

## MARY PICKFORD KNOWS YOU ARE WATCHING HER—THAT'S WHAT MAKES HER WORK GOOD

(This is the fifth chapter of Idah McClone Gibson's interview with Mary Pickford, in which the noted movie actress tells the story of her life.)

### Chapter V.

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"So many people have asked me by letter and by word of mouth, 'Why did you leave the legitimate for the movies?' And I have always answered, 'Because I can interest more people.'" said Mary Pickford.

"The most popular talking actress in this country, Maude Adams, possibly talked to ten million people during the season. But movie statisticians tell me that I project a wordless story into the minds of ten millions of people every 24 hours.

"It makes one rather awed, but it is a beautiful thought, and one that I hug to my heart when I grow weary and tired and feel sometimes that perhaps the game is not worth the candle.

"To think that you can bring a half-hour's joy into the hearts of those that are perhaps vainly trying to forget themselves, or stir the imagination of others to more beautiful ideas, is an incentive to do the very best possible work you can.

"I try to make every picture as perfect as possible. Indeed, for a few hours, I forget myself and live in it. I am not acting for the camera. I am telling a story to ten million people who are hungry for entertainment, to have their imagination whetted until they forget themselves.

"That 'the movies' is an art, has been demonstrated by its human appeal. You know Tolstoy said the greatest art is that which appeals to the greatest number.

"If this is true, then the moving picture is the greatest artistic triumph that has ever been conceived by man.

"Another very strong reason I have for liking my work is the fact that to be a successful movie actress, one must live the life of a gypsy. It means living in the open, doing the simple things of life simply, making the obvious seem artistic, and the monotonous affairs of every day to appear as a part of one's ideals.

"I am very fond of everything that is simple in life. I like to dress simply, to speak simply, to be myself. I love to get on an old gown or even a pair of overalls and go rushing about the country from morning until night.

"There is more pleasure to me in seeing the sun rise than in watching the electric lights go out one by one. And I would feel that I had done a great thing for humanity if I could bring through my pictures this joy in simple living home to my audiences—make them realize that happiness is a state of mind.

"I wish I could make the people understand that the girl who has everything has nothing. It is only when we want things very very much and we work very hard for them, that they are sweet to us."

"Even the love we work for hardest is the love we most appreciate.

"To be sated is to be miserable. The blasé man is always a pessimist, and the blasé woman is the most wearied and wearying thing on earth.

"You little girls who want to be movie actresses, be sure that it is not the rewards you are after. Be sure it is your ambition to do good work, the desire not only to benefit yourselves, but others, and I think you will be more apt to find the successful pot of gold at the end of the rainbow of your dreams."

(To Be Continued.)