

WHEN THEY SING.

Members of the Wesleyan Male Quartet.]

Yer blood jest gits ter runnin' like a freshet in th' spring,

When they sing:

Yew catch a little hint of how th' bells in heaven ring

When they sing:

An' yer mem'ry takes yew back ercross th' half forgotten years,

An' yer lips will be a smilin' while yer eyes are filled with tears,

When they sing.

They sorter make a hammick of ther music fur yer soul,

When they sing:

An' they set th' thing tew swingin' with a captivat' roll,

When they sing:

An' yew jes' set thar an' hug yerself a gazin' in'er space

While th' tenors pipe ther treble with th' rumble of th' bass,

When they sing.

Yew settle back an' cross yer legs an' heave a little sigh,

When they sing:

An' yer soul goes chasin' rainbows in th' land of By an' By.

When they sing.

An' yer heart jest sorter shivers and yer eyes cloud up fer rain,

An' yew wonder if its pleasure an' yew wonder if its pain,

When they sing.

Fer yew feel th' joy of livin' an' yew feel th' woe of death,

When they sing:

An' it sorter hurts yew roun' th' heart whene'er yew take a breath,

When they sing

An' yer happy, an' yer sorry, but yew like ter hear 'em sing

Fer it makes it all th' better 'cause th' sweet is m'xed with sting,

When they sing.

—William Reed Dunroy.

THE POET'S WIFE.

She brings her pretty knitting (bless her!) Or mystic threads, for making laces, That by-and-by will serve to dress her In new and, no doubt, charming graces. She sits and rocks, her rocker chiming, In measured cadence, to my rhyming.

Sometimes with eye that proudly glistens I read a sonnet I have written; She counts her stitches while she listens, Or pulls a thread, to make it fit in— And, with her gaze intent upon it, Asks "what they pay me for a sonnet?"

She little knows of rhyme or metre, And cares still less, but asks me whether Chiffon and roses would look sweeter To trim her hat, than jet and feather? And while I'm "framing odes to Cupid" She tells me "Poetry is stupid!"

But oh, her eyes! . . . Her silken lashes— Her hair's sweet mutinies . . . the dimple In cheek and chin . . . the outward flashes Of inward smiles . . . her tranquil, simple, Entrancing air! . . . Did she but it— She is the reason I'm a poet!

—Madeline S. Bridges, in the June Ladies' Home Journal.

AN EXPERIENCE.

One came and told me suddenly, "Your friend is dead! Last year she went!" But many years my friend had spent In life's wide wastes, apart from me.

And lately I had felt her near, And walked as if by soft winds fanned, Had felt the touching of her hand, Had known she held me close and dear.

And swift I learned that being dead Meant rather being free to live, And free to seek me, free to give, And so my heart was comforted.

—Harper's Magazine.

CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

The following are the officers of the General Federation of Women's clubs: President—Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe Atlanta, Ga.

Vice President—Mrs. Sarah S. Platt, Denver, Colo.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Emma A. Fox, Detroit, Mich.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. George W. Kendrick, Philadelphia, Pa.

Treasurer, Mrs. Phillip N. Moore, St. Louis, Mo.

Auditor—Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Louisville, Ky.

State Chairman—Mrs. Louisa L. Ricketts, Lincoln, Nebr.

Officers of the State Federation of Women's clubs;

President—Mrs. S. C. Langworthy, Seward.

Vice President—Mrs. Anna L. Apperson, Tecumseh.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. F. H. Sackett, Weeping Water.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. D. G. McKillip, Seward.

Treasurer—Mrs. H. F. Doane, Crete, Librarian—Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.

Mrs. A. B. Fuller, Auditor, Ashland.

The letter from Mrs. Lowe to the Worcester Woman's club in answer to its resolution that individual clubs shall withdraw from the General Federation and be represented through their state federations only, is of general interest to club women. She says in part:

"Whatever may be your position on the subject of the General Federation, if you have the interests of women at heart—to say nothing of the General Federation—to withdraw from a great and powerful organization of women, will, in no sense, help the cause. If, as your resolutions decided, your club favors state representation only, or, to go farther, if you are dissatisfied with with the tax, I would advise that you remain in the General Federation and remedy the things which seem to you to be wrong. Thus you will be working according to your own ideas, and also doing a great good to the cause of the Federation.

In assuming, however, that the Federation needs reorganizing on account of its having become burdensome and awkward to handle, I think you are going a little ahead of the facts before us. It seems to me (and I hear the same expression from all over the country) that the Biennial was most successful, although not so perfect, and, perhaps, not fulfilling the requirements of some who were in attendance. This is nearly always the case with all or any organizations; therefore, I can not see on what you base your reasoning. The next council meeting I will call for June 1st and 2nd, and I hope your club will state your views and objections, for I believe the discussion which will grow out of it will be helpful to all concerned."

Memorial day this year takes on new significance. There are new graves to be reverently decorated with flowers, new graves not only of the Blues and the Greys, but of the brave and loyal men who gave their lives for an oppressed people.

There was a fresh note of sadness in the memorial services of last Tuesday. Since the commemorations of last memorial day, the war with Spain has been fought and won, leaving in its wake sorrowing hearts and noble records of duty done. The last twelve months, more than all the others of the

thirty-five years since the great rebellion have brought to our people the consciousness of the unity of our national duty. There is no North, no South, no East, no West. When our country calls we are again one in heart, one in hand, a united people. Patriotism is a unity of purpose, it has joined this country with indissoluble bonds, and the hatreds of civil war are forgotten. For this reason, the memorial services of 1899 were not alone for the heroes who fought to preserve the integrity of our nation when in the throes of a civil war. The blue coated veterans were there. The bands played "The Star Spangled Banner," "Tenting on the Old Camp Grounds," "Marching Through Georgia," and other soul stirring airs. Sweet faced children presented the old soldiers with beautiful flowers as they marched past on their way to the cemetery, where, as usual, the declaration of independence was read, and where eloquent orators told of glorious deeds, in words of praise joined with phrases of tenderness and sorrow, but mingled with it all was a new note of sorrow for the noble boys who, only one short year ago proudly marched away to the music of fife and drum, to do their country's bidding, never to return. So in the broadest sense this last has been the truest memorial day since the United States became a nation. And so long as the stars and stripes shall wave, Decoration day cannot cease to be a great and tender memory.

Mrs. W. J. Bryan, herself a graduate of the academy for young women, at Jacksonville, Ill., made the chief address to the graduating class last week. Mrs. Bryan spoke on "The American Woman" and among other things said: "The public finds the American woman is an interesting subject. This interest follows from the unique position in which the American woman stand today. The American woman should be sufficiently independent to study her own surroundings, choose her own course and live the life which pleases herself and those nearest her, without regard to the opinions of the outer world.

"While we hear a great deal these days about equality, the real permanent advancement of woman depends on her own individual development. When man finds in woman a thorough appreciation of his work and aims; when the mind of woman becomes the perfect supplement and complement of the mind of man, which the Creator intended it to be, then will all the discussions as to the rights and privileges cease. Woman has long been a recognized power in the spiritual world and when one looks into a church in any part of our land and sees how much of the work is done by woman it seems almost superfluous to say that the ideal of American womanhood is attained under three fold development of the physical, the mental and the spiritual."

At the celebrated "Peace Meeting" held in Boston enthusiastic speeches were made by many well known people. The following will give some idea of the trend of the addresses:

In opening the speaking, Mrs. Howe read a short address in which she dwelt on the burden that rested on all classes of citizens to contribute toward the maintenance of an armed force, especially on those who were weakest and least fitted to bear it, the widows, the orphans, the helpless, the down-trodden throughout Europe. It was to lift this crushing burden that the peace movement has been originated, as well as to promote the feeling of brotherly friendliness among nations.

Mrs. Livermore said that the peace manifesto of the czar, Nicholas II., startled the world, and aroused an intense feeling all over Europe. The women in different parts of the country, I

am glad to say, are moving in the matter. In Rochester, N. Y., recently, a peace meeting was held by the women there; a great meeting that was grandly successful. I have no doubt that we are nearer universal peace than we dream of. I hope that this meeting is only the first of a series that will run over this country like a prairie fire. We all want universal peace. Let us all work for it.

Mrs. Mead drew a saddening and harrowing picture of the dreadfulness of modern warfare. She explained how, if France goes to war with Germany next year, as she may do, the French army will be armed with rifles ninety times and artillery 232 times more destructive than the rifles and artillery used in the Franco-Prussian war thirty years ago. Europe today is spending two thousand million of dollars annually on her war armaments, twice as much as was being expended thirty years ago, and from two to twelve times as much as is spent on education, art and so on.

Mrs. Palmer spoke a summing up word for the cause. She said the question now was, "What shall we do?" and she pointed out the ways in which that question could best be answered. Educate the children; give time, effort, and money as much as you can; and think and talk and hope and believe in the possibility of arbitration and the coming of the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Miss O. M. E. Rowe, president of Massachusetts State federation gave an excellent address in behalf of the 20,000 federated women under her leadership, urging that clubs everywhere do everything in their power to spread the gospel of peace. At the close she presented the following resolutions which were unanimously accepted by an audience of men and women numbering twenty-five hundred.

Resolved, That this assembly urge the National and State Federations of Women's Clubs and other organizations of women throughout the United States to prosecute a vigorous campaign of education in regard to the evils of standing armies and navies, with a view to secure the establishment, eventually of a Permanent Tribunal for the adjustment of international difficulties.

Resolved, That we urge the clergy and press to take a more active interest in the coming Peace Conference called by the Tsar at the Hague, to the end that the commissioners sent by our government may be re-enforced by strong public opinion; and that we urge all lovers of right to use their utmost influence to create a powerful public sentiment in favor of settling all international differences by courts instead of by armed force, by appeals to reason rather than to passion.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Tsar, to President McKinley, and to organizations of women throughout the country.

The first annual meeting of the Federation of the Women's Clubs of Oklahoma and Indian Territory was held at Norman, where the territorial university of Oklahoma is located.

When Mrs. Henrotin welcomed this Federation into the General Federation of Women's Clubs at Denver, she spoke of it as "the youngest, but by no means the weakest child of the association." Its first annual convention fully justifies our ex-president's estimate of the strength of the Federation of the two territories. Enthusiastic delegates and visitors gathered from all parts of that fertile prairie as well as from the towns and cities bent upon mutual improvement and an earnest desire to extend the acquaintanceship of congenial minds and as to the personnel of the federation. One who was present, says it represented the best and grandest type of womanhood in all the vigor of early life. Cultured and refined women who only a short time since left their homes in