

AN IDEAL FRIEND

(Continued From First Page.)

MANLINESS, THE TRUE NOBILITY.

(High School Credit.)

As our dispositions differ, one from another, so will the persons we choose as ideal friends differ also. Certain faults may be ignored by one of a generous nature, while others may not look with so kindly an eye upon our foibles. For myself I should want a friend brave in the face of danger, unswerving in his actions, truthful in the extreme and generous to a fault. A man whose frank impulsive disposition never hid a single mean or ignoble action. Forgiving and kind, he soon forgets any wrong done him by his companions and with simple manliness pardons the offender. He ever lends a kind and helping hand to all in need, never scorning to aid with all the ardor at his command a deserving or unfortunate inferior. Nobility and manliness, the characteristics possessed by every true friend, would have a special place in my ideal, and would always stand out as his greatest virtues. It is such a friend whom I could look up to and truthfully say: "Here, indeed, is an ideal."

—Theodore Gronert,
Prairie du Chien, Wis.

THE WEALTH OF BEING STRONG.

(High School Credit.)

A man who willingly does no deed and thinks no thought unfavorable to you is your friend. Your true friend will study your character, weigh its gold and its dross as conscientiously as he will his own. He will encourage the worthy in you and help you erase your faults. He will offer himself and all that he has acquired through his own efforts for your use. His interest will be so great in your welfare that at times when you need support he will become part of you, almost live your life, lending his own when your strength to do the right is insufficient. The nobler and stronger, the more prudent, the greater student of human nature a man is, the better friend he makes, the more capable he is of uplifting others. A man who is a friend to another is a progressive man, for in giving his best qualities to aid his friend and exerting the best that is within him he constantly enriches his own character.

—Aleta Pearson,
Two Harbors, Minn.

Tenth Grade.

A GOOD-SIZED DASH OF HUMOR.

(Honorable Mention.)

In my estimation the qualities which constitute a real, live, whole-hearted friend are, sincerity, courage, sympathy, wisdom, loyalty, magnanimity, seriousness and also a good-sized dash of humor.

I should want him to be sincere because it is balm to one's heart to meet a frank, honest nature. Then he should be courageous because a person who proves himself fearless upon all occasions is universally admired. What is more comforting in time of trouble than to know that a true friend sympathizes with you? And does it not give a person more "backbone" to know that he possesses a friend who will defend him behind his back and stick to him through thick and thin with a loyalty which nothing daunts? What a relief when one is perplexed to go to such a friend with one's tale of woe and instead of having it belittled, have it discussed in a serious way and receive some wise counsel. Again, how elevating it is to have a good talk with that friend and come away with the feeling that one will set his aims still higher and strive for nobler things.

And last of all, but not least, how wholesome and refreshing it is to claim the friendship of one who with his quick sense of humor is ever ready to vanquish approaching "blues" with a witty sally and a happy, infectious laugh.

—Jessie F. Hotelling,
Luverne, Minn.

Eighth Grade.

AIMING FOR HIGHER THINGS.

(Honorable Mention.)

Friend. The word brings to me thoughts of a person whose nature is true always, from whom I can feel sure of sympathy; also one to whom I can tell everything and he, listening, will show the good or bad points of my actions. One who will be a friend to me in poverty or prosperity, in sorrow or gladness. One who will have an influence over me for the better and one who, seeing fit, will encourage me

in my work and lead me to aim for higher things. One possessing these qualities would be a true friend to me, because I could not help but feel a liking for him and therefore I should become better in more than one way from association with him.

—Margie Rowe,
St. James, Minn.
Seventh Grade,
South Side School.

THE PROOF OF FRIENDSHIP.

(Honorable Mention.)

To be a good friend one must be true and unselfish. I admire a person who is perfectly honest in every little thing. When we need a little help we may expect our friend to help us, and if he is a true friend he will at once be willing to do so. A person who flatters us and pretends to be our friend cannot be depended upon and can not therefore be called friend at all. Among my friends there are no flatterers.

A friend is one who helps always, not only when we are well and happy, but when we are sick, weary or without company. When we are well we need a friend to share our happiness, when unhappy we need a friend to console and encourage us. When in a strange country a friendly word helps us. A friend knows and understands us, and we trust him. A friend shows us our mistakes and helps us overcome our bad habits. A friend comes to our rescue when we are helpless.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed."

—Rena Lundy,
Devils Lake, N. D.
Sixth Grade.

BALM FOR LITTLE TROUBLES.

(Honorable Mention.)

One always looks for perfection in a friend, but so far I do not think that anybody has found one. My ideal friend would be perfectly honest in all her dealings. Also good, kind and gentle. But above all I would require sincerity, for then I could confide in her and go to her with all my little secrets and troubles, feeling sure she would not talk about them to any one. This is a quality that I am striving to gain for myself. I think that if I could find a truly sincere friend all other good qualities would be found in her. It is so seldom one finds a friend in whom he can place entire confidence and feel sure that the friend will not betray him.

—Bessie Jones,
Stewartville, Minn.

Fifth Grade.

THE ESSENCE OF AFFECTION.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed." There is a divine blessing upon true friendship, not the friendship that fades away under the frown of adversity, but that affection which remains steadfast amid sunshine and storm. There are many true friends, but their affections are so quiet and unassuming that their virtues are seldom known outside their own circle. Could we view the workings of such a man's mind we would find the following rules deeply imprinted in his soul: "Pass over small imperfections of character; warn a friend kindly of any serious fault or failing; never be guilty of backbiting; never offer hostile criticism of a man's religion or private belief; never impose on your friend's affections or liberality; above all, be constant."

The necessity of these qualifications is at once evident. No person likes to be reminded of small and unimportant failings, but it is the essence of affection and self-sacrifice to show a friend wherein he is guilty of some serious backsliding. Talking behind a man's back no gentleman will ever do, and certainly no friend. Bitter words against religion or personal opinion are useless and often fatal to friendship, and often the borrowing of money places friendship on a mercenary basis. The real reason for the existence of these rules is the vagaries of human nature. A person loves to have an ideal friend and forgetful of his own faults will break off a friendship if any one of these qualities is lacking. The only ideal friendship on earth must still be human.

—William W. Barron,
Twelfth Grade,
Washington School.

317 2d av NE, Brainerd, Minn.

WORTHY OF BUSINESS TRUST.

My ideal friend would be a quiet boy of my own age. I should want him to be truthful so I could depend upon him and, if necessary, defend him. He would be trustworthy and willing so if I had any important business which I was unable to do for myself I should want to be able to trust him and have him willing so I would not feel that I was imposing upon him or having him do anything disagreeable. I should want him neat, orderly and good natured, for that is the kind of people I like to have around me. He would be kind, active and brave, for I should want him to be a manly fellow. These are the qualities of character I should like my ideal friend to possess.

I should most enjoy having him share my recreation and fun, so I should want him to enjoy, heartily, swimming, skating, hunting, fishing and horseback riding, my favorite pastimes. I should want to keep this friend all my life, but when people grow older they are not always friendly enough just because one possesses more admirable qualities than the other and their tastes disagree. I think if he were to be my very dearest friend he would have to know my work and be interested in it. Just now it would be all school work pertaining to literature, history, music and drawing.

—Joseph F. Russell,
Fifth Grade,
District 18, Ceresco,
Madelia, Minn.

TRAITS FOR THE GRAND CHUM.

The supply of friends is so limited that I must be, and am, willing to take anyone I can get. But if I could elect a person to the office of grand chum, he, for it must be a boy, would have to be honest; I would wish to put all faith in him. He must be generous to avoid being narrow and miserly; homey, because if he was handsome I should be entirely overshadowed. He must be serious and sensible because I am not and would be able to write good papers to The Journal Junior for the same reason. He must be a good student of chemistry so as to explain its horrible phenomena to my poor bewildered head, and the same as to Virgil and Botany. Of course there can be no such person except among the ideals, but if there were I would take pleasure in calling him "my friend."

—Alfred Schroeder,
Twelfth Grade,
Wheaton, Minn.

OF DAMON AND PYTHIAS TYPE.

In the present, everchanging history of modern times true, heart-whole friends are few and far between. However, person's ideals of friendship may be widely different, but for me there is always a type of friendship which stands out pre-eminent—a standard which I would give a great deal to attain. My ideal friend need not be a person of faultless ac-

quirements, beautiful or highly accomplished, but above all he must have the quality of truthfulness, and be what is commonly known as "good-hearted." A pattern friend should not only stand by his acquaintance through trials, but should also defend him until death if need be. Of such a person we have a striking example in Pythias of old, whose confidence in his friend could not be shaken by threats or sneers.

He should be a person of even temperament, cool judgment, witty and extremely tactful,—one who would keep the secrets of the other securely locked in his mind, who would not change his way of thinking every ten minutes. In fact, a friend once, a friend always. Such a person would undoubtedly be difficult to find, yet there are such and will be to the end of the chapter.

—Elma G. Glenn,
Tenth Grade,
Prairie du Chien, Wis.

EVER THE SAME KIND SOUL.

If some one asked me the simple meaning of the word "friend" I might answer: "A well-wisher or a close associate," because I have never taken into consideration the qualities that do make a true friend. In one sense of the word my definition might be correct, but a person may be a very close associate and still be one's worst enemy. There are people who consider as friends people not one of whom may be worthy of the name.

One who entertains for another such sentiments as

esteem, respect and affection and also seeks the other's company and takes interest in his welfare may truly be called a friend. A friend forgets and forgives any little wrong and also shows his appreciation for any favor done him. Sometimes one discovers who his

friends are when he is in the midst of sickness or some other affliction. Then a true friend will visit and amuse and even deny himself something in order to relieve the sufferer. Others, who are just pretended friends and keep one's society just for policy, are never seen or heard of when one is in need. Friends who are really friends stand by each other in prosperity and misfortune. If I could choose one whom I would consider a perfect friend I would take one who would respect and treat me the same at all times, one whom I could always trust.

—Eugenia Stapleton,
Eighth Grade,
Two Harbors, Minn.

ACQUAINTED WITH SOAP.

My ideal friend is one who is good and kind, who goes to Sunday school and church, and is honest, brave and truthful, good-tempered and jolly. She does not write notes in school and she always obeys her parents. She is not lazy and ugly at home or any place else. She is neat and clean in her clothing and work. She is very good to all her friends and everyone else, especially to cripples and poor people. She does not talk about anyone behind his back and then play with him and pretend to be his friend. When she has company she does not leave them to go somewhere else unless her company wish to go with her. She goes skating and she does not want to read all the time, but she likes to play almost every good game.

—Verda Handy,
Fifth Grade,
Central School,
Grafton, N. D.

NOT OF THAT TEASING KIND.

If I were to endow some human being with the qualities that make an ideal friend I would make her a girl who would be kind and courteous, not haughty but polite in her manners, and one who would always try to make all around her happy. I should want her to be a willing, honest and obedient pupil who can be trusted and who will behave like a lady. She must also be witty and cheerful. I should not want her to be of that teasing kind who call names or who make fun of aged people. I should choose her because she is kind, courteous and obedient to all and makes all around her happy.

—Malcie Holman,
Seventh Grade,
Renville, Minn.

LOOKING BEHIND THE CLOUDS.

If I were to go around the world in search of an ideal friend and found one with all of the traits that an ideal friend should have, there would be a great many traits. A friend of mine must be honest and trustworthy. He must be one that can be trusted with my secrets such as I should only like to tell to a friend. I should want a friend who knew the difference between right and wrong. My friend must be a cheerful person and not one who is always looking on the dark side of things for if he did he would not be a very agreeable friend. My friend must have these traits, for in being honest, trustworthy and also truthful he can be depended upon. In knowing the difference between right and wrong, he would be able to help others besides himself, and in being cheerful he would make himself agreeable and bring sunshine to others.

—Blanche Carr,
Seventh Grade,
Heron Lake, Minn.

THAT CHIEFEST OF CHARMS.

My friend should possess three qualities, and in possessing those others would naturally be found. First is happiness—gladness and good cheer. A merry person is far more apt to be good than a gloomy one because it is difficult for a fretful, discordant soul to be good. Happiness is often another name for holiness. Thus if my friend were cheerful I should expect her to be gentle, sympathetic and unselfish. Second, my friend should be ambitious. One of the saddest sights in the world is that of a soul starved by indolence, an undeveloped, stunted person who has never exerted her finer sentiments and faculties. Nature has everywhere written her protest against idleness; everything which ceases to struggle rapidly deteriorates. It is the struggle towards an ideal, the constant effort to get higher which develops womanhood and character. Lastly I would have my friend possess that which is the chief charm of women, dignity—that charm so all important, so subtle, so hard to analyze! Dignity is not priggishness, it is not stiffness or rigid adherence to the conventional. Dignity is the essential of every girl and woman. With a friend possessing these qualities I should be perfectly satisfied.

—Lois LaValley,
Twelfth Grade,
Moorhead, Minn.

A JOY TO LOOK AT.

A girl who is kind, good natured and polite would appeal to me, as she would make an ideal and most pleasing companion and friend. If she were full of fun and lively I should like her better. What girl would not? She must show enjoyment in all games and sports. Yet she must be quiet,

Northwestern Topics.

For Saturday, Jan. 31:

"A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION."

There has been time enough now for Junior makers of resolutions to know whether they are going to be successful in keeping some of the new pages turned. What is some special resolution that you made this past year or some other year, and how did you keep or lose it? There is no need to tell mortifying things, the editor never asks that, but if you can make any keeping or breaking of such a resolution into a good story, if you have lost all sensitiveness about a failure, well enough. It is a topic that should be an easy one to all. The papers must be mailed so as to reach the office

Not Later Than Friday Morning, Jan. 23,

They must be strictly original, written in ink on one side only of the paper, not more than 300 words in length, nor less than 100, marked with the number of words and each signed with the grade, school, name and address of the writer. The papers must not be rolled.

For Saturday, Feb. 7:

"A STARTLING ADVENTURE."

This must be in the form of a letter and the adventure may be real or imaginary. The letter may bear any date whether past, present or future, but the adventure itself must be a likely one. Imaginations must not run wild. They must be trained to do clean cut, probable work. The papers must be mailed so as to reach the office

Not Later Than Friday Morning, January 30.

They must be strictly original, written in ink on one side only of the paper, not more than 300 words in length, nor less than 100, marked with the number of words, and each signed with the grade, school, name and address of the writer. The papers must not be rolled.