

The Home Mission Journal.

A record of Missionary, Sunday-School and Temperance work, and a reporter of church and ministerial activities, and general religious literature. Published semi-monthly.

All communications, whether containing money or other wise are to be addressed to

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Rosecroft.

CHAPTER XX.

The summer months fled happily by, and early in September Elsie began to attend a private school for girls in Berwick, kept by the Misses Van Alstyne, two accomplished maiden ladies, old friends of Miss Hathaway's. The young girl had looked forward with some apprehension to her school days; as usual she dreaded meeting so many strangers, and feared besides that she would be found backward in her studies. To avert this evil, if possible, she applied herself diligently to her books during the summer, though watched over carefully by Miss Hathaway, who would overdo herself and miss the exercise and sleep she needed.

She had the kindest of helpers in both Miss Hathaway and Mr. Adams. Aunt Martha instructed her in English literature, French and German, while the young minister gave her lessons in Latin and mathematics. Both were delighted with Elsie's comprehensive grasp of any study, her remarkable quickness and tenacious memory.

"She is one of the brightest young creatures I ever met," said Mr. Adams one evening to Miss Hathaway. "It's an ill-luck pleasure to teach her! I profess that she will take a high stand at once in the Misses Van Alstyne's school, and be ready to graduate in two years, without overtaxing herself either. Then she can aid ought to be sent to college. She richly deserves the chance. As you know, she has a great ambition to be a teacher, and I believe that she would make a most successful one. She has such a noble Christian character, that if she is spared to grow into womanhood I am sure her influence over any young people placed under her care will be most helpful and far-reaching."

"I'm delighted that you think so highly of the dear girl," replied Miss Hathaway. "And she shall go to college, if it is possible, during it. Her eyes shined with a thoughtful, somewhat anxious expression as she spoke. She was too well aware that the sum Mr. Hadley squandered his daughter for her education would be hardly sufficient for her tuition in the Misses Van Alstyne's establishment, and was considering what sacrifices she could make to give her the chance that would mean so much to her.

"Now, my dear, good friend," said Mr. Adams kindly, "I beg you won't take any anxious thought about this matter. I am well acquainted with one of the trustees of Vassar, a wealthy, large-hearted man whose delight is to help young people of ability but of small means to a college education. I am sure he would be interested in such a bright girl as Miss Elsie; and Dr. Noble, too, who looks so much of her, would use his influence with him. I have not a doubt that we can procure a scholarship for your niece in Vassar College."

"How can I thank you enough for all your kindness?" began Miss Hathaway, but the young minister would not let her go on.

"Now don't say another word of that sort. If in any way I ever be of some help to you dear, kind people who are always doing something for my pleasure and comfort, I shall think it a privilege, I assure you."

Again the June roses are in bloom, as luxuriantly beautiful in Berwick as upon that summer day fifteen years before, when Elsie arrived in the pretty rural town. Berwick has grown since then; some new public buildings and a number of stores and private houses have been erected in the course of years.

In the handsome, commodious school house, surrounded by well kept grounds, where the Misses Van Alstyne held sway so long, there is a tinge of excitement and expectation in this June morning. It is "Commencement Day," and from the new principal of the school, who assumed charge of it last fall down to the youngest pupil all are full of the spirit of the occasion.

Mr. Adams' prophecies had been fulfilled, while some changes had taken place that had not anticipated.

At seventeen Elsie had graduated with high honors from the Misses Van Alstyne's establishment. She was one of their favorite pupils, and they, as well as her other friends, were very anxious that she should be sent to Vassar. The worthy friend of whom Mr. Adams had spoken, and who was one of the patrons of the school, was present at the graduating exercises, and Elsie was presented to him afterward. The good man, who had been much pleased with her appearance and the way in which she had acquitted herself in her studies, with her graduating essay and the valedictory she had been selected to deliver, has his favorable opinion confirmed by an interview with the bright, interesting young girl, so full of enthusiasm for the noble profession she had chosen.

It was not long before he made the offer to send her to Vassar College the following autumn. Elsie and her friends were grateful beyond measure, though, with her usual noble independence of character, the young girl asked that she might be allowed to return the price of her tuition by quarterly payments when she herself should be earning a salary as a teacher. Pleas'd with her independent spirit, her friend agreed to the arrangement, and with heartfelt thankfulness Elsie began her preparations for entering Vassar in the fall. Her only regret, and a deep one, was that she must be separated from her beloved aunt so much of the year. But that was inevitable; it was a great comfort to her that Rosie was, as ever, her mistress' right hand and that Mr. Adams was still an intimate of Rosecroft, as devoted to his hostess as she was thoughtful of him.

Such as Miss Hathaway felt the parting from Elsie, she bore to it with her usual cheerfulness. The autumn came softly round, and Elsie, having passed a successful examination, entered Vassar College. We will not dwell upon her happy sojourn in this noble institution, nor the friendships she formed there, some of them destined to last through her life. When she left Vassar—graduating with honors—it was with a change of address, and broadcast by the beneficent atmosphere of the college.

Elsie had scarcely graduated from Vassar when the Misses Van Alstyne made her an offer at a position as teacher in their school. She accepted it gladly, for both she and Miss Diantha were delighted at this opening, which permitted them to remain in Berwick.

Elsie was a born teacher, with a magnetic personality that influenced every pupil with whom she came in contact. Her scholars loved and respected her in equal measure. So important an element did she become in the school, that when, after some years, the elder Miss Van Alstyne died it seemed only natural that the younger sister should ask Elsie to take the position of assistant principal, which she herself had occupied so long.

Elsie's objection, and a strong one, was that her Aunt Diantha, in order to remain with her, would be obliged to leave her beloved cottage and live in the school. Miss Van Alstyne, who dearly loved Miss Hathaway, had herself proposed this, declaring that she and Elsie should have two of the pleasantest rooms in the commodious building, and that, furthermore, she would find a position in her household for faithful Rosie. As for Mr. Adams, he had departed two years before, to the great regret of our friends and all who knew him. Called to be pastor of a church in a neighboring city, he had taken an affectionate leave of his friends, but sometimes came to visit or to preach, accompanied now and then by the lovely young wife whom he had married soon after leaving Berwick. Another valuable assistant had been secured for Dr. Noble.

(To be Continued.)

The Perfect Way.

As for God His way is Perfect,
His wisdom is our staff and stay;
He who would his will interpret
Shall not fall or go astray.

Seated on His throne in glory,
Yet beholds poor sinning men;
Knowing how from Him they've wandered,
Seeks to win them back again.

From the horrid pit he takes them,
Out of the mire and filthy clay,
In His own Royal Robe enwraps them,
Sets their feet in the narrow way.

In their mouths He puts a new song,
Highest praises to their King,
Joining with the saints in glory,
To His feet their tributes bring.

As for God, His way is perfect,
Though thy path be dark and drear,
On His blessed word relying,
Stay thy zeal and dry thy tears.

Rev. Fredk. T. Snell,
Acton, London, W.

Interesting Baptist Items

By E. C. Romine.

It was a Baptist who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, a book next to the Bible for usefulness.

The father of William Penn was a Baptist. John Hart, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, belonged to the Hopewell, N. J., Baptist church.

Henry Clay, the great orator, had a Baptist father and his half brother was a Baptist preacher. Samuel Houston, the noted statesman and patriot of Texas, was a Baptist.

Thaddeus Stevens honored the memory of his Baptist mother by liberal bequests.

The mother of Abraham Lincoln was a Baptist. Mr. Lincoln said: "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

T. U. Walter, a noted architect, who designed the dome of our National Capitol and of the Girard College buildings, was a Baptist deacon. The late President Wm. McKinley insisted on being immersed.

A Baptist, Rev. S. F. Smith, wrote the popular hymn, "My country 'tis of thee."

The richest man in the United States, probably in the world, John D. Rockefeller, is a Baptist. His son teaches a Baptist Bible class of 200 men.

Rev. William Howe, Cambridge, Mass., aged 97 years, is the oldest Baptist clergyman in the United States. He graduated from Newton in 1830.

The largest Protestant church edifice in America Grace Baptist Temple, Philadelphia.

The Mayor of Philadelphia is a Baptist. The first Sunday school was started by a Baptist, Robert Rakes.

The first Bible society was started by a Baptist, Joseph Hughes.

The first Gospel preacher was a Baptist. His name was John.

The first man to secure slave-liberty in America was a Baptist, Roger William, who founded Rhode Island colony, and located the city of Providence.

It is said that Mr. Spurgeon used to tell of a man who would say to his wife: "Mary, go to church and pray for us both." The man dreamed that he and his wife had reached the gate of heaven, and on asking for admission, St. Peter said: "Mary can go in for both."