

The Institute Ode

A goodly thing it is to meet
In friendship's circle bright,
Where nothing stains the pleasure sweet
Or dims the radiant light;
No unkind word our lips shall pass,
No envy sour the mind,
But each shall seek the common weal:
The good of all mankind.



Institute Prayer

Keep us, O Lord, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed, let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away pretence and meet each other face to face, without pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment, and always generous. Let us take time for all things. Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences; that in the big issues of life we are one. And may we strive to touch and to know the great common woman's heart of us all, and, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.