Home Chats

By

MARIE ANN BEST

Forenoon and afternoon and night—
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Forenoon, and—what
The empty song repeats itself no more?
Yea, that is Life: make the forenoon sublime,
This afternoon a psalm, this night a prayer,
And time is conquered, and thy crown is won. —Edward Sill.

Happiness

Can happines be bought? To the cold and hungry it seems there is no question about it. Of course it can. Yes, and also to the everyday ordinary individual it seems happiness is always waiting just around the corner if we only had this or that. And yet if we look closely at those who have material things, pressed down and running over, we find their faces certainly do not mirror happiness any oftener than it is mirrored in the face of the man or woman who is without worldly goods. Granted then that happiness does not come from owning things, how is one to go about it to obtain this elusive but very desirable characteristic.

Since happiness cannot be bought is it possible for it to be taught? Maybe not, as one would teach the three r's, but isn't there an opportunity of teaching happiness if the child, right from the cradle, is first taught to control himself. It is readily seen that the child who has learned to get up and laugh when he bumps his nose and not to cry for things is receiving better training than the child who is allowed to be peevish and fretful and who takes real pleasure in pitying himself for every little scratch which comes his way. The little plastic mind is forming the foundation for being miserable instead of happy.

Sickness, disappointment, work and worry come to us all as we grow older and happiness comes to only those who have learned to pick themselves up after each misfortune, continue on and begin over with a determined cheerfulness instead of being crushed by it. There is nothing can make people happy who have grown up along with self pity.

So it seems very important to teach children to cultivate a cheeful outlook on life. You can either teach your child how to find real joy in doing things successfully even if it is accompanied by repeated failures, or you can teach him to envy those better off than himself so that all he can do is to brood dismally about how badly he is treated.

Then the world is so full of the simple, everyday things that are always with us. Real happiness comes to those who can see the beauty in the sunset, who feel the quiet of the woods, who know animals, who read wisely, who worship trustingly.

So we can be happy or miserable just as we choose and the world goes on just the same. It is for us to learn to be humble and thankful and to enjoy what blessings we have. Why borrow trouble or be afraid of the future or worry over the endless little things that go wrong continually. The way to forget them is to keep busy, so busy that your mind must concentrate on your work to the exclusion of every other thought.

Then, finally, the only way one can be truly happy is to make other people happy. You cannot be selfish or self centred or mean and be sincerely happy. These things do harmonize with happiness. "So give the world the best you have and the best will come back to you."

It's a Poor Joke

"When everyone can't join you in the laughter."

"When a little child is brought to tears."

"When something sacred is made to appear com on."

"When some woman blushes with embarrassment."

"When some heart carries away a sting."

Twilight Hour Story

Chapter 19.

What They Did With the Big Box

You will remember Mama Lady sent Billy down cellar to get the big box for the chicks and when he found it he hurried upstairs with it. It got a little dusty down there so it was made all clean, inside and out. Billy was having lots of fun for he wondered what his mother was going to do next to make the little chicks comfortable. After it was all clean she told him to go out to the barn and get a whole lot of real fine straw and chaff that sifted down through the big pile of straw in the mow. When she had put a thick layer of it in the bottom it was as soft as soft could be. Then Mama Lady remembered she had an old warm black shawl up in the attic, so Billy brought it down, wondering what she wanted it for. But she just laughed when he asked her and said, "Wait, son, and you'll see very soon." And this is what she did:

She put the little chicks in the box which had the fine straw in the bottom and you would have laughed if you had seen them playing with the straw and scratching it up with their little feet. Then in one corner she put the old black shawl so that it made a tiny room in behind there just big enough for four little chicks. This was their small bedroom. It did seem as though that would be warm enough for them, but Mama Lady knew it wasn't snug enough when they were sleeping. So she thought a long time about what to do and was a little afraid she couldn't keep them warm enough. Suddenly she remembered she had used the last of the coffee that very morning out of its tin can and that tin can was the very thing she wanted. She filled it with a lot of nice, warm water, then put the lid on tight and set it behind in their little bedroom. It was just like a cosy stove, wasn't it? Now everything was ready, so she picked each little chick up, held it against her cheek a minute and against Billy's cheek too, and then set Jimmie and the others behind the shawl, close beside the little hot water furnace. The black shawl was closed down closer around them and this time I do believe they did think it was their Mama Hen, for they were so very warm and comfortable. And do you know they went sound asleep right away. Mama Lady covered them in with more covers so they wouldn't get cold before the long night was over. Then she and Billy said "Good night little chicks, till morning." Next it was Billy's turn for bed and it didn't take him long to get there, he was so sleepy, and he too went off into slumberland right away.

Unknown Elements Traced By X-Ray

Washington. — Confirmatory evidence of the existence and identity of "rhenium," one of the missing elements, has been discovered and checked at the Bureau of Standards.

Dr. W. F. Meggers, a government specialist in optical work, has brought out proof of the presence of the substance by application of the X-ray and the analysis of the spectral light it reflects.

The substance, provisionally set down as "rhenium 75" on the list of 90 or more basic elements making up the physical universe, is one of those whose existence has been hitherto predicted rather than discovered by natural science.

At present, rhenium is rarer than radium in the earth's stock of commodities, and is too young to have any known usefulness. However, like many another of the elements purposefully sought since the structural plan was laid down indicating their existence, rhenium may attain value and be put into service after natural science has more fully established its character.

"I believe girls, even more than boys, need college education."—Mrs. Thomas A. Edison.

Aviatrix's Smile of Triumph

Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce, English aviatrix, first woman to fly across Europe and Asia, now in U.S.A. on world flight.

Sunday School Lesson

February 15. Lesson VII—Jesus the Friend of Sinners—Luke 7: 36-50. Golden Text—This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.—1 Timothy 1: 15.

ANALYSIS

I. THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, Luke 7: 36.

II. THE PHARISEES AND SINNERS, Luke, chap. 7.

III. JESUS AND THE SINFUL, Luke, chap. 7.

I. THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, Luke 7: 36.

It is often supposed that the penitent woman in this story is Mary Magdalene; but that is not stated, nor implied. Mary of Magdala is referred to a few verses later (8: 2) as the woman out of whom Jesus had cast seven devils; this probably refers to an acute condition of hysteria or demon-possession, whereas the woman in this story was apparently a woman "off the streets."

Much in the story is left to our imagination, and doubtless it had been told many times in different contexts before ever it was written down; hence at first sight it is not quite clear whether the woman is forgiven because she loves much, or loves much because she has been forgiven. The parable of the debtor implies that she loves much, because she has been forgiven much, and this seems to be the meaning of the story as a whole. If this is so, we should perhaps regard the words, "because she loved much," in v. 47, as somebody's mistaken marginal comment which was no part of the original story, or perhaps the meaning is, "she is forgiven, and you can see that she is forgiven and has repented because she loves much," or possibly sayings of Jesus at another time have been tacked on to the story of the woman. The matter is perplexing, but not of any great importance. Jesus clearly indicates, in the parable of the debtor, that those who have been forgiven much will love much, but he may well have taught, on some other occasion, that love covers a multitude of sins. Christians tend to be fierce in their condemnation of what are called "sins of passion," and to be lenient towards lack of charity and human sympathy, and towards sins of cold selfishness. The judgment of Jesus seems to have been different.

II. THE PHARISEES AND SINNERS, Luke chap. 7.

The incident will probably have occurred early in the ministry, for after Jesus' breach with the Pharisees it is not very likely that one of them would have invited him in a friendly way to dine at his house. His host, it is true, treats him with bare courtesy; perhaps he thinks that the peasant-prophet will not expect the sort of treatment Simon would offer an equal, vs. 44-46. The party was reclining at the meal; each would be on a couch, with his feet stretched away from the table, and his left elbow resting on it. The sequel, as has been said, is a history rather to be wept over than commented upon. The woman must have entered the courtyard, come up the verandah step, and perhaps passed through an ante-room before entering the dining chamber. How she gained admittance we do not know. We can imagine the hush and awkwardness that would fall upon the party as she entered. In silence, as we may perhaps suppose, she knelt and her tears fell on Jesus' feet. Then, though no Jewish women would willingly do this in public, she let down her hair, and wiped his feet. Then Simon protests. What may have preceded this scene we can only imagine. We do not know what Jesus may have said to her, if indeed he had said anything, but what he had done for her is obvious.

III. JESUS AND THE SINFUL, Luke, chap. 7.

Much of the teaching of Jesus was akin to the nobler teaching of the rabbis of his day; perhaps the most striking difference between him and them is to be found in his attitude to sinners. They would gather up their skirts to avoid the contaminating touch of such a woman as this; he came to seek out and to save sinners. Jesus never condoned sin or suggested for a moment that it did not matter; he showed at once an utter abhorrence of sin, and an invincible love for the sinner. Therefore, this woman, who might be brazen-faced before the world, was broken-hearted, repentant, transfigured and renewed when she met with Jesus. Today, do such women regard church members as she regarded Christ, or as she regarded the Pharisees?

V. 48. Jesus said, "thy sins are forgiven," more probably than "thy sins be forgiven," but neither translation is legitimate. This may well be a repetition of what he had said to her before, for the parable of the debtor suggests that she already knew she was forgiven. In any case Jesus does not seem directly to forgive sins himself, but to declare that God has forgiven. Similarly, God "hath given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people being penitent the absolution and remission of their sins. The divinity of Jesus is shown, not in a mysterious divine prerogative to forgive sins on his own responsibility, but in his attitude to the sinner; for his attitude is God's.

British Films

H. S. Oakley in the Fortnightly Review (London): For the first twenty years of its brief life, this industry has been controlled from the United States. . . . Today all this is in process of change. The Legislature took the first step when it passed the Films Act (1927). Science completed the process when it invented the "talkie". The British audience stood the American picture, much as it laughed at times over the grotesque mistakes that were made, but it cannot stand the American voice. It wants English as it is spoken in England, and slowly but surely it is getting it. A great industry is in process of being born. British-made films are already finding their way into every corner of the English spoken world, and they are being welcomed.

Women pause to reflect—when they see a mirror.

"Well, old man, what are you doing these days?" "I'm selling furniture." "Are you selling much?" "Only my own, so far."

"Clothes give a man a lot of confidence." "I should think they do. I go to heaps of places with them that I wouldn't dream of going to without."

Doctor Says Movies Do Not Injure Eyes

New York.—It is not the fault of the stars or of the projection machines if motion pictures hurt the patrons' eyes. The blame falls squarely on the eyes of the patrons in the opinion of Dr. William M. Richards, of the Better Vision Institute, who in his recent address before the National Board of Review Pictures here asserted that an insidious rumor that the films were bad for the eyes was keeping thousands daily from the motion picture box office.

"If motion pictures hurt your eyes don't blame the picture but blame your eyes and have them examined," he declared. "For if your eyes are normal, either with or without glasses, you can look at films without any discomfort whatever. It is a common complaint among persons generally to say that their eyes have been ruined by motion pictures. Normal eyes never give symptoms when looking at the pictures and are never in any way harmed by them."

Mr. Richards suggested that patrons should equip themselves with a special type of eyeglass in their pilgrimages to the theatre.

There are many things that can be done to bring this important subject to the attention of motion picture audiences," he pointed out. "I suggest that there be incorporated, for the time, at least, in all picture releases the suggestion that if the films inconvenience the eyes one must not blame them, but rather the eyes."

Hard Sense

She kept a little moon
Yellow as butter;
Hoarded a little tune
Too sad to utter;

Cherished a windy sky
Secret and holy;
Treasured the way birds fly,
Solemnly, slowly.

Parson at last is glad,
Old wives are grinning;
Wed to her neighbor's lad,
Set her to spinning . . .

Flax on the busy loom,
Children to cherish,
So in one narrow room
Folly will perish.

Here is a silver spoon,
Here a copper kettle,
For her who thought the moon
Made the dearer metal.

—Elspeth, in The Forum.

Fashion Gleanings

As a trimming or accessory for pastel and white costumes, brown is most important. Brown fur trims the short sleeve in many of the suits and ensembles for dressy afternoon and spectatular sports. Evening gowns with removable jackets have also adopted the fur idea.

Crepe-shangtung — a soft pure-dye silk with a dull finish—is styled in sports and spectator sports frocks. Its popularity is assured on account of its tubbing qualities.

Pajamas are considered a definite part of the wardrobe, not only for sleeping, lounging and beach wear, but for dinner and evening as well. The latter models follow the lines in vogue for dresses for like occasions, showing the same draped necklines, bolero jackets, jeweled belts, and elaborate sleeve treatments, as outstanding features.

Angora, in the daintiest of shades, has edged its way into wraps for formal evening wear. They are usually hip-length, with flowing sleeves and scarf. They are wonderfully light in weight, still giving the needed warmth and the silklike appearance of the brush gives a misty air to its wearer.

One's hat, gown and shoes should be of matching tone, the color contrast being augmented by scarf, belt or tie. The bag also should carry the combination color.

"Girls are now taking an interest in agriculture," we read. Especially husbandry.

"Fish That Bark!" reads a headline. What most anglers want is one that bites.

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNABELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

A most attractive model for youth and the youthful type of woman.

The jumper effect of the bodice gives it a jaunty air.

Carried out in dark brown wool crepe with cuffs, vestee and collar of turquoise-blue, the tie brown with blue dots, is delightfully gay and smart.

A similar scheme in dark green wool jersey with lighter green is snappy. The belt may be of self-fabric or of leather.

Style No. 2921 may be had in sizes 14, 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.

Other interesting suitable fabrics are flat crepe silk, canton crepe and tweed mixtures.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

The Call of the Bush

Day is smiling approval at earth's new spring apparel. It is good to be out of doors, free and away. Already in the moonlight dawn the warbling magpies had heralded such an awakening, and the call of the bush is loud and insistent. So off to the hills for young hearts eager to revel in nature's glory.

Up hill and down dale, through wooded vales blue-vaulted by the floor of heaven; by the crystal lake shaded on every side by thickets green; to the distant purple hills where grows the bracken fern or hoots the owl; where music in the waterfall makes harmony with singing birds; where cries the curlew plaintively; or where the kookaburra lifts his laughter on the air; such places lend themselves where thought may dwell in simplest luxury.

Leschanaultia, blue, yellow, white and red, splashes the landscape like a painter's palette. Buttercups fringe the roadside's edge. Sarsaparilla hangs her purple tresses from tree to tree. The tall gums stand majestic; low blackboy clumps send up new, soft, green spears.

At last a wattle grove is reached. The silence in the woods is very sound, the sound that breathes in stillness thanks to God for such a paradise. In the trees' cool shade luncheon is spread. Rest, talk and day-dreams while away the afternoon's sunshine. Homeward toward the city, as the golden sunset says, Amen!

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER — Mutt Wins a Hollow Victory.