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EVERYWOMAN'S WORLD

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EDITORIAL

The Mother Love

children is the Hair-splitting psychologists and ethicists, who analyze emotions as chemists analyze nostrums, reducing them to their primal elements, tell us that a mother's love for her quintessence of selfishness.

The proposition is a hard one; but much is advanced in its support.

The mother loves her child, not because her child is more lovable than other children are, but because it is her own. The mother's child is a part of herself—of her own flesh and bone and blood. Her child is a reproduction and perpetuation of herself. So her love for the child is in a sense self-love. And then, too, the child takes on a thousand and one of the mother's own little ways of thought and act and speech. These the mother loves through her own conceit. Other women's children may have better ways according to common judgment, but never according to her own.

In addition to all this, the habit of intimate association, the strongest habit we have, adds to the endearment. The child is a part of the mother's everyday life, of her inner life, of her heart companionship and soul development.

Let the child be torn by death from the mother's breast, and the mother weeps and sorrows, even though she knows the child has gone to happiness ineffable.

The bereaved mother with sublime trust in God may think that in her heart she thanks Him for taking her beloved one from a world of sin and pain to a heaven of pure delight, but her feeble words of thanks falter through tears that come because she is bereft.

Who can deny all this, or any part of it? No one.

Let us look at a little story from real life:

"With the arms of her two-year-old daughter lovingly entwined about her neck, and with three other little children weeping at her side, Mrs. Mary Donovan was found dead on the floor of her home in Toronto. The poor woman, ill with pneumonia and suffering with hunger, had worked ceaselessly in an effort to keep her children out of the poorhouse, until she dropped dead from exhaustion. The husband had run away without leaving a cent. The woman slaved all day and part of every night. She fell ill, but would not spend any of her earnings for a physician or medicine. A half finished task was found in the room with the body."

Well, what of it? What can be said in condemnation of such selfishness as this?

Selfishness is the universal, the fundamental passion upon which is based every emotion, impulse and aspiration known to humanity.

Take away selfishness, and mankind would become dead clay.

But neither selfishness nor any other passion possible to humanity is in itself wrong; it can become wrong only when improperly applied.

The selfishness in mother-love that prompts such self-sacrifice as that of life itself that children may be fed is holy beyond ordinary human conception, but not more holy than that which more commonly prompts daily and hourly self-sacrifice in little things in every household in the world.

Though it have selfishness at its base, mother-love is the sweetest, strongest, passion in the world. Without it life would be unendurable and heaven incomprehensible.

from the pictures she loves than from the books she likes, because art love is less of the mind and more of the soul.

So powerful is the influence of good pictures in their constant force of suggestion that criminologists are learning to hang them in prison cells as a most valuable element in discipline and reform.

Is Prayer Answered?

A correspondent writes: "I know what the preachers say about it, but singularly enough I want your opinion: 'Is prayer answered?'"

It all depends. What is prayer? And who offers the prayer? And what does she pray for?

There is an old hymn which says: "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, Uttered or unexpressed."

Given the petitioner who asks for a proper answer to her prayer, and who really desires what she asks for—that woman's prayer is answered.

It is the very nature of things. It is based on scientific fact.

Darwin has told us that Spencer has illustrated the fact that thought, desire, is the method of creation.

All things come through desire. The deer runs because it wants to run, and has thus evolved the parts necessary for its running. The fish has fins because it desires to swim. The bird flies because it desires to fly. All animate nature is what it is because it desires to be so. It couldn't be different.

To give a concrete example of answered prayer:

An individual prays to be a useful helpful citizen. If she is sincere in her prayer, she desires what she prays for. And through that desire, in time, she becomes what she prays for.

In this sense a woman answers her own prayer.

It is the law of being that you are transformed into the likeness of that which you desire.

No power on earth or in hell can prevent a woman from being a good woman if she desires to be. She may know nothing about the law of assimilation or reflex action. But her prayer will be answered just the same.

You say this eliminates God? No, it simply proves that God uses us to answer our prayers.

A prayer without soul in it, a prayer without sincere desire in it, a prayer without longing in it, is blasphemy.

Honesty is the Normal Condition

That there are wrongs, in big enterprises and in small, there can be no question.

We hear more about delinquencies of all sorts than we did when the facilities for gathering news were meagre.

But the optimist sees that justice, honor and honesty are the normal conditions, and that they rule as a matter of course in social and business relations.

Millions of instances in which they are in evidence never appear under startling headlines in the newspapers. They are by far too ordinary to constitute news.

An honest man creates no sensation as he passes along the street attending quietly to his business. But the thief in custody attracts a crowd.

This is simply because honesty is common and dishonesty uncommon.

The great tendency of our society, whether political or industrial, is toward the general welfare and the common good.

The whole business structure rests and has always rested on the conviction that men will fulfill their obligations and deal fairly.

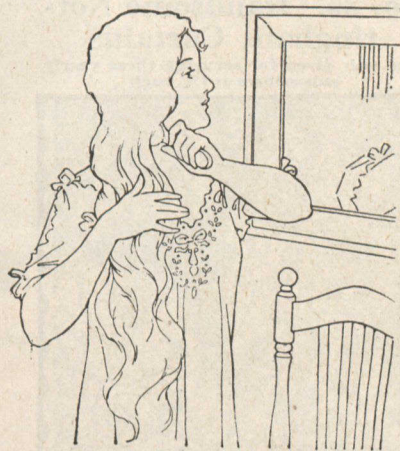
This conviction is the foundation of credit. Ninety-five per cent of the total business transactions of this country are carried on not in cash, but in credit based on this conviction, showing how general it is and how firm.

Confidence, not suspicion, is and must ever be the prevailing tone of the business world.

The common belief that the vast majority of men are honest is more pronounced to-day than it ever was before.

It bears silent but convincing testimony to the fact that humanity is going forward, not backward.

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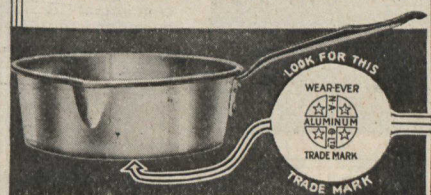
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