

WRITER DEFENDS MRS. BRADLEY

SENATOR BROWN'S SLAYER AS ANOTHER WOMAN SEES HER

THE AWAKENING.

(Dedicated to Mrs. Bradley by Her Father.) A strange reality Sees for the first time linked into my life...

How weak and vile a thing I seem to myself, unfit for aught, Unworthy even the shadow of a thought...

By ELLA DANN MOORE. The name of Annie M. Bradley was unknown to me until it appeared in the papers one morning in connection with the tragedy...

A stranger in a strange land, suddenly placed in a most deplorable situation, her loneliness and friendlessness appealed to me strongly...

However great her error, indeed, by very reason of it, she was in a position when, if ever—in this world of sorrow and of sin—a woman stands in need of the friendly ministrations of those of her own sex...

Actuated by these motives, I visited the District Jail and for the first time met Mrs. Bradley.

I found a quiet, unassuming little woman, refined and reserved in manner, and in every respect the exact opposite of what I had imagined from the circumstances...

No more common mistake prevails, although it is well known, that emotional forces are even more limited in extent and duration than the forces of physical energy...

Her intellectual attainments and pleasing mode of expression, together with many noble qualities of heart and genuine womanly feeling, combined to give her an interesting personality.

Our conversation would naturally upon many of the pertinent questions of the day, social, economic, political, and the views and opinions which she expressed showed deep and advanced thought upon the various topics.

Her apt quotations from eminent authors, and ready references to standard works, evidenced a familiarity with the best literature, and her own little library of several hundred choice volumes which she had collected, often at the cost of some minor luxury, attested her real fondness for books.

When our talk would take the serious turn it always did, reaching out into the realm of spiritual things, her interest deepened, and it was plain that religion and ethics were intimate and congenial subjects.

Although in outward conduct she had deviated far from the precepts of Christianity, its principles were firmly implanted in her heart, and in thought and spirit she remained true to her high ideals.

"Gladly," she has said, "I would give my life if it could atone for the past, and undo the wrong I have done."

In passing judgment upon the transgressor the moral motive should be considered, as the circumstances which govern actions are often so complex as to make a just decision difficult, and one must be informed of many things.

During our acquaintance, lasting now for many months, opportunity has been afforded for gaining an insight into her true character, and as her personal history has been gradually disclosed, and she has unconsciously and without dissimulation revealed her inmost heart, there has been more, far more, to admire than to disapprove.

When only a young girl, and her father's financial reverses made it necessary for her to supplement the family income by her own exertions, she decided to prepare herself for a business career...

While still in her teens she was made secretary of the Salt Lake water works, acting as assistant to her uncle, who was the superintendent. As she proved her efficiency, promotions followed rapidly...

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For nearly a year Mrs. Bradley has been incarcerated in the city jail, and she has endeavored herself to all with whom she has been associated, from the highest officials to the lowliest prisoner. Uncomplainingly, even cheerfully, she has borne the privations which of necessity have been her lot, without presuming in the least upon the privileges accorded her.

Regarding herself as undeserving of any favors, those extended have been thankfully accepted, and she has been appreciative and grateful. By her gentleness, sympathy, and patience, she has exerted an unconscious influence that will linger long after she has passed out from the gloomy vault.

Her rare unselfishness and thoughtfulness of others under the most depressing conditions, and in the midst of such gloomy surroundings, are indicative of her real kindness of heart. Her native energy and industry have proved a genuine blessing during the long, dreary months of imprisonment, and she has found in constant occupation some relief for her overburdened mind.

Realizing fully her unhappy position, and at times overcome with the weight of grief, she yet has the inherent hopefulness and buoyancy of spirits which enables her to bear misfortune bravely, and to find the germs of comfort which may always be had even in the hardest trials.

Her earnestness and candor become more apparent each time I saw her. Never in the slightest degree has she sought to condone her offense or spare herself the severest censure. The hardest critic could not be more relentless in denunciation of her shortcomings than she herself. The sophistry with which evil is wont to disguise itself has been absent from all Mrs. Bradley's utterances, and there has been no attempt to gloss over the unfortunate facts.

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