

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

Reducing Life to a Science

It Does Not Seem the Great Master Would Want Us to Give Up Our Daily Duties—Right Living is What is Asked of Us

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

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I am running forth to meet you, O my Master,
For they tell me you are surely on the way;
Yes, they tell me you are coming back again
(While I run, while I run).
And I wish my feet were winged to speed on faster,
And I wish I might behold you here today,
Lord of men.

I am running, yet I walk beside my neighbor,
And I take the duties given me to do;
Yes, I take the daily duties as they fall
(While I run, while I run).
And my heart runs to my hand and helps the labor
For I think this is the way that leads to you,
Lord of all.

I am running, yet I turn from toil and duty,
Oftentimes to just the art of being glad;
Yes, to just the joys that make the earth-world bright
(While I run, while I run).
For the soul that worships God must worship beauty,
And the heart that thinks of You cannot be sad,
Lord of light.

I am running; yet I pause to greet my brother,
And I lean to rid my garden of its weed;
Yes, I lean, although I lift my thoughts above
(While I run, while I run).
And I think of that command, "Love one another,"
As I hear discordant sounds of creed with creed,
Lord of Love.

I am running, and the road is lit with splendor;
And it brightens and shines fairer with each span.
Yes, it brightens like the highway in a dream
(While I run, while I run).
And my heart to all the world grows very tender,
For I seem to see the Christ in every man,
Lord Supreme.

Do you know that the sun passes into a new sign of the zodiac at the equinox once in 2,160 years?

This is what a very great scholar and physicist, Sidney G. P. Corry, tells us. And it has been the history of the world that at each one of those periods some new phase of religion appears in the world.

In his interesting article Mr. Corry says:

"About 6,000 years ago existed the reign of the bull-headed gods, because the sun had entered the sign of Taurus, the Bull, and they persisted for over 3,000 years, and then gave place to the ram-headed gods, and they endured for another 2,000 years. And then Egypt itself came to an end; and, to find the continuation of the system, we have to betake ourselves to Gallilee, where Jesus the Christ, was born under the sign of the Fishes."

"You will remember the advice given to the early Christians by one of the fathers, that if they would make an image of their Lord, let it be in the form of a fish or of a ship running before the wind. And in the catacombs of Rome we find many a tomb bearing the sculptured sign of the fishes, or fishes."

"Jonah, you will remember, was thrown up by the great fish. When Jesus wished to feed the multitude he gave them fishes. The change of the cyclic gods meant that a new spiritual force had entered the world. It was the Messianic cycle, and we may believe that in all cases it was signalled by the appearance of a teacher as well as by cataclysms, great or small, universal wars, and the birth pangs of a new thought."

"Jagat came when the sun passed into the sign of the fishes, 2,000 years ago. The sun is now passing into the sign of Aquarius. Therefore, it may be that we should do well to watch and pray, for in an hour we know not the Son of Man cometh. Indeed, the decks seem to be cleared for some great arrival."

It seems to be the prevailing impression of a great many spirited minds that a new teacher and a new master is soon to make his advent among us. Some believe it is the second coming of the last of the Masters, Christ. Many believe that all the great teachers who have come have been one spirit, reincarnated in different bodies.

"If you believed that a great spiritual being were about to come to the world, how would you vary your life from your present way of living? Would you not do away with very many of your present narrow ideas and needless efforts and reduce this life to a science? Would you not rid your heart of prejudices and dislikes, enmities and jealousies, and try and keep the channel of your mind clear for the waters of love and faith?"

It does not seem that the great Master would want us to give up our daily duties, or our rightful occupation in order to live a life in accordance with His coming. It is more reasonable to suppose that He would only expect us to give up our faults, our follies and our weaknesses, while we kept about our

worldly affairs. We are sent into an earthly body and upon this earth to live human lives. We are expected to learn the lessons of self-control and self-development, and to attain to the highest possibilities within us.

This does not mean that we are all intended to live the lives of saints upon earth, giving up all worldly pleasures and dwelling in caves or cells or starving or torturing the body to prove that we believe only in spiritual things. People who go to these extremes may be rebuked when the Master comes because they have not lived normal, natural lives and helped one another along the highways of the world.

Right living is what is asked of us. Right living and right thinking.

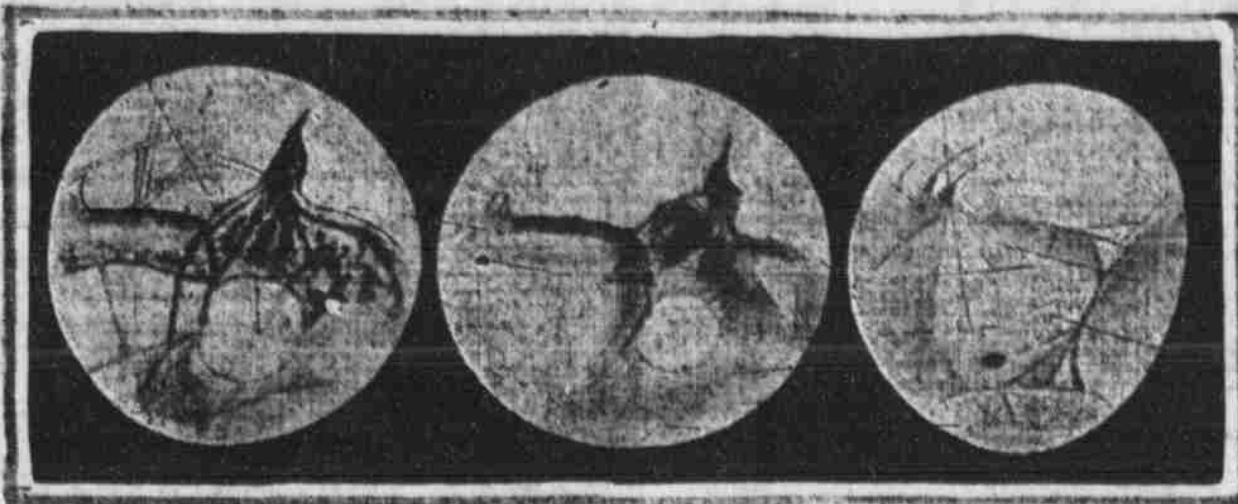
When worst seems easier. The bear the heat. The whole of life as one perfected plan. Of daily life with patient cheerfulness. Nor waste dear time recounting them. To talk. To pray.

Of hopeful things when doubt is in the air. To count your blessings often, giving thanks. And to accept sorrows silently. No question why you suffer. To accept the whole of life as one perfected plan. And welcome each event as part of it. To work, and love your work; to trust, to pray.

For larger usefulness and clearer sight. This is right living, pleasing in God's eyes. Though you be heathen, heretic or Jew.

More Proof of Life on Mars

Prof. Pickering's Observations Strengthen the Argument of Its Habitability.



Changes in Mars in a four-month period. The first photograph shows the wide area of polar line. The second three months later shows how it has shrunk and how under the rays of the sun vegetation lines have appeared. The third a month later shows the canal lines.

By GARRETT P. SERVISS.

The old mystery of the planet Mars is made to appear in a new form by the series of observations which Prof. William H. Pickering has been publishing from month to month during the year 1914. Prof. Pickering has made his telescopic studies of the "ruddy planet" at the Jamaica, West Indies, station of the Harvard observatory, where the atmospheric conditions are extraordinarily favorable for astronomical observations.

Prof. Pickering's reports almost resemble weather and crop bulletins from another world, and their interest for readers of a speculative turn of mind is intense. In fact, their statements must appeal to every person who has any intellectual curiosity concerning things beyond the limits of his every day occupations and amusements.

Let us recall, to begin with, what the special claim is that the planet Mars makes upon our attention. There is a pretty general agreement among those who study the celestial orbs about us that, of all the attendant bodies circling around our sun, there is none, outside of the earth itself, which presents to view a succession of regularly changing phenomena so suggestive of the presence of life and living creatures as are those shown by Mars.

If you look at Mars with a powerful telescope you will at once be struck by its wonderful resemblance to a globe covered with irregularly shaped areas outlined like seas and continents. Even suggestive color is not absent, some of the areas having a faint bluish or greenish tint and other being of a reddish or ochreous hue. These appear to be permanent features of the planet's surface, always occupying the same relative positions, although many periodical changes take place in their details. Around the poles of the planet you will see white patches of a roughly circular form, the extent of which varies with the seasons on Mars, spreading in winter and receding in summer.

When you consider these things in connection with the further facts that Mars rotates on its axis in almost exactly the same period that the earth does (about twenty-four hours), giving it days and nights like ours, and that it has the same succession of seasons that we have except that they are nearly twice as long as ours (owing to the greater length of Mars' year, or time of revolution around

the sun), you naturally conclude that Mars is a habitable world, whose inhabitants may not be very different in physical makeup from ourselves.

Now, the whole question is there. Do these major resemblances between Mars and the earth warrant us in concluding, in spite of many minor differences, that Mars is like the earth in being a theater of life? Some astronomers, and Prof. Pickering is among them, are disposed to think that the answer should be in the affirmative. It is to establish, if possible, the proof of the existence of life, in some form, upon Mars that the studies at Jamaica have been undertaken. Even the possibility of our communicating, from the earth, by some kind of interplanetary telegraphy, with the inhabitants of that distant world has been considered. But we must first be sure that there are inhabitants there for us to talk with.

Prof. Pickering's monthly reports, as I have said, resemble weather bulletins. This is because they are mostly confined

to phenomena on Mars which appear to be connected with the changing state of its atmosphere. It is difficult to resist the conclusion that many of the objects whose appearance was recorded by the observer were really clouds floating in the atmosphere of Mars. These are seen mostly along the limb, or edge, of the globe of the planet, where the eye ranges through a greater thickness of atmosphere, and Prof. Pickering arrives at the conclusion that the proportion of watery vapor in the atmosphere on Mars is greater than in that of the earth. This would have an important effect in modifying the low temperature to which Mars is subjected in consequence of its great distance from the sun—34,000,000 miles as against 93,000,000 miles for the earth.

But, while his observations lead to the conclusion that the amount of the vapor of water in the atmosphere of Mars is relatively great, they also show that the quantity of liquid water upon the planet is very small. Yet there appears to be enough to produce some remarkable phenomena. For instance, while the northern snow-cap on Mars was receding, during the advance of the last Martian spring, in its northern hemisphere, a dark area, south of the snow became conspicuous. At first it was 350 miles long. Within two days its length had increased to 500 miles, and within another two days to about 1,000 miles!

This strange area had a bluish color, and a "shiny surface," suggesting that it was covered with water formed by the melted polar snow. But Prof. Pickering thinks that it was more probably a vast marsh, whose soil had been moistened by the snow-water, so that the thick swampy vegetation sprang up almost immediately, and gave a dark hue to the entire region.

The most original suggestion offered by Prof. Pickering is that the atmosphere of Mars is remarkably foggy, and that, owing to the general flatness of the surface, without hills and mountains, the fog may be localized at night in selected regions, under artificially produced conditions (probably of an electrical nature) so that its moisture may stimulate vegetation, in the absence of sufficiently of water in the soil.

The general result of these observations is to strengthen the argument for the habitability of Mars, although it yet remains for some sharp-eyed astronomer of the future to catch a glimpse of some unquestionable sign or signal, indicating the actual presence of inhabitants.

Do You Know That

Stags are bred in China for their horns, the horns being cut while soft each year and used in the manufacture of medicine.

The Port of London Authority landed or received 2,218,796 tons of import goods in the year ending last month.

Owing to the war, fewer applications for patents are being received by the patent office.

Gold filled teeth have been found in the jaws of skeletons exhumed in Pompeii.

Camels are fit to work at 3 years old, but their strength begins to decline at 25, although they usually live to 40.

Sheep draw small wagons in India and Persia.

Pink pearls are found only off the Bahama Islands, and are very scarce.

The largest order of merit in the world is the French Legion of Honor, which has over 500,000 members.

The soja bean, which grows in Japan, after having been cooked and pressed, yields a nutritious substitute for milk.

Economy, True, False

By MRS. WOODALEN CHAPMAN.

Economy! You hear it on every one's lips: it is the watchword of the hour. But do we know what true economy is? Are we exercising that virtue of which we give signs of increasing parsimony? It is easy to be parsimonious, to refuse to spend money because we "can't afford it."

True economy means a wise expenditure for the essentials of life and a careful avoidance of all unnecessary waste. "I'm not giving any Christmas presents this year. I can't afford it." You hear this on every hand; but it is parsimony that speaks, not true economy. You can't afford not to give, for giving is as essential to the expansion and growth of the soul as air and food are

to the body. What poor economy it would be to handicap the soul in this way!

I can sympathize with you in your lack of the customary amount to spend for Christmas gifts; but let us see if we cannot think of a few little remembrances so inexpensive that every one of us can afford them.

To be sure, these will not be showy gifts to be used in paying off last year's debts. Remember, it is our pride that makes us try to give Mrs. Jones a more expensive gift than she gave us last year. To put our pride in our pocket would be an act of true economy; it would enable us to show our real feelings without any parade of foolish pretentiousness. And maybe Mrs. Jones would be made more truly happy with a little gift, which we could tell her we had made with our own hands and which would be an evidence of thoughtfulness than she would with an elegant present that brought with it the suggestion of rivalry.

Homely gifts—to us the word "homely" in its original sense of something pertaining to the home—are always acceptable. For instance, take dust cloths. Would you appreciate a few squares of cheesecloth all hemmed and ready for use? Of course, you would. Then why not make some for a few of your friends? For others make cheesecloth, a basket about five inches square and fill them with oatmeal, a bit of powdered cranberry root and a few soap shavings. These are for the bath, and are always acceptable.

Spend 5 cents for a sheet of green blotting paper, and cut it up into pieces a convenient size for blotting. Make covers from cardboard on which have been pasted suitable pictures, readily found in the advertising pages of the magazines and in various catalogues, and tie together with baby ribbon, or even colored cord.

For the children there are bean bags, which can be made from colored linens, or even from unbleached muslin at 15 cents a yard. Find a picture of a cat or a heween—any simple picture that a child would enjoy. Paste this on the muslin, and, threading the sewing machine with colored silk or cotton, follow the outline with a long stitch. Tear away the paper, and there is your embroidery bag cover. (There should be an inner bag of unbleached muslin for additional strength.)

Recipes clipped from newspapers and magazines may be pasted on cards and given to the housewife. A dusting cap made from dotted Swiss at 15 cents a yard is always an acceptable gift.

Are not these enough suggestions to prove that we do not need money in order to be able to give at Christmas time? Look through your boxes and trunks in which you have packed pieces left over from dressmaking and bits of millinery. By the use of a little ingenuity a number of useful and pretty things may be contrived. And this, remember, is true economy, consuming material which might otherwise go to waste.

In the past Americans have been accused—and rightfully, as I believe—of wastefulness in the kitchen. How is it with you today? Are you conducting your kitchen along lines of true economy? Or are you making your family go without certain nutritious foods because the prices are high, while at the same time throwing away more than enough good food to offset the amount you think you are saving? This is another one of the methods of false economy.

Advice to Lovelorn

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

Invite Him to Call.

Dear Miss Fairfax: About eight months ago I met a young man at a party and he accosted me and asked me to go out with him the following week, but as I was attending my mother, who was ill at that time, I could not leave her to go out. Recently I met this young man at a social. He offered to escort me home, but as my sister was with me I didn't deem it necessary, as I didn't live far. Now, would it be proper to ask this young man to call on me? I like him very much and I think he likes me, too. Also, would it be proper to phone to him and ask him in that way? N. K.

You were not quite courteous to refuse to allow the young man to escort you home. Even if you did not "need" his protection, you should have thanked him for his courtesy and accepted. Now the least return you can make for the friendship he has twice proffered you, and which you have twice rejected (once quite rightly, since you were caring for your sick mother), is to invite him to your home. It would be quite proper to telephone and invite him to spend an evening at your home—and I think, under the circumstances, I should choose that method instead of the more formal one of writing a note.

She is Too Young.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am a young man in the Harvard graduate school of business, and am in love with a girl of 17 years from the west. She is very beautiful. Though I am sure she loves me, every time I call on her there is some other fellow there, and I am hardly ever able to see her alone. Though my prospects are bright, I cannot yet ask her to marry me, as I am still in college. Still, I do not like to share my love when calling up on her with other fellows. Should I speak to her about it? What am I to do? There is also a young student in the Conservatory of Music from her home who sees her as often as I do, she claims they are merely old friends, but it worries me. W. T. C.

You have your way to make in the world after you have been graduated from college, and it would not be quite fair to ask a girl of 17 years to tie herself down to a promise to wait for you, would it? If you agree with me that you are not ready to make permanent arrangements looking toward a future together, cannot you take the next step and confess to yourself that it is a selfish love that seeks to deprive so young a girl of society and companionship she enjoys? You have no right to ask anything of the girl you love. Your part is to make your friendship so big a part of her life that she will want to be with you and to talk things over with you alone. Devotion, sympathy, understanding and a constant effort to study her point of view are what you need.

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In-Shoots

The kittenish girl frequently has claws of the old cat.

A good many well taken photographs seem out of place away from the roguish saloon.

The value of a friend in need depends entirely upon whether you need him or he needs you.

If the married woman does not succeed in reforming her husband, she can at least punish him.

When "Good will towards men" is exclusively a thinking part, you cannot expect the janitor to display much energy at Christmas time.