

The Young Woman and Her Problem

Pearl Richmond Hamilton.

THE PRAYER OF THE SOLDIER'S SWEETHEART

O Thou Who has inspired the British heart with love for Justice and Honor, help him who has offered his life for the Nation's cause. May the memory of my influence thrill him with respect for the purity of womanhood. May he feel that I am worthy of the protection he is willing to fight for. Create in me the spirit of lofty aim and triumphant determination that knows no defeat—and the personality that will inspire him with nobility of manhood. Fill my mind so full of the knowledge of good that petty little thoughts may find no room. As he has offered his life for service so may I be enlisted in the war against avarice, hate and petty bartering for selfish gains. Concentrate all the powers of my nature towards the accomplishment of a Nation's ideal woman. Give me knowledge of womanly work. Inspire me with a vision of my destiny so clear that I shall not sacrifice duty nor principle. If the consciousness of purity of action gives one music at midnight—may the sweetest of Christmas carols cheer my soldier sweetheart on this Christmas Eve. May I feel such a nearness of Thy Presence that my life will be dominated by a sacred regard for honesty, sincerity and truth. May the spiritual wire that binds my soul to his be so charged with the current of womanly love at this Xmas season that he—my soldier sweetheart—shall be strengthened and inspired. Create in me the soul of a true woman. Amen.

IMPOSSIBLE PAINTINGS OF THE MADONNA FACE

The human hand has never been able to produce on canvas a spiritual face. An expensive painting of Christ as a Shepherd was on exhibition in Winnipeg three years ago. When I saw it a cold shudder chilled me for I missed the expression of the soul. Artists since the beginning of time have tried without success to paint the face of Jesus.

The Madonna by Raffaele Sanzio in Florence has marvelous color effects, perfect form and is the execution of a genius but the soul is not there.

Bellini's Madonna is noted for perfection in technical qualities and breadth of light and shade—but the spiritual expression is absent.

In the Academy of Venice one of the noblest products of Religious Art is on exhibition. In addition to the mother and Child, angels on the steps add a heavenly touch to the picture but the heavenly expression is lacking.

The Sistine Madonna by Raphael in the Dresden Gallery is one of the chief treasures of art in the world but the artist could not paint the soul.

Go through the art galleries of Europe and you will find in all the paintings of the human face that no artist has been able to produce the spiritual expression. It cannot be executed by human hand. Only the hand of He Who sent the Christ Child to us can create the Spiritual face. We see it every day. In the North end of Winnipeg is The Madonna of the Immigrant with her child pressed close to her bosom. She looks straight at me and I see deep depths of spirituality in her clear honest eyes. Ah—there is the production of the Master Artist—and a copy of the Christmas Child.

Out on yonder prairie a mother sings her child to sleep and again I see a masterpiece Madonna by the Great Artist—the spiritual face—the expression is there. A woman without spirituality has no real facial expression. Look into the mirror—my dear girl—have you allowed the Master Touch of the Great Artist? Is there spirituality in the lines and curves?

"A face with gladness overspread! Sweet looks by human kindness bred: And seemliness complete that sways Thy courtesies; about thee plays With no restraint, but such as springs From quick and eager visitings Of thoughts that lie beyond the reach Of thy few words of English Speech."

UP TO THE CHRISTMAS STAR

If you are honest with yourself do not worry about gossip—for gossip is created by envy and malice. Sour brains curdle the soul. The inevitable accompaniment of personal progress is mud-slinging. If one is determined to rise, she must first learn to disregard non-essentials and she cannot afford to fritter her valuable energy worrying about the opinions of people who do not count. Employ your time and your thoughts for more vital things. Be an individual. Some one asked me why I did not cut the coat of my new suit square because every one is wearing that style now. Well I have my own ideas about what I can wear. It is the same with ideas. Some one cuts out an idea and a hundred thousand people adopt that idea for their own

THE XMAS CHARACTER

The highest eulogy that can be paid to any girl is to say she is noble. It comprises all the virtues and all the graces. It is a feeling—the appeal which is made to a noble girl is answered almost before it is presented because her consciousness of the needs of others is so acute that the meaning is comprehended intuitively. Nobility is the expression of the soul. It is expressed in the face—for the benevolence that controls a noble girl speaks through a clear kind eye and a beautiful mouth. Nobility of feeling involves sympathy with all that is true and good. A noble girl is conscious of entire harmony with that which is elevating and pure. The choice characters of the world have been animated by this sympathy. The noble girl finds herself so intrenched in desires for the welfare of all that temptations in the opposite direction have no effect on her, because her whole personality becomes ennobled. A life that is noble is al-



The Baimies preparing to cuddle doon

that they may be spared the energy of creating one. Individuality is lacking. The artist creates new ideas. Nature never repeats herself. She never produces two things alike. She puts a dab of individuality in everything she creates. A girl feels she must have a certain style of coat because all the other girls are wearing that style—or a certain form of pleasure is right because the other girls say so. We sway with the crowd. It is the individual that stands out from the rabble who accomplishes things. Merit alone wins. The best things are hard to reach. The best apples are on the tree—there is usually a worm in the wind fall. Only the sound fruit can withstand the gale. A first-class girl cannot be found on Life's bargain counter. Do not cheapen yourself by mixing with easy companions—if you do the choice ones will pass you by.

Utilize—do not brutalize your time. If you are a stenographer of "notes" develop into a woman of note. There are no limits to ambition if it be clean and wholesome. The less effort a girl gives the less she gets—the higher she aims the higher she rises. "And I if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me." Look up to the Xmas star.

ways the result of inner forces and not external excitements. The qualities which must be sought in order to secure true nobility are a lofty purpose, deep sympathies, and absolute self sacrifice. Nothing is too small and nothing is too large for a noble girl to do. Let our gift for the coming year be an Xmas character.

HER WISH

A beautiful young life passed into the Home of the Christ Child recently—Helen Buchanan-Davison—the daughter of W. W. Buchanan—who was Canada's Temperance Reformer. Helen spent her life in bringing light and joy into the hearts of girls who needed a friend. After her marriage she opened her home on Sunday afternoons to friends of her husband—commercial travellers who had no homes. There she and her husband entertained them in an atmosphere of sacred home environment and they were inspired with admiration for the good and pure in Christian character. After dinner they all attended evening service. Can the influence of this kind of hospitality ever be measured?

During her girlhood she lived for a purpose and developed a strength of character that molded the minds of men and women. The following wish was found in her Bible—her wish for the best that can be bestowed on a girl:

"What shall we ask the kindly fates to give

To crown your life and make it ever strong?

Not splendor great nor gold wherewith to live

In arrogance and pride your whole life long.

God make you fair and comely to the sight

Give you more heart than brain, more love than pride.

May you be tender, thoughtful, cheerful, bright

The weaker ones to help and guide. Strive not for greatness for great souls must stand

Alone and lonely on their dizzy heights

Just do your humble part as best you can.

These are the wishes of your friends to-night."

LIVES THAT LIFT

The human hand cannot produce a personality. There is something about the personality that eludes the photographer, which the painter cannot copy, which the sculptor cannot chisel and no hand can record in biography. The magnetic personality has an elevating influence wherever she goes. Every life she touches responds with joy. It is the emphasis of the power of the Christ Child in the heart of woman.

"For letting down the golden chain from high,

She drew her associates upward to the sky.

She bore her great communion in her look,

She sweetly tempered awe; and softened all she spoke."

THE MOBILIZATION OF HOPE.

In The London Daily News Sir James Yoxall, member of the British Parliament, makes some hopeful statements for Christmas reflection:

"Quick success is usually deceptive. Every great cause fails at first. We can mobilize hope. Earnest hoping is a powerful way of asking, and a part of the faith that foresees.

Clough, in his singing robes of vision, gave us a hymn of hoping, which offers the refreshment sinking spirits need.

He criticizes pessimists who have little faith in British strength, and says they are false prophets.

"Say not the struggle naught availeth,

The labor and the wounds are vain,

The enemy faints not, nor faileth,

And as things have been they remain!

If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars;

It may be in yon smoke concealed,

Your comrades chase e'en now the fliers,

And, but for you, possess the field."

Sir James says that pessimists are panic patriots who commit mental treason—they are true pro-Germans and should be interned for they delay our victory. Napoleon said: "In war all is mental." He defined the virtues of a leader as not to worry, to keep a clear mind always, to show no change of countenance, to exhort the timid, to augment the brave, to rally the wavering. None of these things do our panic patriots achieve. Bergson says, "Germany's force is material not moral," which means that she is living upon material reserves alone. "On the German side there is force spread out upon the surface; but on our side there is also deep force, resident in the depths. Deep answers unto deep. Their strength is limited to itself because they have put themselves out of tune with the great slow forces, and into antagonism with the eternal laws, that is why they were in such a hurry, knowing the great slow force of time to be against them. Therefore in the end they must fail and fall, as a dozen tyrant empires have done." Be an optimistic patriot—mobilize Hope.