

Concerning Girls

By Daisy Walker

THE GIRL AND HER HOME

'Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

What a beautiful place is the Garden of Home! There the flowers of Love bloom; there sweet girlhood grows and winsome womanhood develops. How thoughtfully Ruskin describes this garden in his "Sesame and Lilies":

"The stars only may be over her head; the glow-worm in the night-cold grass may be the only fire at her foot; but home is yet wherever she is; and for a noble woman it stretches far around her, better than ceiled with cedar, or painted with vermillion, shedding its quiet light far for those who else were homeless."

Therefore womanhood means home. Yet to-day in so many cases home is only a place to eat and sleep in—not a sacred place, nor a place of rest; not a place of mutual understanding and sweet sympathy where all joys are doubled and sorrows halved, as each weary day ends and the rush and noise of the outside world are left behind as the door closes. On the making of such a home, each girl can do so much, more even than she dreams.

It has also been said that flowers only flourish rightly in the garden of someone who loves them. Likewise, the girl herself can only grow beautiful and lovable in a Garden of Home, surrounded by love and sympathy.

What a work, then, for our girls to-day as they receive and give and receive in the giving! There are empty places to fill and lonely hearts to cheer and comfort, and no one can do this quite so tactfully and kindly as a noble, pure, earnest and loving girl. By love and thoughtfulness she may lighten the load of sorrow and brighten the weary and monotonous hours filled only with the common duties of the common day.

Girls! In our days of pleasure and happy joys, do we think of those at home? Is it playing fair to forget or neglect them? They may not murmur nor complain (they seldom do), but the ache is there.

"Oh, but home's a bit of heaven,
When there's love and kindness there;
There's no place else can equal it,
Nor anything compare,—
A place to rest when weary,
Where heart-ache finds relief;
Ah, but home's a bit of heaven,
When there's love and kindness there."

PICTURES IN THE HOME

In a certain Western city, in a home well known to the writer, the parents, prosperous and wealthy, had purchased many beautiful and expensive pictures. The gem of the collection was hung in her little boy's room, who was just over three years of age. A friend was being shown the pictures one day, and having seen and admired them all, she said: "But why do you hide that exquisite picture in a boy's room?" "Oh," said the mother, "I purposely placed it there so that my little lad might look upon that beautiful picture as the last image in his mind as he went to sleep and the first thing in the morning to greet him as he awakens." That mother understood and she was right.

Girls—what pictures have you in your room? You unconsciously become like that which you look upon and think about. We girls also generally have the privilege of influencing the choice of pictures in the home as a whole. The

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pictures form part of the nutrition for the flowers in the Garden of the Home,—a nutrition so greatly needed in this age when the materialistic claims such a place. The thoughts of the good and great are not only preserved in books; they are made incarnate with paint and brush and canvas. Copies can be procured at very reasonable prices and when suitably framed form a constant inspiration, calling us to the good and beautiful. The "good" and "beautiful" are very closely related, so much so that the Greeks formed the two words into one.

Examine the pictures in your room, girls,—and then take another look at those in your whole home.

Learn to love; when you have learned that you will have learned to live.



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