

The Action Free Press

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1920.

LOVE SHOWS THE WAY.

How glad the dawn of each new day,
Since I have learned to know
That love doth ever point the way.
The right path for me to go.

Through many paths at first appear,
The shining cross doth still make clear
The one right path for me.

Heron, now fearful of regret,
I take the path love shows;
The road may not see, yet
My guide is God, my master.

—Agnes G. Smith.

A LITTLE MORE

By Eleanor Ford Hay.

SHOUTS the hums of conversation and the little quacks of the typewriter. Limited, at last, sounded the low, musical alarm of the big gong, telling that it was quarter past two, and only fifteen minutes from closing time. Harriet could not remember ever having been so glad to hear the sound. She was there, sweetly tired.

She was in a special "closing out" sale in her department that day, and from seven o'clock in the morning until now she had not had a chance to sit down during her hurried business. Finally, after the girls in the counter-lined squares had worked Infants' Underwear, Duds, G 32s—were we tired as we were.

Mr. White had got out from their hiding places the last of October to cover the goods and counters for the night. The crowds seemed to melt away, and the sudden silence was so noisy, so nerve-wracking, hurry and clamor of the day before. Then the gong started again. It was closing time, and she was free.

Already, late, she was almost limp, but through the other girls between the counters when she saw Miss Fuller, who had recently been promoted to the Kitchen Utensils, Dept. 191, surveying every corner disconsolately, as though she had lost a child. That boy had just dumped in front of her.

Harriet took in the situation at a glance.

"I just too bad," she said, "what Joe ought to be reported." Mr. White made a rule that extra tests were to come up at noon, so as to give us a chance to get some work and ready for display in the morning without doing overtime.

"Oh, you mustn't, you really mustn't!" remonstrated the other, when she saw Harriet draw up a stool and begin hurriedly snipping the cords on the bundles.

But Harriet was smilingly determined to get them, and then you put them together by size, and all the wool ones by colors—and then well put them away; and it will all be done in no time," she said proudly, trying to look as though she had.

Before that, however, she had the multitude of whistles and bells throughout the city proclaimed that six o'clock had come.

By the time she was ready for the street the cars were full, and Harriet had to wait several minutes for one. Across the street on the second floor she could see the private office of T. W. Ross, proprietor of the Apollo. Through the plate-glass windows she could see Mr. Ross himself, a portly, important-looking person, seated at a flat-top desk. Every day, His private secretary, a young man neatly and tastefully dressed, moved about the room in a leisurely way but with evident purpose and efficiency.

Harriet had a hankering, and carried her away from the spot, but half-sighed she had just seen remain perfectly pale. The young woman in Ross's office possessed all that Harriet had been working more than a year to attain.

For most of the three-mile trip to the next town that she called home Harriet had to stand. That was part of the payment for standing.

Miss Fuller. The other part of the day was a secret gladness that she had never seen since what she termed her "philosophy" of life philosophy could be summed up in the words, "a little more." She had given them from a card that Mr. Whitten had sent to each employee of the store. That caused her to work twenty minutes longer each night at her shorthand, which she was soon learning to read.

The next morning she again asked for the payment for standing. That was part of the payment for standing.

When her brother was killed in the railway wreck it left her the matinay job of mending her sister, Jessie, who was still at school. To meet the occasion, she had managed to take a place at Whitten's, and through thick and thin she had stood grimly to her task.

But the work was tiring on her. Besides, her wages now scarcely sufficed to meet her own expenses and additional needs at home, for everything else, however, the store she was, indeed, a little in the great machine. If the cog broke, a thousand others were ready to take its place.

When she got to her tiny third-floor bedroom, she threw herself on her bed in complete exhaustion. She closed her eyes, but she might not see the green wall, the pink chintz, the lace scroll and figures that decorated the water jug of white stoneware, the chump mirror, and the threadbare skirt of old blue. She lay still, looking out the window. She lay until she heard the tolling of the great church tower, the cathedral downtown. When her mother came in, she was over, "All...debated whether she should immediately or spend the evening with her short-hand and typewriting."

"It's a little more," she said to her mother, "but perhaps I'd better do it—though just now it feels like a good deal more."

Her typewriter was a battered, old-fashioned machine, and only about half of the keys worked. It had cost her the sum of three weeks and the price of a hand needle.

With a thought, the great event for which she had waited so long, was to take place. The oldest business college in the city was holding a special examination in shorthand and typewriting. This was to be a severe test, but the prizes were high, especially the gold medals, which were gold and silver medals; the next twelve who came up to a certain standard would receive certificates of merit, and would be sure to secure for them places in offices where expert work was required. Harriet had determined some time before to enter.

the competition, though she knew how badly she was handicapped by not having some one to dictate to her, and by the almost useless typewriter on which she had to work in order to give distinction to the occasional thins of the big business men of the city had been invited to take part in the awards, and to be present at the awarding of the prizes.

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At last the exciting day came. Fifteen candidates were taking the exam. Harriet was the only student. The most difficult and technical matter that she could find to write in shorthand was mathematics on her machine because she did not understand it. Every moment that she had free from the store she spent with her pencil.

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