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TO YOUNG WOMEN.

A THOUGHTFUL SERMON BY ELIZA ARCHARD CONNOR.

Religion and Common Sense Precepts Worth Thinking of—The Girl Who Follows This Advice is the One Who Will Win—Seven Rules for Success—Be Industrious, Be Thrifty, Be Sincere, Be Helpful, Be Neat, Be Beautiful, Be Your Sex's Best Champion.

My DEAR GIRL—What do you live for, anyway? Did you ever stop to think? If I did not know better, I should say some young women lived to read snappy novels, eat candy and ice cream and wear fantastic costumes. But I do know better. In the secret heart of even the seemingly most shallow and thoughtless girl there is a genuine, deep down desire for a wisdom that will illumine all her soul and make her life strong and beautiful—profitable to others and to herself. I know that even the apparently vulgar minded and silly girls whom I see every day flitting, making faces and talking by the deaf and dumb alphabet with the strange workmen in the window cosmetics would not do this a moment longer if they once realized that they are degrading and ruining forever in the minds of those men the whole noble ideal of womanhood. It is only because they know not what they do.

How shall a young woman, rich or poor, learn to lead the strong, full, beautiful life that shall be profitable to herself and others without being good-looking or stiffer her reasonable, natural desire to enjoy herself as much as possible? All young women have goodly-godliness—the solemn assumption of superior virtue—and I don't blame them. I hate myself to this day as I hate all humbugs, of which it is one of the biggest.

Mrs. ELIZA ARCHARD CONNOR. object lessons of that kind are often fall to human lot here gives her ideas of how a young woman may best lead the beautiful life without any humbug. 1. Do some useful work, and do it with enthusiasm.

Unless at the end of our days we can look back and say that we have striven steadily to improve our own lives and those of at least two or three other persons, then our lives have been a dead failure. We have given no reason for existence. We had no right to be born. We have simply lived and taken up room that ought to have been given to somebody better.

In the pursuit of the beautiful life it is hard to say which girl has the advantage, the rich or the poor one. For the young woman not obliged to earn her living there opens to-day a more glorious field of human achievement than ever man or woman enjoyed before. There are magnificent branches of scientific attention that ought to be occupying the thousands of girls who have grand gifts. All young women who have their own gifts and shed joy around her for a lifetime by cultivating that grand gift. So with the woman who has talent for art and decoration, for writing or acquiring languages. Queen Victoria's daughters, every one of them, learned, not only one, but several useful occupations, and could to-day earn their own living if it were necessary. If I were a rich woman I should find my greatest joy in showing the world what matches power there is in the perfect intellectual flowering and development of a woman's brain. I should go my way singing as I went and thanking God for the opportunity.

Perhaps the wealthy young woman does not care for more intellectual culture. Then there are the great social and philanthropic problems she should take up. The questions of municipal government, labor, poverty, drunkenness and crime will never be solved till woman brings the light of her heart and brain to bear upon them.

Outside of your employment pursue some intellectual or artistic study. Take a course of physical training, too, to make your body fine, strong and shapely. It is the duty of woman, young and old, to make herself as beautiful as she can—not by smearing cosmetics upon her face, pinching in her waist and deforming her feet by tight shoes and high heels, though she can make herself comely to look upon, but by taking care of her health, keeping good-tempered and living out of doors as much as possible.

have so small a sum at a time as fifty cents. The conditions of life are hard in our time. It is as much the duty of a woman to understand business methods and lay up money as it is that of a man. When you have a sum large enough, invest it in some sure way, so that it will bring you a little return, and keep adding to it, and one of these days you will find yourself in the enjoyment of a competency. It was by saving from their small wages that the greatest millionaires got their start.

You will observe that through this whole sermon I say not a word concerning matrimony. The omission is on purpose. I do not need to. Young women have been preached at about marriage ever since the days of Adam and Eve.

Be sincere. One of the greatest of human virtues is sincerity. Be so crystal true that one may look into your soul as into clear water, and see that you mean just what you say and intend to stick to it. The best rule I know of in this matter is never to say a word about another that you would be unwilling to say to the person face to face. The girl who falls into the habit of even telling white lies does her own character an almost irreparable injury. Every falsehood or insincere speech weakens by so much her power over others, and her force and influence in the world. A liar is a coward and a fool, whether statesman or saleswoman. For the sake of our moral and intellectual upbuilding, it is better even to say that we are at home but cannot see a visitor who calls at an inconvenient hour than to take refuge in the fiction that we are not at home. Know this: Absolute sincerity, accompanied by sympathy and perfect good temper, gives one a mysterious power over his fellowmen.

Be helpful to others. It is given to every one to do great things for humanity suddenly. It is given to every one to do constantly little kindnesses to those around her. Where you can soothe a headache or heartache do it. Whenever, by word or deed, you can make another's burden lighter, another's cup of grief less bitter, as you hope for aid and comfort in your own hour of need, withhold not that word or deed. Give hope to the discouraged, inspiration to the weary and fainting, peace to the troubled. Simply do what you can, for everybody you meet. This does not mean that you shall give of your money to every tramp or winning beggar woman to buy whisky, but that you shall bestow both money and sympathy wisely. Begin when you are able to do all the little kindnesses you can to those who come your way, and by the time you are old the list will be so long that you will realize you have been great in helpfulness. So you will have turned at least a little of this purgatorial world into paradise. The genuinely religious life is led by the one that makes her own those two divine injunctions: "Whosoever ye love, that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them." "A new commandment I give unto you, that they who love one another, that this life is not a very jolly one at best. Do what one person can to make it pleasant."

A woman's hair and skin, her sleeping room and all her personal belongings should always be as sweet as a rose new washed by a rain shower. Stand by your own sex. In one of the visions of that noble book, "Dreams," Olive Schreiner says: "I looked and saw that all the women each other's hands." When all the women hold one another by the hand instead of trying to climb upon one another's shoulders, then all will be happy. Stand by your sisters; fight their battles; say no unkind or cruel word to them or about them, and permit no one else to say such words. In society, in the struggle for new bread-winning industries, in joy and in sorrow let our sex stand together as one woman against the world.

The ideal friendship, I have often thought, is that between two women, and I know that some of the ideal homes are those in which two or three devoted women friends keep house together in apartments daily enough for a fairy queen. Women who love their own sex find their truest, sweetest, jolliest friends among women, and the solid comfort of their lives is with these friends.

Uphold forevermore the purity, dignity and worth of womanhood. Woman represents the moral and spiritual side of human nature. Bitterly is she punished when she steps down from her high place. The girl who rashly invites the attention of men in public places commits a crime against her sex. The same man seer and joke about her constantly in cars and on the street. Hold yourself free so independent, so pure and high and precious that man will think it worth his strongest endeavor to win your heart and hand. When you all do this, and not till then, will man love and esteem woman at her full worth.

And now, my dear girls, farewell, and God bless you! Go on, rejoicing, loving, conquering. Make life one song of thanksgiving for the power to work and achieve.—ELIZA ARCHARD CONNOR.

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