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Young Woman and Her Problem

By Pearl Richmond Hamilton
A Vision of Xmas Candles

The spirit of Xmas came to me last evening in a vision to remind me of a message for all girls who read The Western Home Monthly. This was the command: "Dip your pen into the very depth of spiritual joy until every word shall burn with love and hope and faith and inspiration. Create in the heart of every reader a wonderful picture of a possible heaven in her particular corner wherever it may be."

Immediately down deep in my heart came the response—a desire to make this page ring the bells of the peace of Xmas into the life of every girl reader and make this Xmas her happiest. Santa Claus tells me he sees this magazine in many, many different kinds of homes. So whether our girl reader is in a tiny shack on the prairie—or is shivering in a chilly room of a city boarding house, or if she be settled snugly in an upholstered Chesterfield—or more, more probable still if she brightens the cozy living room of the average comfortable Canadian home—I want her to be happier after she reads this page. It may not measure up to the standard of a literary critic, but if it weaves a golden chord from heart to heart it will satisfy the command of the Xmas spirit.

And this is the vision—an Xmas tree—the most wonderful tree in the whole world, because it is dazzling with brilliantly lighted candles—no two alike—each one radiating different rays of light for each one is lighted from the flame that burns in a girl's heart.

The Candle of Service

There is one at the top whose light is almost a halo—it took a young woman ten years to light that candle. God has made it so that love given will come back in a rich harvest—nothing but unselfish service brings us happiness. For ten years the young woman who lighted that candle has spent nearly every Sunday in a girl's club and has blessed every life she touched. Quiet, unassuming, genuine, all the way through she has laboured unceasingly, many times neglecting her own needs for the welfare of others. Misunderstood, at times subjected to unkind criticisms from the leader, she courageously worked on and on until she won the good-will and admiration of every one who knows her. And every Tuesday evening after school, for she is a teacher, you may see her loaded down with Red Cross material which she takes to the club for the girls to make. This young woman is one of those quiet forces in life that moves the world to a heaven on earth. Patience—the proper result of a Christly temper, the great kindness which our religion does for us, bringing a settled condition on the mind and a consistency within ourselves. That candle shall burn on and on forever.

The Candle of Happiness

Another candle that burns with a beautiful flame was lighted by a stenographer I know. The love of happiness and the principle of duty—united—is religious master piece, the source of peace. This young woman has driven many clouds away for her smile and clean wit touched every heart in her company with light, and filled it with a melody that turned the ills of life to music. When she came into our club room every face would brighten with pleasure. She was popular. Why? Well, we all like a good time, and somehow she made us have a good time. Once she led me into the secret of her heart. It was sad—very very sad, but she determined to create from her trouble a wonderful life-rainbow.

"It's all the way that you look at a woe, And not in the woe that is sent you; You may bear it with courage and smile as you go, Or frown and let it discontent you."

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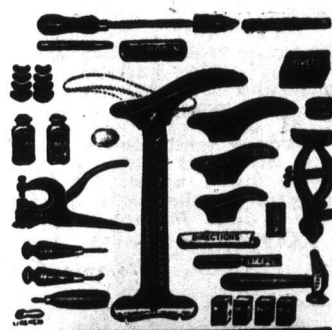
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A Message
For Every HomeIs to be found in the Splendid Picture
The Dispatch Rider

By Malcolm D. Charleson

The Dispatch Rider is one of the finest water color art productions of the year 1917. It depicts a trooper of the 34th Fort Garry Horse Regiment in France. It is from the brush of Mr. M. D. Charleson, a well-known western Canadian artist, and was produced by him while a member of the famous Fort Garry Horse.

Many months ago Mr. Charleson was commissioned by the management of The Manitoba Free Press Company, Limited, to create a watercolor that would make a suitable premium for the subscribers of The Free Press Prairie Farmer. Western Home Monthly readers, by taking advantage of this special offer, can also secure a copy of this picture.

The writer of this announcement cannot hope to picture in cold type the expression on "The Dispatch Rider's" face as he dashes along the old Roman road, with a century-old village just behind in the fierce grip of the red flames of war. There is something about the peaceful valley and the exploding shrapnel that is inexplicable, and both the horse and rider glaringly convey the absolute necessity and the urgency of the situation existing in the background.

The Free Press Prairie Farmer has had this watercolor painting reproduced in eight size of the picture itself is 13 inches by 18 inches, and including the mount is 21 by 28 inches.

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