whose fingers stroke the golden curls?

Whose are the yearning eyes,  
And whose the trembling tear?  
Whose heart is it that cries,  
Beseeching God to hear?  
Whose but the mother's, in whose face  
Love shows its sweetest dwelling-place?

Here hopes in beauty bloom,  
And Heaven sends down its light,  
Which lingers in the room  
Where mother says, "Good-night."  
Softly treading by the sleepers there,  
Her very presence seems a prayer!

—Exchange.

### HOME FINANCE.

BY MRS ELLA F. M. WILLIAMS.

[The writer of this paper is an officer in the W. C. T. U., and widely known as an active worker in missions.]

A beautiful lawn with velvet-like grass, grand old trees and wondrous mountain views, is the centre of attraction to guests who visit Weston's Inn during August. Among the groups gathered there one afternoon last summer was one of college alumnae, who had chosen this quiet spot for their annual reunion. Old friendships had been enthusiastically renewed, reminiscences exchanged, and various plans and purposes in life brought up for comment and discussion. From the depths of a hammock Marion Van Alstyne had just been describing the home of an absent classmate, enlarging upon the exceeding richness of the furniture and the costliness and beauty of the various decorations, ending with the announcement, "If ever I marry I shall insist upon an establishment like that, where every room is a poem."

"But suppose your future husband's income will not admit of such an outlay?" queried Kate Armstrong, a bright-eyed, energetic young matron.

"It must," was the firm reply. "I could not enjoy life if my home was not perfect in all its appointments."

"Nor I, if my husband was worried and embarrassed by my extravagant demands," was the quick retort.

"But surely, Kate," said one whom the girls were wont to call Her Ladyship, "you must recognize the advantages of living among beautiful surroundings, and one would better sacrifice in other ways than to have a disagreeable and unlovely home."

"Quite true, my dear, but simple furnishings are not necessarily disagreeable, nor a home unlovely because it lacks a mortgage! I would dispense with silken draperies and costly carvings in my house, if having them was likely to carve fresh wrinkles on my husband's forehead."

"You always had peculiar views," said Her Ladyship, "but one must have things like other people or drop out of society."

"If I did, I would not drop down, but up, into a society where originality and independent honesty were at a premium," was the quick response.

"Girls," interposed Mary Wallace, "do you remember Ida Gray, who left college the year before we did?"

"Yes," "Of course," "Certainly," came from various members of the group, Marion Van Alstyne rousing herself to add, "What a lovely room she had! Such an artistic display of beautiful things! She would never agree with Kate's theories."

"I am not so sure about that," was the quiet reply. "I visited her last winter and was much interested in studying her financial methods. You know she was called home from college owing to her father's sudden illness, and after his death his fortune was found to be so involved that little was left for the

family. As her mother was an invalid, it fell to Ida's share to interview the lawyers and arrange all matters of business, and she says she then learned how important it is for every woman to understand the art of keeping accounts and to know exactly the receipts and expenditures of her family. Two years after her father's death she married a physician, whose practice in a suburban town was not then yielding him more than \$2,000 a year."

"How could she do it?" interrupted Marion Van Alstyne.

"Because she was a sensible girl, who cared for the man himself and not his money," exclaimed the irrepressible Kate.

"Hush, girls, I want to hear how they managed," said a quiet little lady, who had already been waiting five years for a certain young lawyer to better his financial condition.

"I was sure it would interest you," answered Mary Wallace, rather significantly, as she resumed her story. "A rich uncle of Ida's, as his wedding gift, offered to pay for the furnishings of the house, and she might have chosen elaborate furniture. But she talked it over with the doctor, and they both agreed that it would be wiser to buy plain, substantial articles that would look well, wear well, and be in keeping with their probable income."

"I suppose they have cretonne curtains and all sorts of impossible dry goods boxes trimmed with cheap muslin," sneered Her Ladyship.

"Indeed, no," laughed the story-teller. "Nothing of that sort. In fact, there are very few hangings of any kind, for the doctor insists on free entrance for sunlight. Ida says he would not live in a house with small windows or on the shady side of the street, and as for 'dry goods boxes,' all their furniture is of hard wood, plain but substantial. There are plenty of books, for both of them had made a point of collecting copies of their favorite authors before marriage, and have added some every year since. There is no \$10,000 picture, but several good engravings and photographs, and flowers everywhere. The doctor says a clean room, with books, flowers and sunshine, cannot help being attractive, however simple it may be furnished. As to fashionable and costly bric-a-brac, he declares he can see plenty of that in other people's houses, and he likes a little individuality in his own."

"However, what I really started to tell you about is their regular, every-day way of living. Ida says that, at first, she wished to postpone their marriage until the doctor's income was larger, but they talked it over and figured it out, and finally adopted what she laughingly calls their 'financial policy.' She says its two foundation stones are, 'Never get into debt,' 'Always put away the Lord's money first.' Every Saturday night one-tenth of every dollar received during the week goes into a strong box made for the purpose, and is never used except for church, charitable or missionary work."

"Why, that would be two hundred dollars to give away every year," interrupted Her Ladyship. "They must be a pair of cranks. It is all well enough for poor people to give away one-tenth of what they get, and it would not amount to much, anyway; but two hundred dollars is ridiculous. Just think how dreadful it would be if I had to give away one-tenth of my large income!"

The look of horror on her face, and the absurdity of her argument were too much for the gravity of her listeners, although Her Ladyship actually kept awake a whole hour that night trying to decide why they all laughed at her characteristic speech.

"I asked Ida if they could afford it," continued her friend, "and she assured me that they never missed it at all, because it was never counted as their own, and they find it the greatest comfort to have a fund to draw upon for charitable purposes. The doctor is getting to be so popular now that their income is increasing, and they are planning to give a larger percentage than at first. They always call this the 'Lord's money,' and Ida says the very name has been a help to her when she has sometimes been tempted to embezzle a little of it for what seemed a desirable expenditure, and for which there was not quite enough ready money in the family purse."

After this tenth is taken out, a certain per cent. of the remainder is put into the bank, and the rest goes for household expenses, and financially they are equal partners in the whole concern."

"Then Ida does not have an allowance?" asked one of the ladies.

"No; she told me she tried that plan for a while, but liked this way better, as they both planned their expenditures together, and the doctor was so careful to consult her about his own personal share."

"Who ever heard of a man who consulted his wife about his own personal expenditure?" exclaimed Marion Van Alstyne.

"The doctor evidently does just that," was Mary Wallace's response; "and, for my part, I do not know why a man is not under as much obligation to consult his wife about his purchase as a wife is to interview her husband about her hairpins and Easter bonnet! She told me the question of hospitality caused her some anxious thought at first, but she had learned that the people whose friendship it was really worth while to cultivate disliked a grand crush as much as she did, and greatly preferred her quiet evenings with books, conversation, microscope or music. I do not recollect ever spending a week more pleasantly anywhere, or meeting so many really nice people. It is a genuine home, with no shams and no attempt to 'keep up appearances,' and they are the happiest persons that I know."

"What a horrid life for poor Ida! She might as well be buried alive," sighed Marion Van Alstyne, as she rose from her hammock to answer the summons to tea.

However, the lawyer's special friend was observed to be quietly writing Ida's address in her note book, doubtless with the laudable intention of seeking fuller information concerning topics especially interesting to a prospective partner in the legal profession.—*Congregationalist*.

## A PROSPEROUS YEAR.

### Annual Meeting of the Toronto General Trusts Company.

#### Steady and Rapid Growth of Transactions.

The twelfth annual meeting of the shareholders of the Toronto General Trusts Company was held at the company's office on the corner of Yonge and Colborne streets, Toronto, on Monday, the 28th May, at 12 o'clock noon.

In the absence of Hon. Edward Blake, the President, Mr. John Hoskin, Q.C., LL.D., occupied the chair, and among those present were: Messrs. E. A. Meredith, LL.D., Vice-President; W. H. Beatty, George A. Cox, J. D. Edgar, Q.C.; Edward Galley, George Gooderham, Amelius Irving, Q.C.; Robert Jaffray, J. W. Langmuir, A. B. Lee, G. W. Lewis, Mr. Macdonald, J. Kerr Osborne, William Ramsay of Bowland, Scotland; J. G. Scott, Q.C.; James Scott and T. Sutherland Stagner.

Mr. Langmuir, the Manager, was appointed secretary of the meeting, and the report of the directors for the year ended March 31, 1894, was read as follows:—

#### TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The directors of the Toronto General Trusts Company have pleasure in submitting their annual report, accompanied by the usual financial statements showing the business operations of the company for the year ended March 31, 1894. The shareholders will be gratified to find that these statements show that the progress and growth of the company's business during the past year have been greater than in any previous year of its prosperous history.

The value of new estates and work assumed by the company during the past twelve months is \$2,550,506.65, as compared with \$2,000,212.38 during the preceding year. This large addition to the company's business brings up the aggregate volume of assets remaining in its charge at the close of the year (after the distribution of estate funds to beneficiaries and the closing up of other matters) to very nearly ten million dollars, not including trusteeships for bond-holders.

The varied character of the new work assumed by the company during the year is seen in the following summary:

Administration of intestate estates	\$ 178,619 63
Administration of estates with will annexed, etc.	755,823 39
Executorships and trusts under will	1,063,067 30
Trusteeships	122,519 73
Guardianships	16,223 00
Receiverships	19,000 00
Committeeships	8,518 75
Investment agencies	343,430 00
Estate management agencies	43,279 76
Total	\$2,550,506 65

While the steady and rapid growth of the company's transactions as executor, administrator, trustee, etc., affords cause for much satisfaction, it

necessarily increases in a corresponding degree the duties and responsibilities of the company, which were further enhanced by the large amount of trust funds remaining in the company's hands for investment. To adequately cope with this largely-increased volume of business it became necessary to entirely reorganize and increase the staff of the office and to divide the work into two distinct branches, viz., the estates and agency department and the investment department. The new system has now been in operation since the close of the financial year, and your directors have pleasure in reporting that it works most satisfactorily, and that with such additions from time to time as may be found necessary it seems capable of meeting all future demands on the staff.

During the past, as in former years, the company has assumed the position of trustee under mortgages made by corporations to secure their bond or debenture issue. The company's duty was simply to see that the issue of the bonds or debentures was correct and regular, and that the holders of the bonds or debentures were secured the benefit of the assets covered by the trust deed, and in none of these cases has anything been advanced by the company upon the mortgages, bonds or debentures, nor has it assumed any part whatever of the mortgage liability. The directors feel it right to make this explanation as to the company's liabilities in such cases, in order to remove a misapprehension which seems to exist in the public mind on the subject, as in recent articles which have appeared in our papers it is erroneously assumed that at least in one of these cases the company had incurred serious pecuniary liability; in fact, that it had loaned a very large amount of its funds to the corporation, instead of, as was the case, simply becoming a trustee for the lenders.

The number of estates which have come into the company's hands during the past year is very large, but not a few of these are estates where the assets are very trifling and where the amount of compensation which the company received is altogether inadequate for the work performed. Filling, however, as it does, the position of a public corporate trustee, your directors have not felt justified in declining, except in very special cases, to undertake the management of these small estates. It has accepted them, however, rather as a matter of accommodation than for the sake of reward.

The profit and loss sheet, herewith submitted, shows the revenues of the company for the year and the various sources from which they were obtained, and also the expenses of management.

The net profits for the year, including \$2,983.74, balance brought forward from last year, as will be seen, amount to \$56,096.11, out of which your directors have declared a dividend of 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital stock, absorbing \$21,787.36. The reserve fund has been increased by \$15,000, and now stands at \$240,000, and there has been added to the contingent account the sum of \$15,000, which increases that fund to \$33,325.78. The unappropriated balance at credit of profit and loss amounts to \$4,308.75.

All which is respectfully submitted.  
JOHN HOSKIN,  
Vice-President and Chairman Executive Committee.  
J. W. LANGMUIR,  
Manager.

The adoption of the report was moved by Vice-President Hoskin, seconded by Vice-President Meredith, both of whom congratulated the shareholders on the continued prosperity of the company, which was all the more gratifying at a time when commercial depression is so prevalent. Reference was also made to the misapprehension which seems to exist to some extent in the public mind in respect to the charges of the company, and it was shown that the aggregate compensation of the company for the management of the estates which had passed through its hands during the past year was at least 20 per cent. under what would have been charged by individual executors and trustees.

It was also pointed out that under the new Surrogate Court rules executors and administrators are required to pass their accounts within eighteen months of the issue of probate or letters of administration, when compensation for management of the estate is fixed by the Judge.

The report was unanimously adopted. The usual resolutions of thanks to the Directors, Executive Committee, President, Vice-Presidents and the Manager and staff were adopted. Owing to a vacancy on the board a by-law was passed authorizing the appointment of the Manager of the Board of Directors, with the designation of Managing Director.

The election of directors was then held and resulted in the re-election of the following gentlemen: Hon. Edward Blake, LL.D., Q.C., M.P.; E. A. Meredith, LL.D.; John Hoskin, LL.D., Q.C.; W. H. Beatty, W. R. Brock, George A. Cox, B. Homer Dixon, J. J. Fey, Q.C., George Gooderham, H. S. Howland, Amelius Irving, Q.C., Robert Jaffray, A. B. Lee, J. W. Langmuir, Sir Frank Smith, J. G. Scott, Q.C., James Scott and T. Sutherland Stagner.

At a subsequent meeting of the board the Hon. Edward Blake was re-elected President and Messrs. E. A. Meredith and John Hoskin, Vice-Presidents.

One serious difficulty in the way of using excessively high steam pressures is that the attendant heat renders lubrication uncertain and unsatisfactory. To substitute graphite for oil in such cases would afford relief. Hence the value of a device lately invented for automatically feeding graphite to a steam engine cylinder. The material is first pulverized, and then discharged in a dry powder at a rate easily regulated from a cup on the cylinder.