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THE MERE MAN'S VIEWPOINT

THE HAPPINESS WITHIN

By BYRON WILLIAMS

THE tedious life to which society has sentenced woman is apt to awaken restlessness in the feminine heart. This is most radically shown by the number of insane women from the farms, where the tedium is most marked. There is but one remedy—the careful culture and propagation of the happiness that is within you.

So many women, and men, too, for that matter, will not learn the lesson. Happiness is not a beautiful flower growing in some sequestered dell afar off that can be sought and worn gaily upon the breast. It is native to the heart alone, and just as it is starved or fed will it satisfy its possessor.

Once upon a time in the beginning of things a flock of birds flew into a village and, separating, offered themselves to the inhabitants of the place. Some repelled the winged songsters at once, while others, attracted by the novelty of the fluffy little creatures hovering about, made great ado over them.

One woman of wealth was greatly pleased and occupied her spare time in feeding and talking to the bird that reached her house. Then she got it a beautiful golden cage, and for a time she was delighted to see it hopping about in its fine home. After awhile she grew tired of the little mite and permitted it to starve in its costly cage.

One by one the birds came to a sad ending until but one was left. This bird had flown to a hovel wherein dwelt a poor old washerwoman. It perched gaily upon the edge of the tub where she labored and sang a little aria of gladness. The old woman's heart was touched, and she was kind to the bird, which grew happier and gayer and more songful as the days passed. She fed it well and talked to it, and on dark days it was a bit of sunshine that defied the clouds. And thus when all the other birds were gone hers remained to make glad and bearable the arduous peasant life she led.

It is needless for me to explain the allegory. The birds were the spirits of happiness, and only the one lived that was cared for and appreciated. And this one bird was the possession of a woman who had nothing else in the world.

Riches have little to do with happiness. It is true that want may have much to do with misery, but plenty is not a sign of contentment. The most pitifully dissatisfied face in the world is that of the man or woman who has all he or she wants in this world—and more. Have you never wondered at the hard, bitter faces of the great men of affairs? Then how foolish of you to wish for riches, that oftener bring sorrow than satisfaction! Do you not recall the words of Car-



PERCHED GAILY ON THE EDGE OF THE TUB... "Where one hundred men can stand adversity, only one can stand prosperity?"

Do you not feel kindly toward yourself? Then why make yourself miserable by frequently taunting yourself because of your condition in life?

Look back with me now to a score of years ago. How many of the things you desired so greatly in those days and for which you were disconsolate were worth the while in the light of maturer wisdom? And if some of them really were worth longing for you have got along without them, and wouldn't it have been better if you had occupied your time raising pansies or singing a song instead of yearning for those impossible things which never became yours?

There is but one earthly life. Shall we not live it happily? Every one may do that. Remember the washerwoman! Are you as unfortunate in earthly affairs as this woman? Are you weaker and less intelligent than this poor creature, who was compelled to do menial work that she might live?

If you have had greater advantages and are more blessed with the world's goods and are not happier, of what benefit have been your education, your reading and your gift of place? Have you never learned the blessedness of being able to think of the glad things of life, making the happy moments, the triumphs, beat out and obliterate the bad things and the failures? Then the merest rudiments of the philosophy of life are unknown to you.

Look after the bird in your breast. He may be starving for food and water and kind words.

NEIGHBORS.

All the grasping and the greed of this world come from not regarding our fellows as our neighbors. One doesn't trample his neighbors. He works with them to a common end. We must come to look on all the world as our neighbors. We must do away with the idea of classes. There isn't any justification for class lines in America. They are unjust, unwholesome, unrighteous and un-American. Why should we have class lines here in this country and one man despise another just because he has been lucky enough to make a little more money? A man has some right to be proud of what he makes with his own hands and his own brains, but he hasn't any business putting on airs over what he is merely trying to spend.—Jacob A. Rils.

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