

FROM MY WINDOW.

Out over the lawn, over the pink-blossomed orchard sloping down toward the singing brook and the "drowsy meadow," then up again from the valley a mile or two away lies the town, half hidden among the trees; and beyond all the blue hills and bluer sky. This is the view from my window, dear to me from my earliest childhood with all of childhood's tenderest memories. What if the trees are not quite so high, nor the brook so broad, nor the town so large as my childish thought imagined! They are yet beautiful to me and speak better things to my soul to-day than they did to my child heart long ago.

Yet it is not of the view I would speak, but of my neighbors, the birds. I can hardly write now for their singing. The wrens have been at it since early morning, as though life was short and they must fill it with work and with song. Such busy, quick, energetic fellows! They build their nest under the veranda eaves, carrying up their bits of sticks and thread and cotton and then flutter down for a new supply. Soon the nest is finished and the song of triumph from the lilac bush near by will fairly make your heart sing too. If we had such decision of character proportionate to our size and moral power, how long would the weak and oppressed wait for a strong hand to help them? How long would we human giants sit with folded hands and not try to help bear the burdens of life?

The wrens have caught the true note of living—work and song.

But there! the robins are making such an ado and drowning out the story of my wee wren and her warblings. "Cheer up! cheer up," my robin says, "Don't take such a pessimistic view of life." Then he goes hopping over the grass, but stops to throw up his head and call back a "cheer up" to me again, lest I should forget his message. No, I shall not forget; it was stamped on my heart long ago by a mightier voice than thine, Robin dear! Now he has flown down into the apple trees, and just in time too, for there up over the hedge comes his great enemy, the blackbird, with his slick black coat and beady eye.