

OPTIMIST'S IDEALS ARE STANDARDS OF DESIRES

Many Beautiful Expressions on the Optimist's Ideals—A Whole Page of Epitomized Qualities Worth Striving For.

- "IDEALS" PRIZE WINNERS.**
- First prize—\$5.00.....Mrs. E. B. Davis, 740 Harvard street
 Second prize—\$3.00.....Charles Albert Brewton, 46 S street northwest
 Third prize—\$2.00.....R. W. Farrell, 2315 First street northwest
 Five prizes of \$1.00 each—J. Lee, P. O. Box 214, Allen Prender, 741 Tenth street southeast; Nina Vera Hughes, 57 Warburton avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.; M. Agnes Dunn, 1324 Corcoran street; Louis Yarnum Woulfe, 1000 Sixth street northwest.

Oh, how could you and I with Him compare, To grasp this sorry scheme of things entire? Would it not shame to live as we do here, To read the list of these who've won the prize?

By THE OPTIMIST.
My Dear, Loyal Friends: The note of resignation which is sounded all throughout the "Rubalyn," of which the above verse is a selection, is not particularly appealing to optimists, but there is so often a beautiful suggestion in this favorite poem that I am moved to occasionally quote portions of it to you.

Remember the tople for next Sunday is "Concentration," and there ought to be a fine opportunity for some original thoughts inspired by this subject. The contributions should be on my desk not later than noon of next Wednesday, when entries for the contest are closed. The topic for the week is always announced in Wednesday's Herald. I don't know whether all of you know this, but if you will look for the announcement for optimists each Wednesday you will find it in good heavy type, so there will be no chance to overlook it. This is to give you plenty of time, a week, in fact, in which to prepare your contributions.

In the contest on "Ideals" I have awarded the first prize of \$5 to the following: These are the gifts I ask of Thee, spirit serene: Strength for the daily task, Courage to face the road, Good cheer to help me bear the traveling load, And the hours of rest that come between, An inward joy in all things heard and seen.

These are the sins I find Would have thee take away: Malice and cold disdain, Hot anger, sullen hate, Scorn of the lowly, envy of the great, And discontent that casts a shadow gray.

On all the brightness of the common day—Henry Van Dyke. It requires the exercise of lofty ideals to sincerely voice a petition like this by Van Dyke. Mrs. E. B. DAVIS, 740 Harvard street northwest.

Second prize, \$3: Give me the man who gets results, Who tells white others talk, Who plans his work, then works his plan, Whose record's white as chalk. The man who has no ax to grind, And scoffs at flattery, Who helps the fellow next to him, Ah! he's the man for me.

I've praise galore for gentlemen Who hand their mothers' dear, For "mamma boys," as they are called, Have hearts that are as sincere.

But best of all—my true ideal— Is he who harbors love, And from the fullness of his soul Gives praise to God above. CHARLES ALBERT BREWTON, 46 S street northwest.

Third prize, \$2: Doubtless all optimists have in their minds visions or conceptions of their standards of mental and physical perfection in men and women, which may be properly called "ideals." Again, in our daily work if we are in earnest we may conceive ideals for the results desired and which we strive to realize.

Though it may be impossible to give our mental conceptions a material form, we can, by having ideals, achieve more excellent results than would be possible without them. When that which seems impossible to-day is grasped to-morrow, still higher conceptions will be had and revealed, and as the ideals of the past are the real of to-day, the ideals of the present will be the real of the future.

Outside of nature all that there is of use and beauty we owe to ideals, and the ideals serve in the preservation as well as in the creation of these objects. In times of war conquering armies with high ideals have on entering a city refrained from despoiling things of beauty and spared the lives of human beings who took refuge in the splendid temples.

On the other hand, a people with low ideals, or with none, frequently shatter the finest works of art. As a result of having no ideals and no ideals above the commonplace, when the Mohammedan fanatics profaned the sacred precincts of the Acropolis, the world's most beautiful temple, which had defied time for twenty centuries, became a ruin.

R. W. FARRELL, 2315 First street northwest. Five \$1 prizes: All men need something to poetize and idealize their life a little, something which they value far more than its use and which is a symbol of their emancipation from the mere materialism and drudgery of daily life. What we need the most is not so much to realize the ideal as to idealize the real. A large portion of human beings live not so much in themselves as in what they desire to be. They create what is called an ideal character in an ideal form whose perfections compensate in some degree for the imperfections of their own.

J. LEE, P. O. Box 214. What it stimulates desire and crowds past every doubt? What it laughs to scorn defeat and puts all fear to rout? What it gives one courage when hope seems lost to sight? Ideals! darkest, -promising, gleaming through darkest night.

There's not a principle extant nor known to human ken, There's not a virtue ever loved among the sons of men, There's not an active charity beneath the vaulted skies, But is born of ideality, whose purpose never dies.

Ideals urge ambition to gain the goal in view, Ideals fashion every plan and point the work to do, Ideals form the warp and woof of life's successful plan, Ideals voice the "hope deferred" and say, "I will! I can!" NINA VERA HUGHES, 57 Warburton avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.

At any moment we may turn from the poor reality to the great ideal of our own lives which is in Christ with one earnest question: "Lord, what wouldst Thou have me to be?" PHILIPS BROOKS, 1324 Corcoran street.

If we keep an ideal character in mind its influence on our lives is remarkable. We all know that contemplation on the life of a good person takes us intensely imitative of his character. Even the fictitious personages depicted by the better class of authors have a subtle, though marked, effect on our characters. If the characters portrayed are pernicious to morals, we think of them with disgust; if they are descriptive of what we ought to be, we are ashamed into imitation of them. Suppose we have constantly in mind the life of Christ, is not our sense of imitation sublimely employed? Therefore, if our minds are inclined to soar above practical excellence let Him be our ideal. ALLEN PRENDER, 741 Tenth street southeast.

The world so that every unbeliever might see the exceeding richness and beauty of His character; then, indeed, would we become as the apostle says, "Icing epistles, known and read of all men." Mrs. E. ELIZABETH HAWKINS, 118 Bedford avenue, Lynchburg, Va.

The best and noblest lives are those which are set toward high ideals, and the highest and noblest ideal that any man can have is Jesus of Nazareth.—Almeron. M. JANE MOORE, 2309 G street northwest.

The ideal optimist is always engaged in some good work, puts himself in the background, and his very best efforts into his chosen work, and when he has done all that he can do, he asks the Lord to intercede for him, relying on the last clause of the Lord's Prayer, "For Thine is the power" resting assured that "He will keep that which has been committed to Him against that day." Mrs. M. E. IRWIN, 1217 M street northwest.

I care not, Fortune, what you me deny; You cannot rob me of free nature's grace; You cannot shut the windows of the sky, Through which Aurora shows her brightening face; You cannot bar my constant feet to trace The woods and lawns, by living stream at eve; Let health my nerves and finer fibers brace, And I their toys to the great children leave; Of fancy, reason, virtue, naught can me bereave.—Thompson.

The thoughts expressed in these lines seem to me to contain the highest ideals of life—ideals which are not of man's making, but which go far toward making men what nature intended them to be; for is not a clear mind, a healthy body, and a conscience free from oppression, a triple crown, to which no man should disdain to aspire? Miss MAZIE SMITH, 714 Sixth street northwest.

The dream of the child on the mother's knee, The star that shines where his hope shall be, The vision of youth, when the heart's glow, And the brooklet breaks to the stream's full flow, The wreath that ringeth the victor's head, Or withers low—when the west grows red.

I might think forever but could never give you of myself anything half so beautiful as these lines of Lowell's: "Some day the soft ideal that we wooed Confronts us thereby, foe-bested, pursued, And cries, reproachful, 'Was it, then, my praise And not myself was loved? Prove now thy truth; Give me thy life or eower in empty phrase, The victim of thy genius, not its mate! Life may be given in many ways, And loyalty to truth be sealed, As bravely in the closet as the field, So beautiful is fate; But then to stand beside her, When craven churls deride her, To front a lie in arms and not to yield; This shows, methinks, God's plan And measure of a stalwart man.'" HAMMOND COURT, Mrs. E. B. HOLDFIELD.

Place your ideals high, try to master every one, Strive for early morning's light till the setting of the sun; Even burn the midnight oil to help you on your way, But ne'er be discontented with the blessings of each day, 'Tis the discontented man that makes the world woe on, But not the sour and sullen one that always wears a frown, So realize while striving for yourself and neighbor, too, There's no one in creation but can find some good to do. EDWARD F. FLANAGAN, Brightwood Park.

Though you did not say high ideals, I believe it was meant, for who does not, consciously or unconsciously, set an ideal and aim to reach that point of excellence? How dull and meaningless this world would be without aims and desires to be better and do better! Each one of us has some one who gives to us the honor of being their ideal, and therefore we should set ourselves the pace to be ever equal to that degree of excellence that we would not be ashamed for some one else to follow. A. E. BANNEY, 22 New Jersey avenue northwest.

"Follow your leader" the children play, Pass it on to the old and gray, Till over the valley of shadows we've passed; We still "follow our leader" and rest at last. LOUISE L. VILA, Schiappa Center, Mass.

To brighten hearts that often mourn, And live in hopes of a brighter dawn, To be content, not worry or frown, And help my neighbor when he's down, If up to these ideals I live, I will not feel that I've lived in vain, For through the happiness I may give, My happiness I'll gain. K. M. GLOTTZBACH, 114 Throld street northwest.

A WATER LILY, O star on the breast of the river, O marvel of bloom and grace, Did you fall straight down from heaven, Out of the sweetest place? You are white as the thoughts of an angel, Your heart is steeped in the sun, Did you grow in the golden city, My pure and radiant one?

NAY, NAY, I fell not out of heaven, None gave me my salty white; It slowly grew from the darkness Far down in the dreary night, From the ooze of the silent river I won my glory and grace, White souls fall not, O my poet, They rise to the sweetest place. Mrs. ANNIE E. McCARDLE, 189 Fifteenth street northwest.

Could we but give our ideals form I believe we would wish a sunny, cheerful trait first. What that is beautiful could arise on a sure foundation? One that creates all others and makes any form as near perfection as our dreams might create. Therefore, if we cultivate a happy, cheerful disposition we build the foundation to become most like our ideals. Mrs. J. A. ROBINSON, 212 Franklin street, Langdon, D. C.

Ideals, a subject sublime, ripe with the golden, luscious fruit of hope and faith, Teacherous 'tis true, but not for an optimist with lions girded of courage and determination. The goal, invisible, intangible, and still ever-present, the "will-

God's mercy on them! But who dare to say That that's was life, a life of true good will; A life that life's true meaning should fulfill? Ah, no! The ages speak another word, And man another teacher have preferred, Tho' centuries have passed, that sweet song still From Bethlehem's hamlet sends its heavenly thrill; A song that angels from a heavenly shore, To this sad world of ours, delighted, bore; A song whose soul and impulse ne'er had birth Amid the jarring discords of the earth. O Christ! No mighty warriors stained with blood About Thy humble cradle willing stood, No broad-browed scholars versed in ancient lore; To Thy stall-cradle brought their learned store; No monarchs crowned with jeweled diadems; No royal queens, radiant with pearls and gems; No fawning courtiers sought Thy infant grace, No servile politicians viewed Thy face; No selfish schemes of wicked-hearted men Gathered in whirling worship round Thee then; And yet the noblest warriors learn from Thee The only lessons that can make men free! The grandest scholars gather from Thy word The deepest truths that human hearts have stirred; The greatest rulers go to Thee to school, And learn from Thee how they themselves shall rule; Woman from Thee hath learned her proper place, Man's peer and helpmeet, fair and full of grace, Men learn from Thee, once and for all, good will; Good will that conquers hate, and sin, and ill; Good will that leads men to love one another, Good will to see in Christ God's Son, their brother! "A little child shall lead them" led by Thee, With Thy good will within them, all can see, And know the secret of true happiness; How Gospel Truth alone can heal and bless; God's will and good will, both unite in Thee, Setting man, "body, soul, and spirit," free. For, if men love to will, and will to love, "The Word made Flesh," God's message from above, Thine is the secret of eternal truth, Joy, love, and peace; and theirs eternal youth. EDWARD M. MOTT.

you," he gallantly insisted. I believe in the chivalry of American manhood. I glory in the soul beauty of American womanhood. The ideal woman thinks of others. She has a soft voice and gentle manner. Sure of her position, she is gracious to all. Not in war is her victory won, but in love and peace. Mrs. C. E. McLAUGHLIN, 216 C street northwest.

We all look up to and earnestly desire to attain the vision of beauty and nobleness which I sincerely believe is in the heart and soul of every true-hearted person, for some one has said, "God never yet permitted us to frame a theory too beautiful for His power to make practicable."

So, if we would attain this ideal of ours, we must have faith in God, exercising and living a life of gentleness, strength, purity, energy, and integrity, which I believe are the most potent qualities and elements of character in the true ideal. MALCOLM D. LAMBOURNE, 311 Fourteenth street northwest.

"As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is." William Allen White says: "It may be shown simply enough without spinning the theory of the moral government of the universe very fine that a habit of mind becomes an attitude of life, and that by his ideals a man makes the circumstances over which he thinks he has no control. Opportunities are mere crossroads in the lives of men and nations. The opportunities do not make men and nations, but reveal them. For man, created in the image of God, creates by his own thoughts gods in his own image." EDITH V. BRADY, 1514 Fairmount street.

Ideals are an approach on God. From Him they have their source, and without Him they could not exist. To follow our ideals, we must of necessity follow God. And in this we succeed by beholding Him in everything we do. However cold or dreary life may be, still, God is there; and if we would realize this fact, and go about our daily round of humdrum duties in an optimistic manner, we would not fall far short of realizing our ideals. THOMAS V. MURTO, St. Charles College, Elkhart, Ind.

Ideals, not the cleverness and grandeur of knowledge, as grand as knowledge is, but life grows fairer, I think, in its love and grace and tenderness. Just the laughter of little children, the friendship of friends, the heart's outpour by the cozy fire, the odor of flowers, and the sound of music. ALLIE SHARPE BAILEY, 1235 Euclid street.

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Ideals are simply our conceptions of what constitute perfection. They are the first indications of progress because they imply thought, analysis, and judgment. The complex life of the present day affords a multiplicity of ways for their highest exploration. Ideals should be worth while. Abominating crime, sickness, and poverty, increasing opportunities for improvement, mental and physical, present inviting fields for cultivation. Sometimes the idealist is called a dreamer, but the dreamer of yesterday is the miracle-worker of to-day.

Flying—the dream of the centuries—is the commonplace fact of to-day. Truly, ideals may be called the forerunners of all that is progressive, whether material or spiritual. ARTHUR LENOX, Lock Box 24.

Our ideals are ever before us, the patterns of beauty whose perfection we can never even approximate, but because of which our life's work is a little better, a little purer, a little nobler than it otherwise would have been. It is the fashion to sneer at the man with ideals, the visionary, and to exalt the practical man, the man who has in his mind no foolish notions about unattainable perfection. But the man whose ideals constantly lure him onward and upward is, after all, the practical man. Well is he aware that the natural tendency of mankind is ever downward, and that if in this perplexing business of life he would approach a little nearer beauty and truth he must ever keep his feet steadfastly set toward the star-crowned summits where they have their abiding place. ARTHUR W. BEEBE, Seventeenth and Hamilton streets northwest.

My chief ideal is Christ the Lord. No writings comparable to His Word; His truth leads in the narrow way, To Heaven of our home shall be always. A faithful wife such as we see, Is living now in house with me; For twenty years, eye, side by side, My ideal wife, my ideal bride. An ideal man is just and right, Who takes his cares and makes them light, That speaks the truth with love indeed, And gives those who are in need. The one who shares another's sighs, And with him gladly bears a part; Whose sorrow flows from eye to eye, Delightful joy flows from his heart. H. W. SMITH, D. D., 78 Merion street northwest.

My one ideal, in which all others, such as happiness, kindness, etc., are involved, is "keep to the right." It is a law of the road—the observance of which prevents collisions and smash-ups. The same law applies to the great highway of life on which humanity is traveling. Keep to the right! Golden words that should be graven on the memory, that should stand, like finger-posts, beside every divergent path of temptation on the human highway. Keep to the right; only then can you reach the goal of true life in this world and in the world beyond. M. T. HANLON, 715 Eleventh street northwest.

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them in order to keep alive the spirit of ambition, for where the heart's desires are realized ambition becomes stagnant. We strive not for that which we have. If we would have the best that is in us developed, ideals must be divine and be kept constantly before us. Bureau American Republics.

Let us gaze on the walls of our imagination and see there the beautiful picture of the life of our gentle and loving Saviour—a character of mildness, meekness, firmness, humility, which on the whole amount to perfection. While in our weakness we are often tempted, yet He tells us, "Be ye holy as I am holy." He leaves us a golden rule also for our guidance, "Doing unto others as we would have them do unto us." On one occasion, when He was rebuked, His prayer was, "Father, forgive them, for they know what they do." An ideal character. One like this should be the ambition of every true optimist. A. H. THOMPSON ROWE, 289 Eighth street extended.

Are we not all fired with enthusiasm to not only gain by research and close observation knowledge in general, but also a broad and comprehensive knowledge of the immediate work we have chosen for our profession? This desire or ambition leads us to a point where we look out for an ideal, a something to guide us. Here we begin a most interesting quest. If we discern rightly, we will not choose for our ideal the earnest, sincere, benevolent, and truthful man—one who makes it his chief delight, whether in season or out of season, to do all in his power not only by example and precept, but in every good way, for the uplift and ultimate good of his brother man. In this character we have the highest ideal I can cite and the one most worthy of emulation. Mrs. L. D. ELLIOTT, 1317 Rhode Island avenue.

Our ideals mold us. The secret of steadfastness is a high ideal. Christ, the perfect optimist, is our ideal. The most passionate longing of our hearts is to learn of Him that we may be like Him. "He that abideth in me the same bringeth forth much fruit." He redeemed every precious moment. The light of the world now shines through His light-bearers. Optimism is not a thing of dreamy sentimentalism, but of energetic, practical action. The optimist is set here for a purpose; his life, his joy, his peace must be contagious. He must be useful. A light is kindled for the benefit of others. Wherever optimists are they are shining, and men see their light and are helped. Just being an optimist is a light-making and light-giving thing. How much light and help are we contributing for the spread of optimism? Mrs. S. E. ADKINS, 201 F street.

The Ideal is only half; the other half is to live up to it. Act out our thoughts; it can be done, else we are dreamers only. We would never have the beautiful picture if the image conceived in the mind of the painter was never transferred to the canvas, and so with the sculptor and the poet. Christ says, "Let your light shine." "Go out into the world with your joy, with whatever good and holy and happy thing that has come to you and give it to somebody else at the foot of the mountain, away from the transfiguration, who is hungry and thirsty, and dying, perhaps, for the vision that you have had." Mrs. F. L. BARRINGER, 201 F street.

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