

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4-12

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# Happy New Year to All Our Young People

### A PARABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

By H. S. Dow

In a certain town there lived two young girls, who were great chums for a time, and found great delight in each other's company; so much so that it was said of them that they were always together.

And it came to pass one day that Vanity said to Faith: I have something lovely to tell you. It is just wonderful, I am feeling so delighted over it. I am so thrilled that I can scarcely contain myself. I am truly overjoyed, I came to tell you, Faith, and I know you will rejoice with me. Well, do tell me quickly, said Faith; don't keep me in suspense any longer. Well, this is it, said Vanity: I am going to be married; isn't that lovely? Oh, I think it is just grand, I can scarcely wait for the time to come. Instead of Faith having a spell of rejoicing, as Vanity hoped, a cloud passed over her serious face, and for a moment she was quiet and thoughtful. Then she replied: Well, I knew that you were going around with Easyfirst some lately, but I did not think that you were serious. Oh! exclaimed Vanity, we are not serious. We are both just captivated by the romance of married life, and we are sure that it will be just wonderful, and Ease wants to be married right away, and I have agreed, and think it will be great.

Faith looks more serious and begins to ask some questions. She said, but, Van dear, tell me, where are you going to live? Has Ease a home to take you to? Or has he money to buy and furnish a home? Has he a good position where he can earn enough, providing he keeps well, to support a wife comfortably? Tell me, dear, are you really engaged? Has he given you a diamond? Oh, Faith! replied Vanity, you always take such a serious view of life. You see, it is like this: Ease has no money, it is true; he has never been able to get a steady job and save any money, it takes so much for a fellow to live these days. But now he has enlisted, he has the uniform on. Did you see him in his new uniform? I think he just looks dear, and all the girls say so too; and you know his father has a car, and sometimes Ease borrows it and takes me for a drive. You ask me where we are going to live. Well, we can get a room or two somewhere for the present, perhaps all furnished, or if we have to buy some furniture and things, you know we can get them on the enthrallment plan. Oh, by the way, Ease is going to get my diamond that way too. You know, you can get real diamonds down to Clogg's on that personal credit plan, or at that other store on the enthrallment plan, you know, a dollar or two down and so much a week. I think that enthrallment plan is just great for young people just getting married, who have nothing to begin to keep house with, don't you? Just think of it, a real soldier, a man of my own, a diamond sparkling on my finger, nice clothes, a wedding and everything. Then I am tired of working down at that old office every day, and having some one else boss me all the

time. I could stay home and do house work, but I don't like housework, so I am just going to get married and quit that office, and have an easy time. I can sleep as long as I want to in the morning, or get up when I please, and go and come and have a good time. Her friend, Faith, looked still more serious, and said, I fear, dear, that you are taking too much for granted. I had rather take Jesus as the Man of my counsel, and have him to help me to work out all the details of my life. He knows my needs and has promised to supply them all. And so it came to pass, that on a certain day that Easyfirst and Vanity appeared at the parson's house to be married. Vanity was gowned in a beautiful dress of pink glamour, and Easyfirst wore a suit of strut, cut after the latest fashion. Miss Romance was bridesmaid and the groom was supported by Many Promises as best man. "And all went merry as a marriage bell."

But "the scene was changed." It is amazing what changes a few short years will bring. Oh, dear! cried a young married woman, I wish I had never been born. I don't know why I ever was such a fool to marry him. Look at my face, haggard, white and wrinkled. I haven't got even a few pennies to buy a little rouge with, and my stringly, straight hair. I haven't been to a beauty parlor for years. Oh, this wretched place, nothing to keep house with, not even food enough to eat, or fuel to warm us comfortably; and I haven't had a new thing for myself to wear since our first baby Folly was born five years ago, then the second, poor little dear, Regretta, came, and she is not well, the doctor says she is undernourished. That old stork is very generous even in hard times like these so she has brought the third poor little thing here to suffer with the others.. I wonder where that lazy man of mine has gone. He went out in a rage again, and said he would never come back. Well, I just told Easyfirst the truth. I told him I was a fool to marry a man without anything to make a home with, or to live on. If he had been a real man he never would have asked me to marry him, when he had no home, or prospect of a steady job. Oh! why did I ever do it? And now the war is done and we haven't even got that little income to keep soul and body together. Hark! some one is coming in, without knocking, now perhaps that is Ease. Or maybe it is Romance. She promised on our wedding day that she would come and live with me, and continue to whisper those lovely promises in my ear: Promises of a happy wedded life, with love, nice clothes, sunshine and flowers. She came, but did not stay long. I wonder where she is

now. Away fooling some other credulous, young woman about the joys of married life I suppose. Here she comes; no, its not Romance nor Easyfirst, but, oh! such a terrible looking creature. Who are you coming in here without knocking, and uninvited? With your dirty, old tattered, faded, drab clothes; nobody here wants to see you. Why did you come? I thought it was Romance coming or Ease, perhaps, who went away mad this morning. Did you see them? The unwelcome visitor drawled out, you ought to know me. I have been around all your married life. I was at your wedding though not invited, and you did not know me, because I had my optimistic suit on. It was new then, but this is all there is left of it now. I never wait for an invitation because no one wants me, or ever invites me, to their home: And Romance never stays very long where I am. I tried to get into Faith's home, but I could not endure those children of hers, Grace, Thrift and Economy. They drove me from their door. And what is your name? said Vanity. Tell me: The visitor drawled again: My name is Poverty, and I brought my first born whose name is Disappointment. She will take the place of Romance in your home, and will be a companion for your children, Folly and Regret, and we have come to stay. Disappointment does not wear a glamour suit, you have noticed, and she does not whisper those beautiful stories of love, pleasure and happiness in your ear like Romance did before you were married. You see changes are sure to come. Oh, this wretched place, and this wretched company, said Vanity; and now the babies are crying again. They are hungry and cold, that awful Poverty has emptied their milk bottles again, and taken the clothes from their bed. I tried to cover them with my glamour suit, but it was too thin to keep them warm, and he has taken that away and now he is pinching them and making them cry. Yes, he has gone to our cupboard, and stolen the flour and sugar and everything else we needed to live on. Oh! I can't stay here. Ease said I promised to take him for better or for worse, for rich or poor, but I did not hear the preacher say anything about worse or poor. No, drawled Poverty, cause I saw Romance put her fingers in your ears when the preacher said worse and poor, so all you heard was, will you take this man for rich and better, and you said, I will. Oh, what a deceiver that Romance is, said Vanity.

"The Scene was changed."

Well, Vanity, we are glad that you and the babies have come back to us. We will do the best we can for you, said her mother. I am sorry, said Vanity, I had to bring Disappointment with me; but Poverty left her with me; he said she would be a companion for Folly and Regret, and I suppose we will always have to keep her. What was that, mother, the preacher used to say about men reaping what they sowed; did he mean girls too. It seems like that, quietly replied her mother. He also

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