

Our Women and Children

Conducted by
Lucille Skaggs Edwards

MOTHERHOOD AND PATRIOTISM

The mothers of America's oppressed people are in a peculiar position to teach to their children patriotism. The child also is in a peculiar position to be inspired. At school he is taught of the greatness of only white men. As he grows older he learns that black men have fought and fought nobly for their country, and he wonders why the historian has failed to record it and why his teachers are not informed enough to mention the bravery of the black man. Added to this is the hatred and discrimination shown to Colored Americans wherever the flag of the United States waves and the utter helplessness of the flag, the law, or any other power in this government to protect a Negro, his property, or even his women and children against lawlessness. These things make the teaching of patriotism to our children seem hard.

Hope, however, comes to our rescue and we can teach our children to look at a brighter side. God will bring us a brighter day and it seems that it is now at hand. We believe that out of the world's fight for liberty and democracy, America, to be consistent, will take "the beam from her own eye" and grant to her Colored citizens equal rights and privileges before the law.

Even while our country is at war the shameful indignities are still heaped upon us, but we feel it is merely the filling of the cup of bitterness to its fullest. We must be patient, we must be hopeful. We must remember that "night brings out the stars." "The darkest hour is just before dawn." Perhaps the time is now when the American Negro shall "under God have a new birth of freedom and that our liberties and rights shall not perish from the earth."

Every American, black even as white, in times of war, owes his right "to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" to his country. Our children should be taught that no sacrifice is too great to be made for our country. We should tell them how black patriots have fought and died. We might begin by telling them of Toussaint L'Overture, the world's greatest patriot and soldier, and of Antonio Maceo. Tell them of Crispus Attucks, whose blood was among the first to be shed in the war of the American Revolution; of how the Negro saved the flag after he had been repudiated. When the South trailed the "stars and stripes in the dust," the Colored American came to the rescue and saved the flag from the Southern Confederacy, and then of how our boys—though ingratitude and prejudice fail to record it—saved the day at San Juan hill and of their courage in the Philippines. When such records are set before Colored children their hearts will swell with pride and the fires of patriotism will burn bright.

The Negro has proved himself a true patriot. His blood has flowed freely for his country. His record in the hard fought battles of every war America has had, would register his name "high among the few, the immortal names that were not born to die."

We must tell our children that the glory and bravery of our race must

not cease, must not die. Our men and boys must keep the record bright. Thoughts of self and thoughts of wrongs must vanish in a greater devotion to our native land.—L. S. E.

FACT AND COMMENT

The man who is always trying to save himself trouble is likely to save a lot more than he can take care of.

The Tempter, was never so lacking in Grace

As to enter the Door that was shut in his Face.

"Farm and arm!" which Mr. Roosevelt took as the text for a recent address in Chicago, puts the immediate duty of the United States in the most concise form.

Many of those who were and are opposed to compulsory military service would most heartily approve conscription and the draft if it could be applied to idle boys and made the means of keeping them at work. A committee that has been investigating the matter reported to government authorities that there are now two million habitually idle boys in the country between the ages of fourteen and eighteen. Anyone who has noticed the vacant-eyed, loose-lipped, slouchy, cigarette-smoking young loafers who hang round city street corners will easily believe the report.

Is it not curious that Germany, which began the war as the greatest of all military powers, and which expected its army to win for it a quick victory, finds itself forced to a warfare of defense and retreat on land, and that on the other hand England, long confident of its power on the sea, is threatened to-day with defeat because its navy cannot protect its merchant vessels from the enemy's submarines?—Youth's Companion.

OUT WHERE THE WEST BEGINS

By Arthur Chapman.

Out where the handclasp's a little stronger,

Out where the smile dwells a little longer,

That's where the West begins.

Out where the sun is little brighter, Where the snows that fall are a trifle winter,

Where the bonds of home are a wee bit tighter,

That's where the West begins.

Out where the skies are a trifle bluer, Out where friendship's a little truer,

That's where the West begins.

Out where a fresher breeze is blowing, Where there's laughter in every streamlet flowing,

Where there's more of reaping and less of sowing,

That's where the West begins.

Out where the world is in the making, Where fewer hearts in despair are aching,

That's where the West begins.

Where there's more of singing and less of sighing,

Where there's more of giving and less of buying,

And a man makes friends without half trying,

That's where the West begins.

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"SATAN" AT THE AUDITORIUM

The presentation of the play "Satan" at the Municipal Auditorium last Monday for the benefit of the Old Folks' Home was a distinct success. A large audience was present and the play was well received. The caste was particularly fine and each rendered his or her part with real histrionic ability. The play was a serio-humorous study in the psychology of woman, most excellently brought out through the deft play upon womanly emotions by Dr. Miller, a temporary nom de plume of his Satanic majesty. This part, played by Andrew Reed, was a real triumph. The only regrettable feature of the evening was that the acoustic properties of the auditorium rendered much of the fine dialogue inaudible to a great part of the audience. After the curtain the hall was cleared and the strains from Desdunes orchestra kept

the crowd dancing until one o'clock. Much praise is due the ladies and gentlemen whose efforts made the presentation such a decided success, special credit being due Mrs. Cecelia Jewell and Mrs. John Perry. A full report will be published next week and also the names of the persons winning the prizes for selling the most tickets.

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