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Don't you want one?

#### A SPRING OPENING

Out in the snug winter quarters,  
The Daffies are whispering of spring,  
Saying 'tis time she were coming,  
Their dainty new mantles to bring.

The Crocuses stir in their slumber,

And nudge the Dianthus to say:  
" 'Twas surely the song of a robin  
That woke us at dawning of day."

Down by the willow-fringed brooklet  
There are Pussies with soft furry coats,

And a woodpecker drums on the house-top;  
We know what his racket denotes.

We know by the rustle and bustle,  
And the stir in the soft, balmy air,  
That Nature is waking her children,  
For some special fete to prepare.

But a tell-tale has published the secret—  
A braggart from Southland, a-wing;  
From the bare, leafless branch of a maple  
He boastfully carols a-swing—

"I have come—I have come to the opening,  
The annual opening of Spring!  
I hurried—I hurried to get here,  
For I promised—I promised to sing!"  
—Lizzie Clark Hardy.

#### MARGARET'S SPECIAL MESSAGE

Dear Friends:—Again I must thank my loving readers for their great kindness to Lizzie McCartin. This dear child came in the other day to tell me that she is going out into the country for a three months' holiday, and the friend who is taking her has sent her railway fare, so that she is under no expense in going out for her holiday. I have a firm conviction that this child will get better, and that all she needs is plenty of fresh air, sunshine, milk, eggs, etc., and last, but not least, love and kindness. These I feel assured will be hers from now on. We are also sending another young girl into the country for a month or six weeks' holiday, and trust she also will return good and strong.

The "Fresh Air Home" at St. Louis will be opened on or about the 1st of June, and we hope, indeed, that many girls and women will take the opportunity of having, at least, one week's perfect rest in this ideal spot. The cottage is on the banks of Netley Creek, and looks over a half mile stretch of water. The girls have nothing to do but sit on the verandah or rest under the shady trees and drink in all the beauty of God's wonderful earth.

My heart yearns for all these young girls who are away from their parents and who are striving earnestly and honestly to keep out of debt and dress respectably on a ridiculously small sum of money. I was invited down the other day to speak to a large meeting of working mothers, and I was asked, of course, to speak to them on several subjects, but more especially on economy. When I realized that these women were keeping a house, sometimes three, four, six and even eight children on an income of eight, nine and ten dollars a week (at the outside fourteen dollars) I felt inclined to ask them (in fact I did ask them) how they made ends meet,

for I thought, instead of teaching them economy they could teach me and many others a lesson in economy, in love and self-sacrifice, for these women were clean and tidy, and their children also although it was very pitiful to notice all the careful mendings and darnings, and in many cases very careful patching that had been necessary to appear "spruce" at our meeting. Just think of it, to live day in and day out on an income of nine dollars per week. It is not living. Could you wonder that these women and men sometimes become disheartened, and that they need assistance with clothing and little delicacies when sickness knocks at the door, and I say from my heart God bless these brave hearts who struggle under such difficulties; such limitations to bring up their children respectably and in the love of God. To you, my readers out in God's Sunshine and fresh air with His bounteous blessings around, you cannot realize the temptations for these dear people, and especially for our young girls under-paid, under-fed and under-clothed. How can we all thank you, or can we ever thank you enough for the prompt answers that I have received to every call I make. I am publishing a letter from Miss Stimson, 210 Union street, Hillsdale, Mich, U.S.A., in which she says:—

"Dear Sunshine Friend:—I know you made mention of my wish to sell the booklet, because I have had return from there. Do you remember the Bible story: 'Were there not ten cleansed, where are the nine?' I have called on you today to give you my sincere thanks; it is my birthday; I am forty-five years old today; if you had space for it I wish you would express my thanks in your corner and mention that the kind purchasers have expressed a deep interest in my poem after reading it: 'Spun from Life.' Price, post-paid, 52c.

Lovingly yours,  
(Signed) E. M. STIMSON.

So that even if the call comes from a long distance a hearty response is always received. May God's richest blessings be yours throughout the coming year, and may each and all have a bounteous harvest of health and prosperity.

Yours lovingly in Sunshine or shade,  
"MARGARET."

Mrs. L. Gray, Saltecoats, Sask.—Many thanks for your letter. I will do my best to supply your need, but at present we have not anything on our books such as you desire. I am sending you a membership card and how to form a branch of Sunshine. I trust you will try among your many friends to obtain at least a few members.

Mrs. Yeo, Cypress River, Man.—Many thanks for the Sunday school papers which are always very acceptable. We shall have some other young girls leaving the hospital in about a fortnight or three weeks, and would be very glad indeed to communicate with you and send out one for a month's rest under your loving care.

Mrs. James B. Anderson, "The Valley," Dropmore, Man.—Many thanks for your letter. Your name will be placed on our books, and should we meet with your requirements, we will communicate with you at the earliest possible moment. I am sending you membership card, and trust to hear from you that you are able to form a branch of Sunshine in your home town.

#### EVERY CHILD SHOULD JOIN THE SUNSHINE GUILD

Sign the form below:—  
Dear Margaret:—I should like to become a member of your Sunshine Guild. Please send membership card. I enclose two cent stamp for its postage.

Name .....  
Age .....  
Address .....

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