

The Rain-Song of the Robin.

Oh, the rain-song of the robin! How it thrills my heart to hear! The rain-song of the robin in the summer of the year!

A Visit to a Home for the Blind.

(Mabel E. Moore in the Orphan's Messenger and Advocate of the Blind)

From the days, centuries ago, when our Divine Lord opened the eyes of the blind, until our present time, blindness has been universally considered the greatest of physical afflictions.

But are they friendless? Yes, truly, if dependent upon the capricious charity of the world. But the same Lord who, amidst the voices of the multitude, yet heard and paused at the cry of blind Bartimeus, responds to-day, through a different manner, to the cry of the blind.

Whether it be on the battlefield, in the hospital ward, in the orphan home, wherever poverty and suffering are, there these consecrated women gather.

It was our happy privilege to visit one of these institutions—St. Joseph's Home for the Blind, Jersey City—and the lessons learned there, the impressions received will never be forgotten.

The home, a handsome four-story edifice of yellow brick, interior of polished oak, with tiled floors, and the entire building fireproof and surrounded by superb roof garden commanding an extensive view of the city.

Let us enter and learn something of the noble work done for the blind by the Sisters of St. Joseph, under whose fostering care the orphans, the working girls and the blind are alike sheltered in their various institutions.

From the beautiful chapel to the dormitories and class rooms all is perfect and harmonious. As we entered one of the cheerful, airy rooms, it was to be greeted by a group of children, whose sightless eyes and pathetically extended hands could not fail to touch even the coldest heart.

What particularly impressed us was that all the inmates of the home, from the youngest to the oldest, exhibited happy, contented faces, that would put to shame the discontented countenances of many of the poor favorites of health and fortune.

But it was in the schoolroom our interest was raised to the highest pitch. The class was in session, and at a word from the Sister in charge a little girl of nine years of age came forward and was led to the table by which we were seated. A book with the usual raised letters was given to us to make a selection, and our choice fell upon a poem, which the child read with beautiful clearness and correct pronunciation of every word.

The same information was given concerning New York and New Jersey, the latter being our little friend's own State. With the use of a board composed of small squares, and metallic square tubes with a character on the top, which, according to their position, represented various figures, the child rapidly and correctly performed examples in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and did wonders in fractions; and all this without a single mistake or aid of any kind from her teacher.

They filled out ones they have gathered together under their tender care. Truly, this is no light task or easy burden these Sisters have taken upon their shoulders. Moreover, we must remember that this is not an institution where, after a set term of years, the inmates are sent out to struggle for themselves.

What a blessing to instruct the blind in ways of usefulness, to educate them, to open the enchanted realms of music to them and seek to soothe by sound what has been denied by sight.

Condemned to perpetual darkness, how could they remain sane unless their minds were occupied, their hands trained, their remaining faculties educated, so as to, in a measure at least, compensate in some degree, for the loss of the greatest faculty of all?

Let us, the children of good fortune, possessed of every faculty, blessed in this world's goods, let us remember our afflicted brothers and sisters in Christ, and the daily self-sacrifice, the unceasing labor of the Sisters, in their Home for the Blind.

Music is taught to all who desire to learn, and we listened with rapt attention to one of Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words" exquisitely performed on the piano by a girl of fifteen, and to brilliant duets played in perfect time by two women. The expression they give to the music felt, but cannot be described; it belongs peculiarly to the blind, as though nature had added the sweetest of melody in return for the light placed upon them.

Next visited the workroom, where a number of girls and women were engaged in making beautiful and useful articles of zephyrs—shawls, capes, bedroom slippers, baby socks and sacques—all exquisitely made and the various colors most harmoniously combined; it was touching to watch them so dexterously weaving together the bright colors which their eyes could never behold and admire.

And just here a suggestion: Why not remember these afflicted ones, and perform an act of charity which will cost us nothing save a little extra trouble? Why not purchase some of the beautiful fancy work done by the patient fingers of the blind? Think what it means to be blind; think of the immense sums of money necessary to support and educate the inmates of the home; think of the untiring care and zeal of the Sisters, of the infinite patience necessary for their work, which is all for Christ's sake and out of pity for His suffering ones; and surely we will be ashamed out of our selfishness, and try to do our little to aid a cause so noble and so worthy.

Will not a beautiful shawl, a dainty cape, a tiny baby sacque, have added value if purchased here, particularly when we consider whom the money will benefit?

And what does it cost us more than a few lines of written directions to the Sisters?

From the workroom we went to see the men. These latter are a new feature of the home, and one in which the Sisters are much interested. The Sisters are very desirous of accommodating more men, as, in a certain sense, their condition is worse and more helpless than the condition of the women.

But the expenses of such an institution can easily be imagined. The heating; the food, all of the most wholesome; the personal care required by the blind, the necessary appliances for teaching them, all demand an enormous expenditure, and we must remember that there is no State appropriation, no large board composed of the wealthy, but a home maintained solely by the efforts of the Sisters and the charity of friends.

With that sublime faith so pleasing to Almighty God, they fear no future even as they shrink no present, but trust that the Lord will provide, and not only wait but work, sending up to heaven their earnest prayers for

CONTINUE Those who are gaining flesh and strength by regular treatment with Scott's Emulsion

Month of the Precious Blood at Nazareth House. The Servants of the Poor, who conduct Nazareth House near the Falls of Niagara, observe the pious custom of offering up to the Sacred Heart of Jesus all their prayers, mortifications, good works, special Masses, etc., during the entire month of July, for the spiritual and temporal welfare of all persons who may seek their aid in this way.

The Foolishness of Wrangling. Life has often been pictured as a battle through which one must fight one's way. This, in a sense, is true. We must fight against the evil influence of many wrongs, who are thrown upon us, and must battle against our own nature so prone to evil, but we must offer to the world, nevertheless, as far as in us lies, a serene and untroubled face.

Cough of Grippe. In the Spring when Grippe was raging I had a bad attack and the cough was so severe that I thought I would cough myself to death. I got a bottle of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup and it cured me in a surprisingly short time.

Headache Vanished. Mrs. B. W. Le Gallais, St. Godfrey, P. Q., says: "I have used Milburn's Headache Powders for sick headache. After taking two powders I felt better and was able to get up and go on with my work."

Constipation Cured. Mrs. James Clark, Comandora, Ont writes: "I was greatly troubled with Headache and Constipation, I tried Laxa-Liver Pills and they did me more good than anything I ever took."

Excited lady (at the telephone)—I want my husband, please, at once. Telephone Girl (from the Exchange)—Number, please? Excited lady (snappishly)—How many do you think I've got, you impudent thing?

Mrs. Hibbert Beck, Newburn, N. S. writes: "I was in bed for weeks with Rheumatism and could not move without help, I began using Milburn's Rheumatic Pills and one box relieved the pain and six boxes completely cured me."

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stations along the Yukon, Nulato and Koserefsky. Nulato is near the 64th degree of north latitude, Koserefsky near the 62nd. The church name for the former mission is St. Peter Claver's where Father Lette was stationed and whither he returns this summer; the name for the other mission is Holy Cross, which is about 240 miles [by river] southwest from St. Peter Claver's. The Holy Cross garden, which covers ten acres, was begun in 1890 with nothing but potatoes and cabbage. From a few potatoes the Jesuits raised seed for 1891, when they also introduced cattle, three or four cows and one bull. In 1895 the Fathers sent specimens of fine vegetables to the Department of Agriculture in Washington.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

Song of the Busy Husband.—Wives and daughters all around us. We must make our little pile, and, departing, leave behind us Cash for them to live in style.

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