

SIGN-BOARDS ON THE UP-ROAD

Hamilton B. Williams

As I look upon the faces about us I read the story of life. Faces are spotted and lined and blotched with dissipation. Sepulchral wrinkles are deeply etched. Faces are weakened and pinched by hunger of body and regret, yellowed with envy. They glitter with hate and narrow with revenge. The brow is ploughed deeply with the harrows of remorse, and beaten low by the hand of lust. Bodies are misshapen by parent's sins. Bodies are distorted and stooped by one's own sins. The marks of wreck are manifest to every eye. This is the work of sin. Does sin need any better argument against it than the fruit—the marks—of its presence? The business that cost Christ His life was to restore to the ghastly soul the lost image of God. Do you wonder that His life was the cost of such a work?

A tradition existed among artists that a picture of the great poet was concealed somewhere in the house in which Dante lived. After long search the picture was found. It had been covered over with whitewash. What kind of man, in the name of Beauty, could have ruthlessly whitewashed a masterpiece like that? The same kind that covers up the image of God with spots of sin and whitewash of self righteousness. Man was made in God's likeness, but sin painted it with black. The image was obscured. All men are in the same condition as regards sin. We all are smeared over with evil. But the germ of the divine lies in the heart and if God come in to reconstruct, the image will reappear. "Men are gods playing the fool." When we get ready to leave off the cap and bells of sin—God will reinvest us with the glory of His likeness thru Jesus Christ.

The inner man is betrayed by the outer man. It is not possible for a pure heart to exist without a pure eye, a pure speech, a pure action to tell the tale. There can be no blot shadow showing upon the face.

We ought to wear our hearts on our sleeves and bid men take what they will of good. Your heap will not be diminished an atom's worth but rather increased. Oil the joints of your blessed elbows with the oil of human sympathy so that your arms won't creak when you do a good turn or give a hoist to the load. We ought to be so indispensable to our friends that they will wonder what's wrong with them until we come in sight. Count not thy self, oh man, indispensable to thy friends, unless

their eyes sparkle when thou comest in sight.

I would rather be a candle burning lowly for one of God's dear creatures than a meteor set in the unreachable heavens that men gaze at—in wonder—but which has neither light nor warmth.

God will only come in to the life on invitation. He will not force entrance nor stay unwelcomed. If you don't make him at home he will soon depart. We are the keepers of the door of life.

Emerson said of a certain girl. "It seemed when she came into the room that another candle had been lighted." I wonder how many of us are candles to our friends.

Bidding Christ to come into the heart—He will begin to get rid of the marks of sin, and lay upon the soul the white glory of His spirit. Old things shall pass away, all things shall be renewed by the indwelling of God's Spirit whose work it is to reconstruct the soul into the likeness of Jesus Christ, who is the express of God. At the last we all with unveiled faces shall reflect as in a mirror the glory of the Lord and shall be transformed into the same image from glory to glory until we see him face to face.

For our balm while He trod the thorn-trail with our load, 'Tis said that the angels rejoice As they speed with the news, That a soul has set out on the high-land road, With our Friend (praise His name!) Who bore burden and bruise.

Good Friend, if the angels rejoice Have them look down to-night On a home where the wife and the children await.

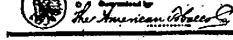
See their faces aflame With a light, not fire-light, When the man of the house lifts the latch of the gate.

We do not wonder, Friend of the sorrow's crown, that Thou art knocking patient at our door, Thou hadst no home on earth, nor wife to give thee love-cher, nor children playing on the floor.

But thou canst share, if we will let thee in, what thou couldst not have, oh loneliest of earth. In the joy that thou bringest to homes where the gentle grace of love abides at the hearth.

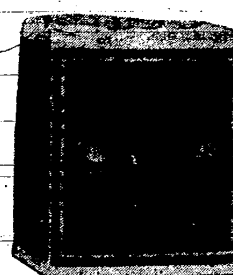


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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In pursuance of an order of the Surrogate's Court of Allegany County, New York State, made by Hon. Elba Reynolds, Surrogate of said County of Allegany, Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate of Flora Bundy, late of Andover, N. Y., deceased, to present the same with proper vouchers thereof to the undersigned Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of said deceased, at the Law Office of Clayton L. Earley, in the Village of Andover, N. Y., on or before the first day of June, 1921.

Dated at Andover, N. Y., this 17th day of November, 1920.

ROXIE B. BRUNDAGE,
Executrix.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In pursuance of an order of the Surrogate's Court of Allegany County, New York State, made by Hon. Elba Reynolds, Surrogate of said County of Allegany, Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate of E. Ellsworth Clarke, late of the Town of Andover, Allegany County, New York, deceased, to present the same with proper vouchers thereof to the undersigned administrator of the estate of said deceased, at his home in the Town of Andover, N. Y., on or before the 12th day of November, 1921.

Dated at Andover, N. Y., May 11, 1921.

CARL V. CLARKE,
SAMUEL B. CRANDALL,
Attorneys for Administrator.

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