

Thorns or Flowers.

BY ALICE CART. We must not hope to be flowers. And to gather the ripe, gold ears, Until we have first been sowers, And watered the furrows with tears.

It is not just as we take it. This rugged world of ours, Like a field will yield, as we make it, A harvest of thorns or flowers!

Eleanor--Her Life.

Eleanor sat at the window sewing. She usually sat at the window sewing every afternoon until it was too dark to see any longer. Then there was supper to get, and the dishes to wash, and then the children must go to bed. And after that, the lamps must be lighted and the sewing taken up again, not to be laid down until midnight. The room where she sat had a faded look. The heavily-swept carpet had lost its freshness, and the plain furniture had a careworn appearance. The portraits were old-fashioned, and the delicate muslin curtains were here and there skillfully mended. A vase or two on the mantel, a few well-worn books on a stand in the corner, and a shelf of flowering plants in the window where Eleanor sat, gave a touch of refinement to the neat, plain room. Eleanor, like the rest, was a little faded. There were dark circles under her eyes, and her hair, though she was but thirty-five, her forehead the lines were deepening. Then there was a faded look in her eyes, and a sorrowful smile to the mouth. It was a very nice, though it had been pretty enough once. O, yes, Eleanor used to be pretty, very pretty. But that was a long time ago, when she was a girl. There was a picture up stairs, in the drawer where she kept her needles, slippers, and the children's first little dresses, and all those things that women treasure, a picture of a fair, young face, with a little rose-bud mouth and laughing eyes, and brown curls falling down on the white shoulders. Eleanor's face when she was young. She took it up sometimes with a sigh, and then laid it down quietly, and shut the drawer resolutely, and went away down stairs to her sewing. And the sigh meant a great deal. It meant more than that the face had faded. That wasn't so much. Of course one couldn't keep young and fresh always. Nobody could. It meant that while the face had faded, all the joy and hope of youth had faded with it, and she had grown sad and prematurely old. She had been married sixteen years, and she had two children, Rob and Ellie, named for her and Robert, her husband. People didn't like to say much about Eleanor's husband. Old women shook their heads, and said, "Poor Eleanor!" and the men said, "Martin might be a smart man if he'd only behave," and the subject was dropped. She was very young when she first saw Robert--just out of school. He was manly-looking and handsome, and her friends thought it "a good match," for his father was rich and he was an only son. She didn't care for that, though; Robert loved her, and she gave him her whole heart. She remembered so well the first time they met. It was on a clear, bright winter afternoon, and she was skimming over the ice in her blue skating-dress, with her curls floating out under the jaunty cap. Alas! that, she used, somehow, to meet him when she went down street, and then he got to walking home with her from singing-school, and then to dropping in now and then on an evening. After while, he came often, and she stood longer, and then there were sails on the pond where they had skated in winter, and moonlight strolls under the elms, and at last one night, (how its memory thrilled her!) he said the few sweet words, how he loved her, and would she be his little wife; and she hid her crimson face on his shoulder with a faltered "Yes, Robert."

And then, well, after that, one bright spring day, carriages hurried hither and thither, and the bells rang, and all in white she walked into church with Robert, and when she came out she was Robert's wife. Robert's wife! O, she would be a true and loving wife. He should never want any care or comfort; never want anything that she could do for him. O, that sweet May morning! The sky was blue and cloudless, and the trees wore a misty veil of green. There was a singing of birds, a murmur of brooks, and a fragrance of early flowers. And full of youthful love and trust, looking out into the future, she saw a pleasant home, where, through all the years of her life, she sat crowned with love. Sorrows might come to her, for she knew that none escaped it, but the arm she leaned upon was strong. It would not fall her. So the years would glide quietly away and they would grow old together, but the love which they had pledged in their youth would still burn brightly. Then, when her brown hair should be white, she and Robert would sit by their fireside like her own father and mother, and their children should come home to them as they went home to her parents.

Life had been so different from the promise of that May morning! So different! They had been very happy at first. By and by a child came, and then another--she had had four in all. Two were laid away in the church-yard. She was very glad of that now. It was very pleasant out in the church-yard. The trees rustled, and the birds sang, and the flowers bloomed all summer long. Only sometimes in the winter, when the snow fell thickly, and the wind moaned, she shivered a little, and thought it must be cold. Sometimes she thought she would like to be down there too. She would be very glad to do so if it were not for the other two. Well, after that unlucky speculation which had swept away their life, Robert had worked steadily for a time. But soon he grew discouraged, so the charitable said, not being used to work, and so fell into bad ways. Eleanor "supposed it was hard for him." She said to her heart, "We mustn't blame him too much." But it didn't seem possible that this blue-eyed, soft-faced man who came home to her nightly with unsteady step, who swore at her when anything went wrong, and told her she was always asking for money, could be the Robert she had once loved so dearly! Robert used to be so kind, so careful of her comfort, oh, so different from this! Perhaps he would be himself again sometime. She must wait and hope. Meanwhile she must try and bear it, and do all she can to earn some herself, for they must eat and drink, and the children must have clothes. So she took to dress-making, when she could get it, and plain sewing. One by one the silver threads came in her hair, the deep lines in her forehead, and that troubled look into her eyes. The children were her only comfort. When she put her work away, late at night, she would steal in softly, tired as she was, to watch them in their sleep. Then her eyes would grow tender, and that sorrowful look about the mouth would almost fade out. But it came back soon enough. "If they might never know about him! If they could only grow up

and not know! O my poor darlings!" One of them never did know. In the spring little Robbie died, and was laid with the others in the church-yard, while she stood looking with tearless, wishful eyes into the little grave.

"And that is Eleanor Vance, pretty Eleanor Vance!" said one who had known her in her young days. "Can it be possible? God pity her!" "Aye, God pity her, we echo, and all who, like her, toil on hopelessly through a life that has been robbed of all that should make it sweet!" "When troubles come of God, then naught but patience; but for troubles wrought of men, Patience is hard--I tell you it is hard."

Poor Eleanor! She is but one of many. Alas, that we must say it! One of many who earn for nothing but to lie down in their graves. My sisters, such are of us. Is there no way of help? Can we do nothing to prevent such fearful wrecks? God helping us, let us try.

LYNN, MASS. MARION.

Why Women Vote for Mormonism.

There is a good deal of sound reasoning in the following article, clipped from an Eastern paper, in the East wonder at the attitude of the women of Utah toward the plurality of wives system of Mormonism. It is, in fact, their only means of preservation. It is a singular fact that legislators cannot strike any steady system without the defences of women and children being the sufferers. In any bill or effort to prohibit or punish polygamy, the first step is to outlaw the women and make the children illegitimate. What woman of any pride but would stay in a lawful relation of bigamy than be freed from her husband only to be thrown upon the street with no means of support and no one to protect her from sinners and jibes. When woman's true position is respected, her rights and feelings taken into account, and punishment aimed at the criminal, while a helping hand is extended to the victim, we shall see how the more intelligent Mormon women will stand. Boys and girls, in the A. B. C. of life, can meet this Mormon problem with more wisdom and common sense than our stupid legislators. People must recollect that the consent of first wives was wrung from them by the fearful dread of destruction if they refused, and that the greatest possible compulsion has been used to lead them into plural relations. And not only religion, but society also, had its potent arguments. Women there are forced into marriage if they would obtain a support, far more than they are in our Gentile world. They have absolutely no other means by which to obtain a livelihood. There is no teaching for them to do, no great manufacturing to employ them, and also no demand for servants. And old maids, even if they can manage to live, are sneered at as the most despicable of beings, so that in their old age, if no one chooses them before, they get themselves "sealed" to an older high in rank than they may find some little toleration in heaven. Since, then, they must starve on earth and stand no chance hereafter unless they marry, it is no wonder that most of them make up their minds to be properly miscible as a fractional spouse. Having once accepted this as their lot, they all become interested at once in defending the system under which they live. Whatever should overthrow polygamy must inevitably lessen the station and respectability of all wives except the first, and as most of women are such they form an earnest minority in its support.

OVERTAXED BRAINS.--Our citizens generally are deeply ignorant of the comparative large number of business men of the city who have been taken to the Insane Asylums for treatment, of late years. The excitement of trade, resulting in overtaxed brains, or pecuniary losses, has brought this about. Whenever such men disappear from Change or the counting room, it is most generally given out by their friends that they have gone to Europe for the benefit of their health. A few recover after a considerable period of treatment, but to others the world is ever after a blank book. A good many women, too, of the high classes of life find here a place to linger for a few years, then go down into the valley. The asylum at Somerville was never better patronized than at the present time, which fact is a striking illustration of the rapidity at which some of our business men live, and die. That some men and women are confined at this place who are more sane than those who place them there, is also true. Money in the present and prospective, family afflictions, or some other of that sort, is often at the bottom of this involuntary imprisonment, for which there seems to be no legal remedy. --Boston Cor. Chicago Journal.

The testimony is uniform and emphatic in regard to the good results of Woman Suffrage in Wyoming Territory, and yet the law is said to be repealed by a strict party vote in the Legislature, the Democrats repelling the "act," as it has not worked in their favor! The following is from the Wyoming Tribune of November 25th, published in Cheyenne:-- "Has Woman Suffrage been a failure in this Territory? If it has, man suffrage has also been a failure, for no one, not even the most bitter opponent of Woman Suffrage, can deny that woman has exercised her new rights in this Territory as wisely as man. For the sake of the Territory, the Legislature to repeal the law as it now is, at least for two years longer. There are good men and women all over the land that are the firm advocates of Woman Suffrage. There are Democrats and Republicans who want to give it a fair trial. Let us not, as a Territory, condemn that which has not proved to be a failure. Let us best to all."

A recent letter from a student at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., has the following: "The subject of admitting women into the institution is being seriously considered by the trustees. Mr. Sage has offered to build a large dormitory-house for young ladies if the trustees will admit them on an equal footing with young men; this with some other offers which he makes, it is thought, will result in their being admitted to Cornell University. Let us not, as intelligent students, think favorably of the plan." Surely the women will not trouble the Amherst boys, who have trooped against the admission of women, if they can enter Cornell, where "the most intelligent" will welcome them.

The Unitarians have one ordained woman occupying one of their pulpits, and are ready to extend generous hospitality to others who are qualified to enter the profession, and are desirous to identify themselves with their denominational interests. The cordial welcome which Mrs. Burleigh has received from Unitarians has been most gratifying. She has been received with most hearty sympathy by the clergymen of the church and by the press. She has been invited to preach the leading sermons before Unitarian Conferences, and some of the eminent Unitarian ministers of Boston invite her to their pulpits and await her coming.

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