NEW PLANS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Photo by Gutekunst. Miss Anna T. Jarvis, The Founder of Mother's Day.

Dr. Geo. W. Bailey, President of the World's Sunday School Association.

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Rev. Robt. E. L. Jarvis, D.D. Sec. of Mother's Day International Association.

Rev. Mark Matthew, D.D., of Seattle.

Some Influential Men Who Are Aiding Miss Jarvis.

Dr. C. J. Hexamer, Vice President of Mother's Day International Association.

Cardinal Gibbons.

Rev. Wm. H. Roberts, D.D., President of the Federal Council of Churches of America

Bishop Wm. A. Quayle, President of the Epworth League.

Because of the Increasing Volume of Work, Miss Anna T. Jarvis Has Founded an International Association to Carry on the Work She Began

"IN HONOR of the best mother who ever lived—Your mother."

Simple words, coined by a woman. Who would have prophesied, four years ago, the effect that sentence would have on the entire nation?

Mother's day has become, in practice, a national holy day, if not a holiday; for every governor in the land has issued proclamations calling upon the people to spend one day at least in especially honoring their mothers, or paying a tribute to their memories.

This year of 1912 will go down in history as one of the most important periods in the movement. Recognizing the worth of the American mother and what the nation owes to her, a number of influential clergymen and laymen, including governors and former governors of the various states, have banded together into an association, of which every man, woman and child is invited to become a member. Its purpose is a simple yet a beautiful one. It is to make holy the memory of their mothers to the people of the land. This includes the mother of every type—the mothers who gave up their sons that they might serve their country in battle; those who have given the land its leading statesmen, lawyers and physicians, and the immigrant mother, who left the place of her birth that her children might have the advantages of the more progressive country.

All mothers are holy, poor as well as rich; and the new movement means that all the world, which knows it, shall now rejoice to show it.

TO FOSTER a better and higher love for the American mother, to raise the day set aside in her honor from one of idle sentimentalism to one of allegiance to the highest ideals of womanhood, and then to perpetuate and protect this true Mother's day—that, in a nutshell, is the purpose of this, the youngest of our national organizations. From all appearances, it is destined in time to become one of the strongest in the land. This is one of the exceptional "mothers' societies" in which the men are the chief factors. With the exception of Miss Anna Jarvis, the founder of the movement, all of the officers are men, and in the list are to be found the leading citizens of the nation.

The plan of starting the organization was the idea of Miss Jarvis. The movement has grown to such mammoth proportions that, although she wished to continue her personal interest in it, the time must come when she would no longer be able to continue the work; other hands must be at the helm if it were to live on forever, as she hoped.

So many beautiful sentiments had been spoken by men in all walks of life, in referring to the love they held for their mothers, that Miss Jarvis did not think those eloquent words should be lost. She believed they should be preserved for the benefit of future generations. She spoke of her plan to some prominent supporters, and they were only too glad to assist her. The Mother's Day International Association was formed.

At present its officers are Americans; but before another twelve months roll by it is hoped to have the rulers and leaders of thought and action in other nations enrolled in its ranks.

The organization has been planned in such a way that every one can join. Special arrangements have also been made for enrollment of the members of all religious and benevolent organizations, and their chief officers have been placed on the various committees.

The principal body is the national advisory committee, which has for its members men well known in the religious life of the country.

CITY COMMITTEES

There are local committees in every city and community. There are also vice presidents in every state, consisting of the governors and other well-known men who have been interested in the movement. That proper observance may be held in the schools of the country, an educational committee has also been appointed.

The two heartiest champions the Mother's day has had since it was founded, President Taft and former President Roosevelt, are the only honorary members, being honorary president and honorary vice president respectively. President Roosevelt, who was in office when Mother's day saw its birth, lost no time in giving it his stamp of approval. He said:

"Mothers are more important to the country than the soldier, the literary man, the man of science."

The active officers, in addition to Miss Jarvis, who is the president, are Dr. C. J. Hexamer, vice president; the Rev. Dr. R. E. L. Jarvis, pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, treasurer; Charles Selden, superintendent of the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company, secretary, and C. L. Marsden, secretary of the Naval Y. M. C. A., corresponding secretary. Francis G. Gallager, of Philadelphia, is the attorney, and Drexel & Co.'s bank is the depository of funds.

The national committee is headed by Cardinal Gibbons, with whom are associated the Rev. Dr. George W. Bailey, president of the World's Sunday School Association; the Rev. Dr. W. H. Roberts, chairman of the Federal Council of the Churches of America; Bishop William A. Quayle, president of the Epworth League; the Rev. Dr. Francis E. Clark, president of the United Society of Christian Endeavor; Richard C. Morse, general secretary of the international committee of the Y. M. C. A.; and the Rev. Dr. Mark Matthews, of Seattle, Wash., one of the leading clergymen of the west. The late General Frederick D. Grant was a member of the committee, and was actively interested in the work of national organization.

Through the efforts of the educational committee, special exercises were held in many of the schools of the United States last Friday. The governor's proclamation was read to the children; prominent speakers addressed them on the value of paying the proper respect to their mothers and of showing their mothers how they appreciate mother's love. The members of this committee are A. S. Draper, commissioner of education of New York, and the following state superintendents of education: Frank G. Blair, Illinois; C. A. Greathouse, Indiana; H. J. Willingham, Alabama; J. E. Swearingen, South Carolina; Ellsworth Regenstein, Kentucky; M. Bates Stephens, Maryland; M. P. Shawkey, West Virginia; J. D. Eggleston, Jr., Virginia; C. P. Cary, Wisconsin; R. H. Wilson; Oklahoma; F. M. Bralley, Texas; E. J. Taylor, North Dakota.

The workings of the association in the various states will be directed by the vice presidents. Some states have one—the governors—others have two; and Nebraska, where the movement has particularly flourished, has four. They are William J. Bryan, Governor C. H. Aldrich, A. C. Shellenberger, and A. R. Talbot. The vice presidents in other states include:

Governor Judson Harmon, of Ohio; Governor C. S. Deneen, Illinois; Governor J. K. Tener, Pennsylvania; Governor Woodrow Wilson, New Jersey; Governor John A. Dix, of New York; Governor J. B. McCreary, Kentucky; Governor Hoke Smith, of Georgia; former Governor A. L. Crothers, of Maryland; Governor B. W. Hooper, Tennessee; Governor A. W. Gilchrist, Florida; Governor B. B. Comer, of Alabama; Governor Edmond F. Noel, of Mississippi; Governor J. Y. Sanders, Louisiana; Governor William H. Mann, Virginia; Governor William E. Glasscock, West Virginia; M. F. Ansel, South Carolina; Governor Robert P. Bass, New Hampshire; Frank B. Weeks, Connecticut; Governor John A. Mead, Vermont; Governor A. J. Pothier, Rhode Island; Governor Eugene N. Foss, Massachusetts; Governor M. E. Hay, Washington; Governor Oswald West and F. B. Benson, Oregon; Governor George P. Hunt and Richard E. Sloan, Arizona; Governor O. B. Colquitt and T. M. Campbell, Texas; Governor Lee Cruice and C. N. Haskell, Oklahoma; Governor Edwin L. Norris, Montana; Governor J. F. Shafroth, Colorado; Governor R. S. Vessey, South Dakota; Governor Joseph M. Carey and B. B. Brooks, Wyoming; Governor W. R. Stubb, Kansas; W. O. Davidson, Wisconsin; Governor Charles S. Osborn, Michigan; former Governor William J. Mills, New Mexico; Governor B. F. Carroll, Iowa; Governor A. O. Eberhart, Minnesota; Governor J. H. Hawley and James H. Brady, Idaho; Governor Tasker L. Oddie, Nevada; Governor William Spry, Utah; Governor John Burk, North Dakota; Walter F. Frear, Hawaii; Governor G. R. Colton, Porto Rico, and Cuno H. Randolph, of the district of Columbia.

Mrs. Lucy J. Roudebush, of Blooming Valley, Pa., Now 92, and One of the Pioneers of Mother's Day.

No pains have been spared by the governors of the states in proclaiming Mother's day. Some reminded the people that the day was approaching several months ago, and since then have been continually working that the festival might be generally celebrated. In the beautiful sentiments that they expressed and in the elaborate form in which the documents were made, every governor vied with the others that his paper might be the best in the country. And indeed some of the proclamations are of such a beautiful design, and the object of the day is so well expressed, that it would be hard to tell which is superior to the rest.

Some have even expressed their thought in verse. Governor O. B. Colquitt, of Texas, is among that number. Part of his proclamation reads as follows:

"I adjure all the men, women and children in Texas to recognize the debt of gratitude we owe to our mothers by rendering to them obedience, respect and lovingly observe the duties due them, throughout the entire year, and that all join in paying them one grand tribute on Mother's day. It has been said that the best preacher is the heart; that the best teacher is time; that the best book is the world, and that the best friend is God—and all these may be summed up in one word, 'mother.'"

Mother's love is our best friendship, and is
Like music heard on the still water,
Like pines when the wild passeth by,
Like pearls in the depth of the ocean,
Like stars that enamel the sky,
Like June and the odor of roses,
Like dew and the freshness of morn,
Like sunlight that kisses the clover,
Like tassels of silk on the corn,
Like notes of the thrush in the woodland,
Like brooks where the violets grow,
Like rainbows that arch the blue heavens,
Like clouds when the sun dippeth low,
Like dreams of Arcadian pleasures,
Like colors that gratefully blend,
Like everything breathing of pureness,
Like these is the love of our mother—friend.

Governor Colquitt personally observes the day by pardoning ten criminals whose mothers plead to him for mercy. He has received appeals from heartbroken mothers, and will carry out his promise today, as he did twelve months ago.

Another governor whose tribute to mothers has attracted attention is Joseph M. Carey, of Wyoming. He says, in his document this year:

"The sweetest word in our language is 'mother.' Unfortunate is the man or woman who cannot say from the bottom of his or her heart, 'The best woman who lived is my mother,' or, if she has passed to the great unknown world, 'The best woman that ever lived was my mother.' Not enough can be said or written of her; for whatever of good is within us, we inherited from her or we caught the inspiration for it from her teachings. In all creations the mother is and must be the most important factor. Nature intended her so, for even among the brute animals the male will flee from danger, while the mother will remain to battle in defense of her young. It has been said by one of the greatest men of our day, that 'Mothers are more important to the country than the soldier, the literary man or the man of science.' Such comparisons are idle, for there is nothing in the world that may be rightly compared with her.

GOVERNOR BURKE'S TRIBUTE

Governor Burke, of North Dakota, in asking the people of his state to honor their mothers on this one day in the year, says:

"Amid the stern realities of life there come to us all, with the recurring springtime, tender emotions of sadness or of joy evolved from the very essence of our being. It refreshes the best that is in us when the blossoming year revives the memory of long ago, and touches with either tear or smile a live chord of other days.

"No man can be wholly bad who sometimes reverts in memory to his mother, for he knows that her love is unselfish and eternal, and that whether she is here or elsewhere, her spirit is watching over him, and the thought has a gentle refining influence."

One of the most touching proclamations was penned by 16-year-old Lorena Cruce, for her father, Governor Cruce, of Oklahoma. The young girl's mother died two years ago, and that she was thinking of her is shown in every line.

"The sweetest treasure that life contains is your mother, who, dwelling here on earth, is more a part of heaven—but, whether with you or above with the angels, she is your mother still. Your mother's love is eternal, living on when youth has faded, when other love has withered and been forgotten, and when the leaves of friendship have fallen.

"Nothing that we can ever do can remove the debt of gratitude we owe our mothers; nothing can repay them for their patience, purity and loving kindness; but on this day, dedicated to them, we can, in a small yet sincere way show our thoughtfulness of and gratitude to them to whom it is given 'To garden the earth with the roses of heaven.'

"It is fitting that we as a nation and as a state honor these true workers of God, though they aspire not to fame; though they seek not popular applause, yet is their worth recognized and admitted by all who are capable of appreciating truth and excellence."

In striking contrast to these beautiful words is the simple manner in which Mrs. Roudebush, 92 years old, of Blooming Valley, Pa., celebrates the day. This aged woman was one of the nation's pioneer observers of the day. When she first read of Miss Jarvis' plan, she wrote to her and promised to support the movement. When the first Mother's day arrived Mrs. Roudebush found that there was not a carnation to be found in the little village. But she was not to be balked, and went home and made artificial flowers out of white ribbon. Then she proceeded to the little country cemetery and placed them on her mother's grave. She has continued to do the same every year since.

Furthermore, Mrs. Roudebush has found new joy in Mother's day, for her children and grandchildren are making it a practice of gathering at her home each year.

Many other mothers have written to Miss Jarvis telling her the debt of gratitude they owe to her. She said that she had seven sons, who were ministers, scattered in various parts of the country. Not only does every one write to her, but they all likewise send orders for white carnations, so that the nearby florists do a thriving business right ahead of the second Sunday of May.

NO HIRELING CAN RIVAL MOTHER LOVE

BETWEEN the laws of man and the laws of nature stands the child of today, a helpless pawn in the conflicting interests of parted couples, with one potent authority awarding him to his father, and another urging the mother's claims for the child's sake, if not for hers.

It happens often that the old principle of the law, that where no grave fault attaches to either party in divorce, the mother receives infant children and the father those beyond the earlier age, is observed in practice. Seven years has long been regarded as the extreme duration of the "infancy."

But the wider latitude assumed by the courts, the increasing prevalence of divorce, the infinite variety of complications attending these partings—all, taken together, seem to have left no rule as to which parent has the better right to the child.

ONLY 9 years old, Leroy Thompson, in Brooklyn, stood before Justice Marean, of the supreme court, and declared that he wanted to stay with his father. His parents have been separated for five years. William B. Thompson divorced his wife in 1907 and married again. The wife became Mrs. George A. Wyre, of Nyack. So little Leroy got a new mother, and his own mother had to be content with occasions, specified by the courts, when she might visit him at his new mother's home.

But the time came, not very long ago, when the real mother was a wholly unwelcome guest, and Leroy's father declared that her visits were annoying and embarrassing to the boy himself. She took her maternal grief to the supreme court, in Brooklyn, and there, with tears and sobs, she pleaded for the enforcement of her right to lavish on her son the affection she bore him, brief as was the time allowed her by the stern and jealous law. Her plea was in vain; the law, in Judge Marean's person, not only denied her, but asserted that no child really needs its mother's care.

"Children grow just as well without their mothers," declared the justice. "A mother is not necessary to her children; she affects their lives only as she can serve them. All children are selfish; they think of themselves only; their minds are in their own pleasures. Once away from their mother, they speedily forget her."

That cynical decision was submitted to Dr. J. Madison Taylor, of Philadelphia, one of the recognized authorities in the United States on the care of children. He represented the lore of child growth and health, physical, mental and moral, as it is observed by the authorities who behold childhood, not from the far perspective of the bench, but in the most familiar, intimate crises of their lives. It was the shocked, the horrified physician who, studying the sweeping, general assertion made by the pitiless law, asserted that it was utterly false.

"The mother is the most necessary agent for the welfare of a child that it can possibly possess and for as long as her influence can be maintained. No other person, no other influence can replace the mother's fine care. From infancy, when no food can so nourish the body as the mother's—the own mother's—milk, to maturity, when no power for honor and virtue can so well as hers protect the spirit, the mother is needed by the child.

"Probably under no other conditions are children parted from their mothers with so little injury than among the higher social classes in England. Stations which demand the women's time, to the exclusion of their maternal cares, have brought about conditions which, in practice, force the children to live with a minimum of mothering. But every possible substitute, from the system of wet nursing that obtains to the entirely competent governesses available, is employed to guard against harm to the offspring because of the deprivation.

"But all those substitutes combined failed to take the place of one real, loving mother. No hirelings, however willing and capable, can ever be what she is.

"Omitting the exceptional instances in which there may be evidence that a woman is distinctly unfit for the mother's duties, and still dealing with the broad assertion that mothers are not needed for their children's welfare, a striking contrast is presented in all that should flow from the devotion of the woman who has best reason to cherish and guide. In the child's eyes, the mother represents concrete ideals of the social status belonging to her family. They are assumed, in every instance, to be a trifle higher than is actually the case. None the less, every mother, especially in America, feels that she owes to her child the opportunity to rise to some higher plane, or to maintain at least the level to which she has attained.

"Even the nervous mother—the woman who is in continual terror for the safety of her children, who worries them as well as herself by her needless alarms and superfluous precautions—is better for them than any substitute that can be found.

"All the most competent nursery governess can do is to accomplish the best within the power of a fairly qualified agent. No matter how conscientious she may be, her sense of responsibility is much lower than that which the mother feels. The governess may be the better educated woman as a teacher; but we can secure that factor of the child's training in the kindergarten. Valuable as it is, such teaching remains supplemental still. Nothing can compensate for the lack of mother love, solicitude and personal attention until the child is 8 or 9 years of age.

"At that age, what hireling is competent to maintain those ideals, those standards, whose inculcation fixes youth's sense of responsibility to the home circle, to the family? Especially is this true of a girl, to whose period of adolescence her mother is enormously important; why, with a girl, she should have her mother's care and counsel until she becomes a mother herself.

"What," Doctor Taylor demanded, "is our strongest safeguard in the many exigencies of a complex life? Every man, and every woman, will answer in but one way—it is the kind and quality of influence which the mother has exerted in all phases of mental and moral development. Where the mother's influence has been lacking, there exists countless little bitternesses, false impressions, the absence of fine niceties in ideals and standards. All these are either irretrievably missing, or are only fairly well simulated. In any one who has been so unfortunate as to be bereft of maternal care during the formative years of life. Such a child, growing up, has learned its relations with its fellows through the head, not the heart.

"Some presumptuous critics of life may undertake to decide when the mother can be dispensed with," concluded Doctor Taylor. "I can't. Life is a process of continuous development; and the finest influence for the welfare of any human being is the fond, anxious care of a mother. Those are fitted for their life under the best auspices who longest enjoy their mother's care and counsel, however many years she may live to bless them."