

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

SMILING IN THE BUSINESS OF MARRIAGE

To be sure it is hard to smile when food stuffs are gradually soaring out of reach, when one and one-half dollars has been added to the cost of each ton of coal, when the dollars needed for a new dress or hat are not forthcoming; but it is a part of the business of marriage to smile and then keep on smiling. The wife and the mother who realizes this and then puts it in practice will be happier herself and will prove a better comrade to both husband and children than if she forgets this big little act of duty and devotion. Then too, it is a great credit to one to be able to smile when "everything goes dead wrong."

Being cheerful becomes a habit and even so being cross and miserable grows to be a part of one's self. Some people are "jes natully" miserable, married, or unmarried, anyhow, anywhere. They belong to the class of people who would rather be anybody but themselves and rather be anywhere than where they are. Be happy, they cannot, for they are out of harmony with themselves and every one else, but the great mass of those in the business of marriage should be happy. It is the heritage of mother, wife, husband, father and child.

Cheerfulness is contagious and nothing is of greater intrinsic value than a smile when the way is rough and up hill. It seems that reverses and poverty, most of all, put to test the brittle chain of marriage. Those who together face difficulties and overcome obstacles will find greater enjoyment when full success has come to them or will be able to smile and courageously meet any reverses fate may have in store.

Say what we will, do what we may, our highest good can only be secured when we live in harmony and cheerfulness with those nearest us; when we put smiling into the business of marriage. L. S. E.

LET ME BUT LIVE

By Henry Van Dyke

Let me but live my life from year to year,
With forward face and unreluctant soul,
Not hastening to nor turning from the goal;
Not mourning for the things that disappear
In the dim past, nor holding back in fear
From what the future veils, but with a whole
And happy heart, that pays its toll
To Youth and Age, and travels on with cheer.

So let the way wind up the hill or down,
Through rough or smooth the journey will be joy:
Still seeking what I sought when but a boy,
New friendship, high adventure, and a crown,
I shall grow old, but never lose life's zest,
Because the road's last turn will be the best.

The little child's heart! Look down into it; it is like the vault of a wild, wild flower; apparently tenantless but full of little secrets; secrets unknown to itself—secrets worth knowing, life's capital. Sweet little vault, where God has locked up creation's destiny!—Victor Hugo.

A poor man served by thee
Shall make thee rich;
A sick man helped by thee
Shall make thee strong,
Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense
Of service which thou renderest.
—E. B. Browning.

RECOGNITION FOR THE NEGRO

In commenting, editorially, on the appointment of Dr. Roberts to membership on the New York Board of Education, The Pittsburg Gazette-Times has the following to say:

"Renewed discussion of the Negro 'question' may be expected as a result of Mayor Mitchell's appointment of Dr. E. P. Roberts to membership of the Board of Education of New York. Indignation will be expressed in quarters which are given to outbursts whenever recognition in accordance with their deserts are given the Negroes, but enlightened, tolerant and progressive people will applaud Mr. Mitchell's action and wish Dr. Roberts well in the honorary post to which he has been appointed. It may be taken for granted that he is qualified for the work, and it is a fair assumption that the very strangeness of his position and the inevitable opposition to his selection will prompt him to greater diligence and more intelligent effort than are given to the school service by some of the other nearly half a hundred members of the board. If he does, he will confound the critics of the Mayor and considerably advance the members of his race in popular estimation.

"By the last census there were only 91,709 Negroes in Greater New York, not quite 2 per cent of the population, but a number sufficient to command recognition in the selection of public school managers, especially in a community that is given to affording representation to almost all of its varied elements in the conduct of public affairs. But the main point for consideration is that the Negroes are with us on an equality of citizenship with the whites and if justice is to be done them and the more numerous Caucasians are not to pile up great trouble for themselves in the future they must be treated in accordance with their merits. It is important not only that they be made good citizens, but that it be made worth their while to be good citizens. Neither can be hoped for if the Negroes are to be discriminated against so that honorable ambition on their part is forever impossible of achievement."

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