

# Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

## WOMAN'S ENLARGING SPHERE.

At twenty-five a man used to begin to live, but a woman was on the shelf. Up to a few decades ago the woman of twenty-five, married or single, was usually passe.

And here's her twentieth century substitute who is an undeveloped child under twenty-five. She is perfectly willing to marry, but she has plenty of interests to occupy her if she doesn't. Moreover, she has plenty of interests in addition to home and family when she does marry.

For there is one thing that business and professional interests have done for the modern woman which makes them beyond price—that have protracted youth and deferred recognition of old age indefinitely. Business and professional life do for women what they have done for men. It takes a man about ten years to put a business on the level of substantial success. Sometimes it takes more, occasionally less. The well planned business life of the average man makes the years between twenty and thirty hard plugging. At thirty he begins to have a secure footing, and if he has really lived, if he has the rich human experience that falls to the average normal individual, he is a well rounded personality and in the prime of life at forty.

Interesting occupation has shoved ahead woman's prime of life similarly. The young bud of nineteen or twenty is only pleasant to look at or to play with for a little while. From twenty to thirty, if she is actively engaged in doing something worth while, she is developing continually. She is enriching her mind and personality by actual contact with life, more real than that viewed from the safe walls of a comfortable home. She is building her business life, facing conflict daily, learning self reliance. Her soul goes unshielded through the fires of experience. At thirty she is in the prime of life, rich in interest and human sympathy and understanding.

Woman's life used to be mainly retrospective. Before thirty she was already engaged in the gentle occupation of reiterating again and again her youthful experiences and conquests. The modern woman with an occupation looks ahead. The past is to her only a foundation, and her days are filled with planning for next month, next year and ten years ahead.—Ex.

## THE UNSEEN CORD.

There is an unseen cord which binds  
The whole wide world together;  
Thru every human soul it winds  
This one mysterious tether;  
It links all people and all lands  
Thruout their span allotted,  
And death alone unites the strands  
Which God himself has knotted.

However humble be your lot,  
How'er your hands be fettered,  
You cannot think a noble thought  
But all the world is bettered.  
With every impulse, deed or word,  
Wherein love blends with duty,  
A message speeds along the cord,  
That gives the earth more beauty.

Your unkind thought, your unselfish deed,  
Is felt in farthest places;  
There are no solitude where greed  
And wrong can hide their faces;  
There are no separate lives; the chain,

Too subtle for our seeing,  
Unites us all upon the plane  
Of Universal Being.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox,

## THE SACRED CANTATA "ESTHER" AT THE BOYD THEATRE MARCH 6.

The army was organized, drilled and marched to the front, after which it fought itself to fame.

Not in war, but in peace.

The victory was the approbation of the largest body of our people that has ever turned out to anything given in Omaha.

It was an audience great to look upon. Cosmopolitan in the extreme, well dressed and absolutely undivided in its attention. It was also intelligent in the approval of the individual and ensemble efforts of the soloist and chorus. They knew when to applaud.

Another commendable feature was the fact that the major part were in their seats in time to see the curtain go up.

Now, as to the principals and chorus I must confess that I was agreeably surprised at one feature in particular, that was the clear enunciation used by all, whether in singing the solos or chorus, throughout the cantata. Words are written to be understood. How many singers we hear that never give a thought to the story, they are content to croon the melody and leave the rest to your imagination.

Singers should strive to paint a word picture on a background of melody.

The solo parts were well rendered, as well as could be expected on the first presentation, because stage fright as a disease is no respecter of persons. Miss Duval sang with ease.

More should be heard of Miss Minnie Wright. Mr. Rufus Long is getting better all the time; and the race should be proud of Mr. Jeltz, he is one of our great living bass singers, he sings with intelligence. Mr. Lee McKinney did very well with a trying part.

The ensemble work was great, yes, that's the word, "great." Their phrasing would have done credit to many older organizations. I could not detect any over balanced section, there seemed to be enough of the different voices to create one grand effect. The chorus had class, more voices will only increase the class.

Mrs. Jessie Moss at the piano, was equal to the occasion. Not only did she play every note in that difficult score, but she was responsive to every demand of the skillful director. In her rendition throughout she displayed musical intelligence, and a broad conception of the difficult task she had before her.

I might add that I never heard an accompaniment better played outside of professional ranks.

A word about Mr. Ben Stanley. Of his ability as a musician, I can't add anything to what has already been said, but of the bigness of his heart too much cannot be said.

When a man of his race and ability is big enough to train one hundred of our people to sing as that chorus sang (last Monday night) we as a people (looking for light) should engrave his name in our memories, and teach our children to know of him and his work. Let us pray that he be spared to con-

tinue his noble undertaking. In closing, let me say that there are many good voices among our people in this city, that should be heard from.

Why not come forward and offer what you have? The race needs you.

When the final call comes, why not be in a position to feel that you have given your best to posterity.

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