

WORK AND WORKERS.

BY CHARLOTTE FISK BATES.

Diverse the mission, as the mind of man; Mighty it may be the prophetic word; By which the mighty multitude is stirred; Simple enough for childhood's path to pass.

What shall be done by each in nature's choice, Nor is it right of man to say Another must be working in his way, Whether it be by hand, or pen or voice.

The generous greeting and the happy look Entombed when one's own lot forbids them both; The willing service done when time is loth; The bearing what we will can brook.

The liberal sowing with no end in view That one will any of the garner share; In quietude, in quietude, in quietude; The will to do the will that is to be.

The silent pleading of true charity In wordless service with no thought of gain; The giving of the giving of the golden same; When here of gold may be the treasury.

Who keeps his soul in patience through his pain, Through dark affliction and through hopeless pain, Through dark affliction and through hopeless pain, Through dark affliction and through hopeless pain.

Who to such a one may minister, Speaking with love, or look, or song or flower, To swing away his burden for an hour, To swing away his burden for an hour.

Who wears his soul in patience through his pain, Through dark affliction and through hopeless pain, Through dark affliction and through hopeless pain, Through dark affliction and through hopeless pain.

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came out. He found out that Marion had loved him devotedly and that her heart was breaking over the desertion. He had made an indifferent husband, for he could not forget Marion, and his wife, during her short married life, was not a happy woman. He was not unkind by any means, but she missed the affection she had a right to expect, and pined over the disappointment. Since her death he had felt some remorse that he had been thoughtless enough to take into his keeping the life of a loving, sensitive woman from a child's mother, than, pique, lately his thoughts had turned to her early love, but he had no clue to her whereabouts. After his marriage her father had died, and a few months her mother, and she, an only child, had drifted into the world alone, to earn her own living, but her father had left her very little property. "She may be married," he thought, "and if not, she may have come to love me, and I am the one love of my life, and if I only knew where she was, I would find her."

With these thoughts in his mind his eyes wandered through the open window to the yard below. They were back yards, but pleasant ones for all that, with clean brick pavements, and beds of bright, fragrant summer flowers here and there, grape vines and other shrubs clinging on trellises, in all making a perfect picture of summer bloom and verdure. Two or three trees reared their heads skyward, faintly suggesting the "forest primeval" to the city dwellers. Then he looked across the street, exactly opposite to his where a lady sat sewing. He had watched her every day since he had been a prisoner in that room. She pined her needle steadily all day long with only short intervals of absent-mindedness, and must accomplish a great deal, he thought, her fingers flew so rapidly. He was not near enough for him to discern her features, but there was something in her air and attitude as she sat and sewed that interested him and made him like to watch her. He could perceive that she was not posing for his benefit, although she must be aware that he looked at her. In her direction, she was tall and graceful, he could see that when she arose to walk, and could see that certain self-possession and absence of flurry that made him feel it would be relief to his tired soul to have such a woman near him. "Sewing! eternally sewing!" he muttered.

"I wonder women do not get tired of doing such monotonous work! I suppose they do. Probably she has to earn her living in window in dressing-gown and slippers, fanning in the breeze, the breezy air which kept him in doors for weeks, his neglected business, the state of things in the kitchen and all over the house. He was a widower, and a slipshod, lackadaisical girl made an effort to perform the duties of a housekeeper for him. He had been a widower over a year, and during that time he had a sweet taste of the difficulties of getting a good housekeeper. He had changed every few weeks. One indulged too freely in the use of stimulants, and in a fit of intoxication came near burning the house over their heads. Another helped herself to sundries and then took French leave. A third set before him such outrageous food that he could not eat it, and he came near dying of dyspepsia one week and starvation the other, and so on until he had one on sufferance who he sometimes thought was worse than any of the rest, whom he would be glad to get rid of as soon as he was about again. He had begun to believe there wasn't a capable woman in the whole city, at least none that he could lay his hands on.

He heard the patter of little feet along the entry, and the door was pushed open by a little girl of three summers or thereabout, who entered holding up her little apron in which there were some colored candies. "See what I got from the candy man," she chirped, holding out her apron with her chubby soiled hands and showing them to her father. Then sitting down quietly on the not over well swept carpet, she proceeded to regale herself with the sweets. He uttered a half-suppressed groan, as he looked at her thin face which was very pretty when clean, but was now bedaubed with the colored candies to its utter disgust; her tangled curls curled as if they had not been brushed for comb for a week, her stockings were soiled and wrinkled, and the trimming was torn from her dress in several places. "How the child is neglected!" he thought, watching her as, in blissful unconsciousness of the fact, she ate, she snatched her lips after each taste, and when she was growing up like a weed, and her clothes looked as badly as any neglected child of the street." He had a fine, sensitive taste for neatness and order, and the sight of Mabel was positively painful to him. When he married he had made his home in a distant city from his own, and none of his relatives or those of his wife were near him. "Something must be done," he soliloquized, half-angrily. "That girl is wasting money down stairs, her head is white, I'll be bound. I shall have to take a day and look around as soon as I am better. I've sworn I won't advertise for one. I should be besieged by a host of applicants. Her playthings strange that no one of my acquaintances knows of a good, capable person they can recommend."

At this juncture a girl in a soiled calico wrapper, that was short behind and long on both sides, opened the door. She had a dull, monotonous face, and looking at her one would wonder what could be her mission in the world. "What shall I get for supper, sir?" "I don't care, anything you like," he returned shortly, well knowing the food was invariably spoiled in the cooking, and therefore it was superfluous to order. The girl looked at him dully and then, without reply, turned and went down stairs. He grasped his crutches and hobbled around the room awhile to work off his impatience. Mabel began to laugh at his movements, which looked novel to her, and having finished her candy, got up and pattered along beside him.

"Go down stairs and ask Jane to wash your face and hands," he said in an irritated tone. He loved her, but he annoyed him beyond measure to see her in such a plight. With a sudden start she came to her senses, and the little one obeyed him, and then his heart went to her with a pang. "I shall become a perfect bear before long!" he thought. "Poor little motherless thing! I must be careful not to visit my annoyance upon her head. She's a good little thing, and it isn't her fault that she is neglected."

He sat down and laid aside his crutches. He forgot the present for a while, while memory went back to the time when he had been the proud, happy lover of Mary Leonard, a bright, sweet, loving, home-hearted girl. It was the story of love and misunderstanding. He had sent her a bouquet of hot-house flowers and along with it a note telling her of his love, and requesting her, if she returned it, to wear the most rose buds in her hair at the party they were both going to attend that night. The boy who carried them carelessly lost the note, and when questioned by Burke on his return declared that he had delivered both all right, being too cowardly to tell the truth. His heart sank like lead when in the evening he discovered that she had not worn the flowers. Then pride came to his aid, and, mentally calling her a coquette for the winsome, smiling manner in which she had received him, he had almost ignored her during the entire evening and lavished marked attention upon Kate Denning, who was but too well pleased to receive them. With characteristic rashness, he, after a week or two, asked her to marry him, and she accepted him, thinking her lot most blessed, for she had loved him all along, and he loving Marion with heart and soul, but too proud to even seek an explanation after the light she had put upon him, as he thought, to lead Kate to the altar. Then a short time after the fatal step was taken the truth

ful, however, that he had given orders to have her washed. "Does she look altogether hopeless?" he asked. "I don't know," he answered, "but she looks like a nice little girl."

"By what name shall I call you?" he asked, as she arose to go. "Mrs. Iddings and yours is Addison," she said. "I got my information from the doorplate," she added. "Mrs. Iddings," he mused, when she had left, "I suppose, but with that face and a designing one. The next week the reign of Mrs. Iddings as housekeeper commenced. The slipshod girl was dismissed, and from some quarter unknown to Mr. Addison, a neat, active girl was procured. Then the whole house underwent a thorough renovation. Such cleaning of paint and sweeping and dusting, and polishing. Mrs. Iddings took the lead; she was not afraid of work evidently, and her help seconded ably. Mabel was taken in hand, and she was made, until the hands of Mrs. Iddings put on, a clean child, as sweet in face and tasteful in dress as she was in temper, and whom her father delighted to kiss and fondle. And then the cooking. Surely never had there been such appetizing dishes as his new housekeeper set before him. He convalesced rapidly, and in a short time was able to be down town once more. "She's a jewel of a woman," he told his friends, "with extreme satisfaction. I don't know the circumstances that sent her there. 'That was a blessed word that that word that bit of lace to me.'"

"You'll be falling in love with her," suggested Frank Peabody, a bachelor of forty. "Not at all," said Mr. Addison, "I don't think I shall. I can discover, but a fine, sensible, practical woman."

And when she had got the domestic machinery running smoothly Mrs. Iddings sat down and wrote this note to Mr. Addison: "Dear Mr. Addison—Come and see me at No. 63—street. Come prepared to stay a week. Surprised at my change? Well, come, and we will talk it over. I am a housekeeper for a widower, and it came about in the funniest way, but you will see about it, but come as soon as you can."

And the next evening, a few minutes after his return from his business, Mr. Addison, passing through the hall, answered the door, which he had just opened. A lady stood there when he opened the door, and she asked for Mrs. Iddings. The sound of the voice struck some answering chord in his heart, but the lady wore a veil and it was not possible for him to distinguish her features. "Please stop in here and I will call her," he said, opening the door of the parlor. She walked in. He stopped to light the gas. As she walked brightly the two looked into each other's faces. "Marion!" he cried. "I did not know I was coming to your house," she faltered. She looked graver than of old, but his eyes were still the same sweet Marion.

"And I did not know you were within a thousand miles of me," he exclaimed; "but I meant to search for you soon." The two were forgetting the existence of Mrs. Iddings, but she passing through the hall here from the door, and she was surprised to find that Mr. Addison and she were old acquaintances. She and Marion had never been friends for a year, but the latter had never let her into the secret of her life. She had been married at these years, and had drifted to the city where he was, but had not known of his whereabouts or his wife's death. Mrs. Iddings was duly acquainted with her story and was much pleased that she had been the means of bringing together the long separated lovers. Of course, in due time they were married. And Burke was seized with a desire for match-making, and introduced Frank Peabody to Mrs. Iddings, bringing him home to her own little house, and she, the upshot was that she agreed to become Frank's housekeeper for life. And Burke is happy now, and thinks that the breeze that blew the bit of lace to him must have come straight from the gates of Heaven.

Smiling and Mourning.
Some go smiling through the gray time,
Under morn, and morn, and morn;
Some go mourning all the day,
Mid the laughing leaves and flowers.
—R. B. B.

Happy Love.
Happy love, with song and smiling,
Through the white, and white, and white;
Happy love, with song and smiling,
Through the white, and white, and white.
—Alfred Percival Graves.

Learning Versus Common Sense.
(Christian at Work.)
Democritus long ago drew an emphatic distinction between learning and wisdom. Learning consists of knowledge acquired from books, and is a possession of the intellect; while wisdom is a faculty developed by its acquisition only in its perceptive and retentive faculties. Though his memory may be a vast storehouse of useful facts and brilliant second-hand ideas, yet, owing to his judgment originally weak and only partially trained, he is unable to select the most important and useful, and finally of learned theologians who are the worst possible interpreters of the oracles of God.

The Housekeeping Problem.
(V. V. in New England Homestead.)
As the theme of housekeeping is under discussion I could not help expressing a few of my ideas thereon. There is one great trouble in trying to run an establishment. It is hard work to give advice to the mass on the matter of housekeeping, as it varies so much with different individuals. We are not all situated alike. Some have very convenient, while others have to work at a disadvantage. Some have little children to contend with, and others do not, so that there is a great deal to be considered. I think that "P. S. B." has the right idea about not keeping a hot fire all the time, but there are a great many ways in which we can economize, and not over-tax ourselves by doing too much work in a given time. All we want is to understand the method, and then we may find out with a little careful study. As for myself it would be very difficult for me to be systematic in my work on account of having outside work to do for three in the family, besides looking after my husband and child. Some have very convenient, while others have to work at a disadvantage. Some have little children to contend with, and others do not, so that there is a great deal to be considered. I think that "P. S. B." has the right idea about not keeping a hot fire all the time, but there are a great many ways in which we can economize, and not over-tax ourselves by doing too much work in a given time. All we want is to understand the method, and then we may find out with a little careful study. As for myself it would be very difficult for me to be systematic in my work on account of having outside work to do for three in the family, besides looking after my husband and child. Some have very convenient, while others have to work at a disadvantage. Some have little children to contend with, and others do not, so that there is a great deal to be considered. I think that "P. S. 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