

## Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

### WASTED HEROISM.

Guy de Maupassant, in his story, "The Diamond Necklace," tells of the pretty wife of a young clerk who borrowed of her rich friend a diamond necklace to wear to a ball. She lost the jewels. In a panic of fear she had her husband purchase another necklace to replace it. They had to go in debt, and for years they slaved, enduring the greatest hardships, to pay for it. One day, when she was a bent and broken woman, old before her time from scrubbing and doing all kinds of menial labor, she met her friend. In conversation with her she told her friend, confessing all.

"Why," said her friend, "I'm so sorry. The necklace I lent you was a paste imitation, as I keep my jewels in the safe."

A whole life wrecked by vanity and for want of sufficient frankness to go to her friend at once and tell the truth!

This story is typical. Have you not known a woman to go suffering through life simply because she was too proud and stubborn to come openly to her husband and have an understanding?

The obstinate sealed lips! How they have worked estrangement and bitterness between son and father, daughter, mother, friend and friend, which a little sense and humility might have avoided.

Here is a woman, working her fingers to the bone, creasing her face and bowing her back into unloveliness, cramping her mind and starving her soul, and all with the noblest of motives, for she thinks she is doing her duty to her children. Has she never realized that her first duty toward them is so to develop herself that she shall be her children's companion and friend when they reach the age when they shall cease to need a mother's care and shall want a mother's friendship?

A noble, and wasted, sacrifice! How many useless torments are ours too because of fear!

Looking back over my own life I can see that most of my sufferings were due to fears, and that they were all, every one of them, both useless and poisonous.

Of all the demons that ride poor mortals, fear is the most malicious. What a world of senseless fears we harbor!

There are fears of sickness and of health, fears of going to the poorhouse, fears for our own abilities and success, fears for the loyalty of those that love us, fears for the future of our children, fears of this world and of the next!

And not one of them has done us good. When misfortune did come, our fears had unnerved us and we were ill prepared to meet it.

I remember when I was a little boy I was told the most dreadful stories about the end of the world. These tales worked upon my imagination so that I was in a continued fever of apprehension. Every morning I used to get from bed and look out of the window to see if it was hailing fire and brimstone yet. It seems silly enough now, but it was very real then, and I suffered all a child could.

What are the causes of useless sacrifice? What things make all this wasted heroism? Let us see.

First, as I have indicated, is fear. If a danger is inevitable we shall

meet it all the better if we approach it unafraid. If it is not sure, fear is vain. In any case, fear disturbs the judgment, weakens the moral force and doubles the dangers.

Then comes ignorance. Our first duty is not to follow our convictions, but to have rational convictions. Let us first find out whether the things we believe are facts and not inventions. A little time spent in honest investigation will save us a deal of misery.

Ask yourself, "What is worth while?" Examine all apparent duties by the light of the greater issues of life. Let health and love and tomorrow have their say. There's many a nonsensical duty we take up which we never would have considered if we had looked at it from the larger, higher view-point.

Two good questions to ask one's self are: "What's the use?" and "How will this look to me in ten years from now?" Time is the test that is surest.

There are sacrifices that are unavoidable, and the making of them ennobles us. There are plenty of occasions for heroism, many loads that we ought to bear. But enough are called for by intelligence and a well ordered conscience, without manufacturing fictitious struggles.

DR. FRANK CRANE,  
In Woman's World.

### GOING HOME TO MOTHER.

Just what is meant by going home to one's mother, in its larger sense, is perhaps a little difficult to define. Yet surely, it must be a very universal experience. Have we not all at some time—often following a period of confusion and stress of circumstances—suddenly experienced that deep sense of finding ourselves where we belonged? A sense of restfulness, of homecoming; of general rightness and well doing? It is a sloughing off of the nonessential and the trivial and a shifting of the spirit into deeper and simpler channels; a pause, when in the midst of all this mad dance of time and circumstances one gets a sudden enlarging glimpse of truth and of eternity.—Atlantic Monthly.

### POLICE MUST PAY FOR ENTERING LODGE ROOM.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 25.—John McArdle, a white police officer, must pay \$274 to John M. Banner and William Woody, members of Pythian Lodge, which the police officer raided while candidates were being initiated. The two men brought suit against the officer and the jury brought in a verdict for \$137 for each of the men.

Attorney F. R. Steward was the counsel for the colored men, and it is probable that other suits will be entered against the trespassing policeman.

### SUNDAY DRAWS COLOR LINE AGAIN.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 25.—In the evangelistic revivals planned for Billy Sunday in Baltimore, the local committee has provided separate meetings for the colored people, and the co-operation of the race has not been asked for.

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