



THE OPTIMIST

Things a-lookin' rather blue?
All the world a bit askew?
Then, my friend, it's up to you
Just to hustle out and do
Something worth the while.
Wipe the tears from out your eye;
Things will get worse if you cry;
Seek the paths where roses lie;
There is every reason why
You should wear a smile.

Though the clouds are dark to view,
Still behind the sky is blue,
And the sun will soon shine through
With his golden gleams on you
If you work away.
Though the day be dark and drear,
What's the use to quake in fear?
Wipe away that idle tear,
Look to see the dawning clear
Of a brighter day.

Locked within their icy tomb
Are the flowers of springtime's bloom;
In good time they'll light the gloom,
Scent the air with sweet perfume
As you trudge along.
Life is always what it's made,
Why should you, then, be dismayed?
Keep on going, unafraid,
Every doubt can be allayed
With a cheerful song.

Keep on working with a will;
Tackle e'en the steepest hill;
Bid each doubt and fear be still
And each day with duty fill—
Duty noble done.
Try again if once you fail;
At one ill-success don't rail;
Bravely face life's fiercest gale;
Don't sit down to weep and wail—
Thus success is won.

Some Christian Thoughts

It's the easiest thing in the world to buy Christmas presents—if you have the money. The real problem comes when you are confronted by an empty purse. You want to remember loved ones, but you are the victim of a false pride that dictates that you should make your gifts of some intrinsic value rather than the expression of love. That sort of notion has robbed the Christmas season of its true meaning and caused it to degenerate into an exchange, a bazaar, or a display of ostentatious liberality. The other day we heard a woman say:

"O, dear! This Christmas will be so expensive. We've just got to give thus and so something really valuable, and we can not afford it."

"Well, if you can not afford it, don't," was the advice given.

You might begin the solution of the problem by eliminating the grown folks until you have made sure that you will bring joy to the hearts of the little ones. It costs so little to please the children, and the returns are so great, that one often wonders why more people do not make the investment.

A word to husbands: Don't hand your wife a five or ten dollar bill and say, "O, I don't know what to get; just take this money and buy something you would like to have." Your wife is not the porter in your store, nor the man who runs the elevator. If she is the right kind of a wife she would rather receive a pretty linen handkerchief from you on Christmas morning, if accompanied by a kiss and a caress, than to be handed a twenty dollar bill with the remark:

"O, you get something; I don't know what to get for you."

The gift that is not an expression of love or friendship is worse than no gift at all. The gift made by your own hands will be prized by the recipient vastly more than a far more expensive article purchased at the store.

Christmas is the season of love and good will. If your gifts are not accompanied by these things, don't give them. Such gifts are a blasphemy.

In one modest home in a western town there is a room set apart for the husband and father, where he does some writing and most of his study. On the walls are hung a score of things made by the tiny hands of his little one in the city kindergarten, and given to him as Christmas presents. He thinks more of any one of these little paper presents than he does of all the rest of his household treasures. He knows they were accompanied by a wealth of love that money could not buy.

Such presents are beyond price. Money can not buy love—it can buy only adulation. A kindly word spoken in season will be remembered long after a purchased present has been forgotten. A simple little Christmas card, given in a spirit of love and fellowship, is better than a silver service given as a matter of "duty."

Do not put off purchasing your Christmas presents until it becomes a task instead of a pleasure.

If Christmas is to you a time of anxiety, you ought to take something for your disposition.

Struck

Farmer Cornfossil drove into town yesterday morning in an empty wagon. "What's the matter that you didn't bring in a load of wheat?" queried the local grain buyer.

"Nothing at all the matter," replied Mr. Cornfossil.

"Roads bad?"

"Never better."

"Wheat all sold?"

"Got two thousand bushel."

"Price too low?"

"Ain't complain' particular about th' price."

"Then what's the matter?"

"Well, this is what's the matter," said Mr. Cornfossil: "I see Roosevelt is advocatin' the policy of payin' a lot of ship owners a subsidy f'r haulin' stuff from one market to another, an' I ain't goin' to do no more haulin' till I get a subsidy on that ol' farm wagon o' mine, by heck!"

Success Assured

"But, will your new medical preparation cure?"

"Hush! That's not the question. It will sell because the man who is going to write our advertising stuff can describe every symptom of illness man is heir to, and then make the reader believe he's got all of them."

Amused

"Ha, ha!" chortled Mr. Wiseman, looking up from his morning paper. "I see here that another farmer out near Whangtown has bought a gold brick. The jays seem utterly unable to learn that cheap, old trick."

"It is funny," replied Mrs. Wiseman, "that they never learn. By the way, has that gold stock you bought last month appreciated in value?"

"No," growled Mr. Wiseman, "the fellows who floated that company were a lot of swindlers."

"Just like the rest of them, eh?"

queried Mrs. Wiseman. "Well, I guess we can save a little from them by using those beautiful certificates to paper the back hall bedroom."

Believable

"I see where they have discovered a mastodon tooth five inches long and three inches wide. Do you believe it?"

"Believe it? Of course I do! I've got a bigger one than that aching in my jaw right this minute."

Of Course

Today is better than yesterday,
But not as good as tomorrow;
So singing I go upon my way,
And trouble I'll never borrow.

The interest rate that trouble draws
Makes borrowers sup sorrow;
But that don't worry me, because
It's something I'll never borrow.

Same Old World

"Do you think the world is growing wiser?"

"Sure! It takes us almost twice as long to sell a gold brick as it used to, and if we didn't get more for em' we'd be losing money."

Good Reason

"Why do you support Jones and oppose Smith? Both stand for the same reforms."

"I know it," replied the man with a special privilege granted by a careless people, "but Smith means it and Jones does not."

Brain Leaks

Jealousy has no trouble in seeing things that do not exist.

Things we can do without trying are seldom worth doing.

Every bride is a beauty when her portrait appears in print.

Real comfort consists in making the very best of what you have.

We envy the boy who spent Thanksgiving with a grandmother.

The city man is always envious of the easy life of the farmer.

It is better to be a little behind the times than to be too fast.

The genuinely reformed seldom boast of their past wickedness.

Men who depend upon their own strength lean upon a slender reed.

There is plenty of room at the top and plenty of opportunity at the bottom.

Some men attribute their success to the fact that their first effort was a failure.

This is the season of the year when we get the most pleasure out of next summer's vacation.

A lot of people gathered around the family table on Thanksgiving day and returned thanks to themselves.

It is a long reach to the first rung in the ladder of success, but the rest of them are close together.

The man who simply does nothing in order to rest, usually goes back to work feeling worse than ever.

If Christmas shopping is a bore to you it is a sign that the presents you give will be nothing but presents.

"Popular songs" are seldom lasting. The office that has to seek a man is usually a very insignificant one.

Mr. Carnegie says it pains him to see an old man grasping for dollars. A lot of us would go hungry if we did not.

The man who can smile when he gets up in the morning and finds the fire in the base burner extinct is a mighty hard man to keep down.

When a boy wants to do something that he knows is not exactly proper, but realizes he must have permission to do, he always asks his mother.

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