

Their Portraits of Their Mothers

The Best Work of Famous Artists

ART is not something vague, intangible, and indefinite; it is an expression of individuality and character. It is the artist's duty to express this individuality. The painter has a better chance to do this than all other artists; he calls to his aid color and form besides his own genius—he represents life as it is rather than as it appears. If this be true, surely we cannot wonder that some of the greatest painters have given their time and talent to the painting of portraits. It is among men and women they find character developed or dwarfed; they see conflicting and often irreconcilable emotions and passions. The feeling of the human race is hidden in the hearts of men and women, and what the painters have to do is to find the secrets hidden there.

With this thought in mind we understand why painters have given their best expression to their mothers' portraits. In picturing them they penetrate far beneath the physical form to mind and soul; they see the face illuminated by a soft, gentle glow called maternal love for want of a better name. Painters such as Whistler, Rembrandt, Freer, and Chase knew they were expressing the loftiest and most sacred theme in painting their mothers' likenesses, or they never could have portrayed such sweet and noble gentlewomen.



Whistler's Song of Motherhood.
James Abbott McNeill Whistler, the great magician of tone harmonies, in his well known portrait of his mother, gave one of the noblest and purest songs of motherhood the world ever heard. But this was not strange, he always was devotedly attached to her. He wanted the world to know that he loved her as his mother rather than as a woman of beauty and fashion. He shows her in profile, wearing a dress and white cap; her face has a transcendent expression so common to older folk. Her hands are folded on her knees, only a handkerchief relieving the somberness of the dress. The whole is a study in black and white, its theme is one of melancholy. The countenance has so thoughtful a look, the figure is so slight that we should feel this woman had sacrificed too much were the face not touched by serenity and the form blessed with repose.



Whistler's Mother

Whistler was well aware that this portrait was his masterpiece and he was sensitive on this point; he did not like the thought that some of his achievements were better than others. He often comforted himself by saying, "Wait until the Sarasate is as old as the mother—with a skin of varnish that has mellowed." Whistler made two paintings of his mother; one is owned by the French government and the other has found its home in Chicago.

Long before Whistler lived Rembrandt, the great Dutch master, expressed his debt of gratitude to his mother by painting her portrait. It is often mistaken for that of Elizabeth Bas, found in the museum at Amsterdam. Although this is one of the most remarkable portraits, in point of technique, the etching of his mother is more attractive. She sits a little to the right and her eyes are gazing downward; her head is covered with a black open veil, her habit is black, and her hands rest on her breast. The face is finely finished with a light point that is expressive of old age. The face and hands are deeply scarred with lines, but the softness of expression shows that this woman bore her sorrow with meekness and forbearance.

Chicago Man's Mother Picture.

Only a few of the great painters have portrayed likenesses of their mothers. In more recent times, none has been so successful in this undertaking as Frederick Freer of Chicago and William Merritt Chase of New York. When Mr. Freer was asked how he happened to paint his mother's portrait he said: "When my friend, Duveneck, was here he took a great fancy to my mother and asked permission to paint her. I joined him in the portrait. I had painted her several times before, but never full length. I was glad of the chance, but was sorry that my feeble efforts were not more successful."

In spite of this honest confession, Mr. Freer shows his mother as a handsome woman with clear cut features; but the expression of physical charms is made subordinate to the sweet, noble expression and gentility of manner. Though there is no effort at imitation in treatment, this picture suggests Whistler's portrait.

The paintings of William Merritt Chase of New York are so well known and admired that they need no word of commendation; his women and children are known for their beauty and naturalness. Notwithstanding that the likeness of his mother is less well known than the others, it is stamped by a conscious simplicity and deep feeling of love. The face is also merrier, showing that she has borne her trials more easily or she has been spared.

These few paintings show that the theme of motherhood is a worthy one, a desirable essay for the greatest masters.

A Trading Stamp with Every Husband.

JUSTICE of The PEACE APPEALS TO WOMAN'S BARGAIN INSTINCTS.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE VANDEN BERG of Menominee, Mich., begs to enter the lists with Judge Hendryx of Bloomington, Ill., as a contender for prominence as a marrying justice. As told several weeks ago Judge Hendryx is the champion of champions in the number of marriages performed. He has already married 6,000 people and is still in the harness and working hard. He has fitted up one corner of his courtroom as a marriage parlor, and the young folks of his section of the country have a way of describing a marriage with the word "Hendryxed."

Up in Menominee Justice Vanden Berg makes no claim of having performed as many marriage ceremonies as has his distinguished Illinois contemporary, but he is out strong after the record. He has not fitted up his courtroom as a marriage parlor, nor does the sign that swings before his office bear words to indicate that marriages are his specialty. He is more progressive, is Justice Vanden Berg. He is giving trading stamps with every wedding.

couples as long as the supply of marriageable young men lasts. Think of it, girls! Trading stamps with every man you marry!

Advertises in the Newspapers.

Justice Vanden Berg is not the man to let his light shine under a bushel. He knows that he can tie the matrimonial knot just as fast, neat, and strong as anybody in the business, and he is not going to let the people of his region remain in ignorance of the fact. So, like the wise man he is, the justice advertises. Better still, he advertises in the newspapers. This is the ad. that has been running in the Menominee papers for several weeks:

"Justice Vanden Berg will hereafter give trading stamps with every marriage certificate."

Simple and direct the ad. is, but it has occasioned no end of comment in the country where it has been circulated. It has spread dismay among other justices and ministers who do a good "marrying business," and it has brought delight to the hearts of prospective brides. The first day after the advertisement's appearance Justice Vanden Berg's mail was doubled. The next day it was further increased. Within a week hundreds of letters had poured in on him, all containing inquiries concerning the ad. Apparently hundreds of Michigan and Wisconsin young people were waiting for some such inducement before they ended their courtings in marriage, for it was from the class of persons that the letters came. Each and all of them queried as to the truth of the statement.

Ceremony Not Lessened Because of Stamps.

"Do you mean business?" asked one young woman, with determination expressed in her scowl. Young men wrote in to inquire whether there were any "strings" to the offer. Others wanted to know how many stamps would be given. The justice was kept busy for days answering these letters and assuring the anxious inquirers that the stamps were the regular trading stamp variety, and that they went with the regular, old fashioned marriage ceremony, the kind that their mothers used. He assured them that his marriages are guaranteed to be the best in the market, and that there is no deterioration of quality because prizes are offered.

Justice Vanden Berg is an old settler of Menominee and has the welfare of the region at heart. He knows well that

if a country is to grow and prosper and be great there must be homes. And to be homes there must be marrying and giving in marriage among the young folks. With an eye to increase the number of weddings in Menominee and the adjacent country, and incidentally to add to his fees, he has formed his novel plan of attracting "trade." His business interests and the heart interests of the young people are one. He has been marrying people for years, and he is easily the "marrying justice" of his section. He never fails to deliver a heart to heart sermon to the young people whom he weds, and he guarantees immunity from unhappiness in the union of couples where the young man makes the fee \$10 or over. Not that the justice is mercenary, but, as in all things, matrimony included, \$10 will buy a better quality than \$2.

Menominee Slighted by Cupid.

What prompted Vanden Berg to issue his announcement was the fact that the young people of his town were sadly negligent in the matter of marriages. For some reason there was no ringing of wedding bells in the northern peninsula of Michigan. There was no business for the justice. So disinclined were people to marry that a wedding was an event of first magnitude. Justice Vanden Berg, looking over the situation and comparing his decreasing receipts from wedding fees with those of his dear before, saw that something must be done to convince the young people that it was not good for them to live alone. Therefore came the advertisement.

Had to Save His Business.

"Why, the situation here was growing to something serious," said the justice. "No one was getting married. My business was falling to nothing. Something had to be done. I knew that all young women have a tender spot in their hearts for trading stamps, and it is the young woman who really decides whether there is going to be a wedding. At least, she sets the day. So I knew that if I offered trading stamps with every marriage certificate there would be a considerable stir created in matrimonial circles. And I was right. I weighed a number of other plans carefully before deciding on the stamps. But one day I went down the street and saw how the women were fighting to get into a store where they were giving trading stamps with every sale. That decided me. The stamps won, and from now on

I will be a winner in getting the weddings of this town.

"This plan may look like a catch-penny affair, but it isn't. The stamps I give will be redeemed at any store in town for furniture, dishes, or groceries. The young couple that comes here to be wed will have at least one wedding gift, and they can have the privilege of picking out what they want."

Relies on Woman's Weakness for Bargains.

"Of course, the number and value of the stamps will depend upon the size of the fee. Still, I will give more stamps to the couple of neat appearance than to the one whose appearance indicates that they don't try to make a good showing, just as I take trouble to deliver a little lecture to the boys and girls who seem willing to listen to me with respect. I probably will eventually adopt the usual ratio of the stores that give out trading stamps—one for every 10 cents of my fee. This will mean ten for \$1, fifty for \$5, and the young man who thinks it is worth \$10 to be married will be rewarded by having 100 stamps in the family just as soon as the wedding is over."

With this they can get a nice present for themselves at any of the stores, or can use it to purchase the first installment of groceries with. While, of course, love is the great thing in all weddings, there are few women who will not stop even on the way to their marriage to look at an offer of trading stamps. In this scheme I surely have the women with me, so I can't lose."

Gets the Michigan Trade.

Much of Justice Vanden Berg's previous trade has been from Wisconsin, which state lies just across the Menominee river from his town. In Wisconsin wise solons have drafted laws to restrict the devotees of Cupid. It is necessary for a young couple who wish to wed there to take out a license five days before the date of the ceremony. Michigan has no such hampering law. So the young people of Marinette and other nearby towns in Wisconsin are in the custom of slipping across the river to be married. Justice Vanden Berg has previously secured much of this business, and now, with the stamps held out as an extra inducement to elopers, it is expected that the roads leading to his office will be well tramped by young people seeking to be married by the trading stamp justice.



JUSTICE VANDEN BERG.

Hopes to Beat All Records.
Now let Judge Hendryx and other justices with long records of marriages to their credit look to their laurels! The passion of woman for bargains is universally known. The storekeeper who gives trading stamps has first hold on the female trade. And it takes one woman for every wedding. So there is every reason to believe that the justice who has adopted this popular method of increasing business will reap the rewards of the enterprising.

Like a Friday Basement Sale.

The girls of other sections of the country must be satisfied to get one mere man when they marry, but the maids of Menominee and the surrounding country not only get a man when they marry, but—delight to the feminine heart—they get trading stamps with him! Couples entering into the court of Hymen under the guidance of Justice Vanden Berg are made doubly happy. They are made one, and they get little green stamps, good for anything purchasable, on the side. Why need one seek further for real bliss?

If the young women of Menominee are all like women as we know them generally, the enterprising justice will be kept busy handing out trading stamps to newly married