

"The sky is so blue, and the sun shines so bright, and the birds are singing so sweetly!"

"Oh, are they?" was all the old man answered. He then walked on.

"I'm going to get somebody else to help us," said the first little girl. "I'm sure he would smile if we could make him think of something pleasant."

So she found another friend and let her into the secret. "Mr. Green will be coming back in a few minutes, and we can pass him again."

Before long they saw the solemn old man coming slowly up the hill. Together the three children started off toward him.

"Now," said the first little girl, as they came directly up to him; and a chorus sounded forth: "Good morning, Mr. Green; isn't this a beautiful day?" As he looked up, they continued: "The sky is so blue, and the sun shines so bright, and the birds are singing so sweetly!"

"Why, so it is a beautiful morning," the old man replied as if making a discovery. He looked up at the sky, then at the three little girls, and smiled, and walked on.

"He did it, he did it!" cried the first little girl. "I knew he would."

"He smiled," shouted the others as they all ran off to play.—Mildred G. Gregory



Home Patriots

Every mother who is maintaining a home in accord with lofty ideals is a patriot. It requires great strength of character to hold to ideals and defy materialistic tendencies in these days. This strength parents must possess if they would impart to their children not only noble motives, but the moral vigor to live up to them. A restless struggle to attain, to push aside anybody, anything that stands in the way of self-achievement will meet and tempt every mother's child when he or she steps forth into independent struggle.

Another temptation will come to select a lifework on the basis of materialism, rather than because it is the work which will respond to the individual's inclination and finest possibilities. Often consideration is given only

to social advantages or financial gains which an occupation promises. Character is a form of wealth too little studied. Sons and daughters will not meet uniformly high ideals when they enter the business world. The only way to be sure of their ever being armed patriots is to equip them nobly while they are in the formative state, while their natures are susceptible to idealistic impressions.

The mother who accepts homemaking and child rearing as her first responsibility, to whom every other interest is a stepping stone to success in this great life work, is as true a patriot as any extolled in song and story. If such a spirit actuated all motherhood and if fathers exemplified the earnest, sincere, purposeful, well-balanced ideals mothers struggled to instill, graft and all other evils that menace political life would soon end. Fathers and mothers of to-day are deciding the future fate of the nation.



Christmas Gifts for the Children

In our zeal to fill our children with the joy of giving, let us not forget that there is also a perfectly legitimate joy in receiving. We are in danger of forgetting that a gift is the expression of love and thoughtfulness, and that even those children who have an abundance of gifts at home will attach a certain value to one that comes from their Sunday School or their teacher.

It is, to say the least, an open question as to whether the great stress we lay upon children's giving rather than receiving is not influenced somewhat by consideration of economy on our part. To be sure, gifts do mean an outlay of money, but the amount may be greatly limited by a little forethought. Inexpensive souvenirs of a summer's trip or something made away back in the year will impress the children with the feeling that they have never been forgotten. Such gifts, too, will be distinctive through their novelty.

For little children the gifts may be connected with their Sunday School lesson. For instance, certain Beginners were given blue porridge bowls, in each one of which was a card bearing a decoration of candlestick and star in green and red, and this grace: