

SOCIABILITY A TRAIT ALL OPTIMISTS SHOULD CULTIVATE

By THE OPTIMIST.

Our subject for to-day seems to be peculiarly appropriate to this season, when sociability seems to mean so much more than at other times. Always, I think, we should cultivate the habit of being social, living less for ourselves and more for others, but it should be remembered that there is more than a mere willingness to do this—its true preparation and understanding on our side.

To do our full duty in this regard demands that we cultivate within ourselves those God-given qualities of sympathy, without which true sociability is a mockery and hollow thing. For to be truly social is not to be constrained by our own graver, and troubles, and fears, but rather to be the more moved by the sufferings and fears of others.

As the German poet, Richter said: "In a life where not only follies, but also joys are shared, man must keep a wide eye for red and a smiling heart for every bleeding one, and a smile for the heavy sorrow for the poor man who must drain it, and shall slowly rise to his lips."

It is only by having this ready sympathy with the trials and tribulations of others that we can attain anything of the true sociability, without which life is a mere struggle for existence. The social instinct is strong within most of us, and faint would we gratify it, but some of us, lacking sympathy with others, wonder in vain why it is that the human brotherhood does not respond to the overtures our souls make. Said Addison:

"Half the misery of human life might be estimated would make a general cure if they were by mutual offices of compassion, benevolence, and humanity."

And that is a true word, and it points to us clearly the duty that we, who feel the need of sympathy, the sunshine of optimism, as Riley says:

"As thick as butter on country bread have undertaken. It is to open our hearts and minds to the needs of others; to shut down hard on our own disappointments and griefs, and to lend a willing ear to the sorrows of others. This is the highest form of which sociability is capable; this is the road that leads to a life that is largely compact of sweetness and light."

We have some members of The Washington Herald Optimist Club who live so far away from Washington that they can not get the announcement of the subject always, and so to accommodate these I shall announce it not only on the Wednesday, ten days before the Sunday on which the subject appears, but also, as now, on the Sunday before the subject, next Sunday, then, is one that should come very near to all of us. It is:

The Meaning of Optimism.

I have hoped that this would bring out from many of you an expression as to what optimism means to them.

The two prizes in the Sociability contest are awarded to Henson B. Hicks, Pan Am road, and to Louis Weinberger, 308 New York avenue, to whom checks of \$5 will be mailed.

THE PRIZE WINNERS

As each nation is dependent, one upon the other, it is no less so with individuals, for "no man liveth unto himself."

In proportion as the spirit of true optimism takes root in the hearts of mankind, even so in proportion are the weights of selfishness lifted from the wings of universal love and fellowship.

The world has a heavy burden of bitter in it, we should abide our time casting sweets into its cup. Just a smile or a kind word is sometimes as a life-line thrown some drowning soul. The world needs that sympathy which speaks in words and not mere words, breeding mutual interest, mutual welfare and aid, only then can we rise as one man to that height where the atmosphere of brotherly love reigns supreme, where hearts speak silently to heart and soul communes with soul.

HENSON B. HICKS.

We are too apt to confuse the term sociability with sociality. Too often the latter epitomizes white lights, a polished ballroom, the clank of glasses—unnatural gaiety. Sociability, on the other hand, means not only joyousness and merriment in all innocent forms, but what may appear trifling although really counting for more, the cheer which flows from effects as a smile of cheer, a nod or genuine welcome, a handshake of warmth, a sincere inquiry as to the health of a loved one. Words and deeds such as these are the tonic for the soul, the perfume of love.

True sociability means hospitality and charity. It means sympathy and tenderness, the "golden rule" faith. It means friendship and sacrifice.

Let our sociability then be not unmingled with its sociality, and our sociality not devoid of its sociability.

LOUIS WEINBERGER.

HONORABLE MENTION.

As sociability is the lever of all things, so sociality is the lever of all things, so the sculptor of things being equal, is the sculptor of man. The time when an erudite man, with little social propensity, could succeed, in the fullest sense of that word, has been relegated to the past. The world of to-day demands of those who seek its favor a bright and cheerful smile, cordiality, affability. It awards first prize to the man who is a clever, cheerful, and kind, who can associate with the rich, with the influential, and with the "meek and lowly" the man who can "mix" with all these classes in the same kindly and chummy manner, to him is applied the most estimable of all titles—"a jolly good fellow." He is permitted to pluck the "fairest flower" of any community; and he is besieged with flattering offers of high office. Satisfaction alone, if a higher motive would dictate a zeal for the common weal, for the well being and happiness of those about me. Their uplift is, in every form, my uplift also. The more the great truth is obtainable in the restlessness of the age. Reason is directing it and justice is demanding it.

ARTHUR LENOX.

Let us consider sociability in its broader sense, for surely it means the whole intricate interdependence of mankind. Food and raiment, then, the very foundations of our social order, stand first in the resultant blessing of sociability. If I hoe your potatoes for you, it is you who shall card my wool. I, reading your commodity, stand ready to add to your stock, and you are mine. Let us write "protection" as the second blessing.

That deep leather chair which you are sitting in, did you make it yourself? Or how many other comforts have you that you do not owe your neighbor? You read Prof. William James on "Pragmatism" the other day. Your intellect is a "what-for" thing, but you are not a "what-for" thing, for you have never been used as a commodity.

JOHN M. KING.

The sociable man is the successful man, for it is by his social friends and worthy friends. Of what use can we put our lives in if we go around with a face as long as Hally's, content, or trying to give a correct imitation of Croesus, the Greek, grinning at every

little obstacle that befalls us? If we would only stop to think what a small atom we are in the universe we would not put so supercilious airs and imagine the Creator has singled us out for a special glory. Be sociable, or, in other words, be pleasant; life is very short. Treat your neighbors kindly; your friends, your enemies—everybody. This is no world for a grouch. Every one can possess the art, if I may call it an art, of sociability, but it seems to be some who do not take the part of the miser. The heart of a sociable man is like a lamp of radium, unceasingly giving off particles of gladness, generosity, unselfishness, and, in fact, everything that is good.

Hearts, like doors, will open with ease. With very, very little keys. And among the few are these, "I thank you, sir," and "if please."

LAWRENCE A. WILMARTER.

From Ideal Poems: Think beautiful thoughts and set them adrift.

On eternity's boundless sea; Let their burden be pure, let their white sails lift.

And bear away from you the comfort of your heart's sympathy.

For a beautiful thought is a beautiful thing.

And out to the infinite tide Must meet and touch and tenderly bring.

To the sick and the weary and sorrowing.

A solace so long denied. And the soul that hath buffeted every wave Adversity hath known.

So weak, so worn, so despairing, grows With the beautiful thought to succor and save.

That thought it hath made its own. And the dull earth's cars will bear its cry.

And the dull eyes see its gleam. And the shipwrecked hearts, as they wander by.

Will catch at its promise, and straighten.

To wake from this dismal dream. And radiant now as a heavenly star It grows with its added good.

Till over the waters its light spreads far. To where earth's desolate places are.

And its message is understood. And glad are the eyes that see the ray.

And glad are the ears that hear The message your sweet thought has to bear.

To the sorrowing pilgrims along the way, Who needs its word of cheer.

NINA VERA HUGHES.

"Human hearts are the vehicles employed by heaven to enrich the world. More is contributed by the cheering word, the sunny countenance, the hearty hand clasp than this world dreams of. No one can live to himself alone; some one always needs him. As sociability means kindness, to be truly sociable, one must have the good and honest heart, then the kind and cheerful word, and finally, naturally, simply, without strain or effort, or any thought of reward.

"Smile awhile, And while you smile, another smiles, And there are smiles and smiles of smiles."

MR. F. L. BARRINGER.

Oh, he's a jolly fellow, Old Sociability; He's a laugh that's quite contagious, And he loves humanity.

He's jovial and jocular, Has a smile that's sweet to meet, With a hearty word of sympathy, 'Tis void of all deceit.

If you've never known this fellow, Nor shared his company, You'd yet to taste the sweetness Of sociability.

Cultivate this man's acquaintance, And join the rank and file; For you'll find, you know, Is very much in style.

When you'll lose that frosty feeling, When you meet your fellow-man, And warm up to him in kindness, Get the habit if you can.

CHARLES ALBERT BRETTON.

It is not within the province of every one to be equally sociable, but it is surely within the scope of every one's social activity to live up to the high ideals of sociability according to his or her station in life.

When people are inclined to seek society, disposed to want company, ready at all times to converse with others, eager to act friendly toward all, desirous to be familiar with strangers and acquaintances alike, they possess the principal characteristic that goes to indicate sociability.

Then to have all the elements of sociability is a valuable possession, nature having decreed otherwise in many cases, a great many people are without the assets of sociability, without which gift they have more embarrassments and difficulties along the way of life.

As it is, being a valuable asset, every one should cultivate and improve his social status as much as so lies within his power, and he should, some future time will pay big dividends on the extra investment.

VICTOR P. HAMMER.

In spreading the doctrine of optimism, we are simply carrying to a logical conclusion the decrees of fate. Try as we may we cannot escape them. The social fabric is made up of the wool and warp of many strands, the injury of any one of which ruins the beauty of the whole. In the complex life of the present day, anything that injures my fellow-man also injures me. His illness, his misfortunes eventually react on me, and the toll must be paid by me. Satisfaction alone, if a higher motive would dictate a zeal for the common weal, for the well being and happiness of those about me. Their uplift is, in every form, my uplift also. The more the great truth is obtainable in the restlessness of the age. Reason is directing it and justice is demanding it.

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SOCIABILITY.

She stands in the magic glow of optimism, exalted by the deep emotions that thrill her, and wearing even a brighter glory than that of youth.

While stupidity drones on, sociability puts cheerful lines on her face and keeps her blood, as well as her intellect, from stagnation.

Sociability is to cultivate vivacity and express intelligence—it is beautifying and quickens the blood, and sends it freely to the surface.

Sociability carries light into all life's dark and shadowy places, and she seldom disappoints those who believe in and dwell under her beneficent scepter.

Sociability recognizes all of the beautiful opportunities and rights the gift of speech gives her.

She is the dearest angel in the happy home. She is free with worthy thoughts graciously expressed.

She hurls herself into happiness with all the wealth of her heart.

Her friendly chosen words are as far removed from volubility as her cordial manners are from gush.

She recognizes the two sweet things of life—to be happy one's self, and try to make others so.

She is sure of her dignity, and strong in its integrity, affords to do what she possibly a less fine-grained nature shrinks to do.

She never looks herself in her room with her tears—she dashes them away, plays the waits for the children, and dances herself.

She stands close to man—in sorrow as well as joy. She believes in being merry hearted, and that love, joy, and hope go hand in hand with sociability.

She is a woman, because she has more tact and knows how to say things more graceful than man—she makes pleasant chatter and merry laughter that would be "malapropos" in man.

She knows how to make the home life ideal, the breakfast table so overflowing with happiness, the joy stays in a man's soul until dinner time, when he lives it all over again.

She knows how to give a New Year's greeting, and as often as she can, the kiss of love, to make it sweeter.

She enjoys everything good in this world, and wants everybody to have a bright and happy New Year.

ALICE SHARPE BALCH.

presented by the immense machinery of sociability.

Nor dare we forget things of the spirit. Perhaps a man may be an absolute ascetic and yet be an optimist, but I am very sure that the divine grace of optimism is at its highest when one has a neighbor and believe in him, hand in hand with optimism goes charity, and love is never out of hearing.

Let us spend a little time trying to realize how much depends upon sociability.

J. RUSSELL MACCARTHY.

Sociability is a combination of affability and dignity in commonplace daily intercourse with one's fellow-creatures—a well-bred woman can afford to talk to her domestics about any and everything, and cement their affectionate respect with every word uttered. She has a kindly recognition, and a fragment of pleasant gossip, across the counter, which often makes a wholesome break in a tired clerk's dull day. She recognizes the power of a hired man, and she is quick for removing dull, unlovely discontent, embarrassment, and loneliness, and it is a noticeable fact that the sociable woman never leaves a drawing-room, a kitchen, or a sewing circle, without having encouraged and encouraged every other creature of her kind present does not acknowledge to herself the supreme excellence of courtesy and sociability above all other womanly traits.

She takes also to heart a practice of seeing only the optimistic side of things and tries to forget self by remembering others and looking into the next life as into a further stage of the delights of this. She fills her life not only with joy and merriment, but with pity, compassion, and tenderness, and with love of God and of her fellow-men.

ALICE SHARPE BALCH.

Sociability is only another name for love. It is a wide-spreading, far-reaching, all-embracing kindness, and its influence is quickly felt; its power endures. We can be sociable with every one whom we meet constantly in our everyday walk in life or with those with whom we are but seldom thrown in contact, and we can make each and all happy by manifesting a friendly, loving interest in them. Sociability, unlike friendship, deals with the many rather than the few, and is purely unselfish, seeking to bring in return to the man who gives a large assembly of people, and by its subtle and gracious influence, the timid and the brave, the weak and the strong, the well-known and the unknown, are all brought together and quickly and gracefully mingle in a common and beautiful fellowship. There is

ful, and if he can by paying \$5 a month and upward secure a house he will be glad to return it. The estate is a tract of 12 acres, laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted; its house planned by Grover Atterbury. When Mrs. E. H. Harrington, in return, casts its charm over a large assembly of people, and by its subtle and gracious influence, the timid and the brave, the weak and the strong, the well-known and the unknown, are all brought together and quickly and gracefully mingle in a common and beautiful fellowship. There is

Interested Women Graduates.

The first woman to graduate from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy was Dr. Susan Hayward, since then eighty-three women have followed her example, but more than half of these have died, and only four attended, when on November 16, the graduates presented the college with a portrait of Dr. Hayward.

The presentation address, by Prof. Joseph Remington, referred to Dr. Hayward's long and useful career, and how she helped other women who undertook the same. Others paid great tribute to this pioneer woman pharmacist, among them the Hon. Charles H. Hays, of the Practical Pharmacy, of New York; Dr. Ann E. Bromall, professor and physician, and others.

On the same day, Miss Georgia Fiare, of Groton, was the only woman in a class of twelve to receive a diploma from the land of the cryanthenum, its wearers and mules are made in Paris. Its bathless bathrobe is of quilted satin. It is perfectly natural that the eccentric woman should sport a doll which in work-manship and raiment differs from all other dolls. Therefore, at the last matinee concert of the Philharmonic Society at Carnegie Hall, no one was surprised to see a rag doll carried down the aisle by the society woman whose fondness for all hand-embroidered things, and who came from the land of the cryanthenum, its wearers and mules are made in Paris. Its bathless bathrobe is of quilted satin. It is perfectly natural that the eccentric woman should sport a doll which in work-manship and raiment differs from all other dolls. 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