

LOVE'S COMMONPLACE

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRAPPINGS AND PAGEANTRY OF WAR.

How Florence Nightingale Saw and Followed the Voice of God and Love for Suffering Humanity Though It Called Her Through the Utmost of Commonplace—How the World-Famous Nurse Answered a Canadian.

At the date when, now many years ago, the British army marched through London to the port of embarkation for the Crimea, no doubt Florence Nightingale, who was later on to prove such an angel of mercy there, stood at some window, as did thousands of other women, and watched the splendid pageant. It was an exhilarating sight. All hearts were beating high. High-born ladies, with flushed faces and eyes raining cheer and gratulation, waved their handkerchiefs in wild salute. Who could think of anything but valor, glory, combat and triumph as the drums rolled, the horses neighed, the bugles blared, the heavy tread of the infantry shook the pavements, the ponderous batteries jarred along, and as the very heavens reverberated the shouts of the delirious crowds?

But here, in signal contrast, stood one woman, who looked on at all this pageantry through an obscure maze of mist that damped its colors and bedraggled its plumes; saw it, and yet did not see it, for something else she saw more distinctly still; saw, indeed, these stalwart and soldierly forms, but saw them gaunt, yellow, wasted with fever, shattered with hacking coughs; saw them soaked in muddy trenches and pitiless rains, mangled on the battlefield, lying in helpless rows and with faint, piteous voices in hospital wards—saw them there in foul, stagnant air, with coarsest food to turn from in loathing, burning with thirst and no water by, shivering with cold and no blankets at hand. And the voice within said: "Follow after them, with succor beforehand made ready for those dreadful scenes you prophetically see are coming." And the voice was to her the voice of God. And the God who thus commissioned her was the God of compassionate mercy. But ever her first thought was that only through thus thoughtfully loving her brother whom she has seen could she ever come to know and love Him whom she had not seen.

Of course such a woman ultimately becomes world-famous, and then all kinds of sentimental people write letters to her to have her make it clear to them how they, too, may become like angels of mercy, and, of course, get to be equally as world-famous. The glamor of the angel's halo wings fascinates their imaginations, and great is the shock to their sensibilities to be informed that the precious stones of the pavement to the yearned-for celestial city have all to be laid down in the humble form of soups and jellies and bandages and poultices and liniments, and that, too, in so effective a way of bringing them to bear on human misery as will make them shine in the eyes of the wretched with more glorified light than were they the sapphires, carbuncles and emeralds of the New Jerusalem in the Book of Revelations.

Now, from this point of view, there is among the letters preserved in the biography of Florence Nightingale one that is very striking. It is a letter written in reply to some one in Canada, who had enthusiastically besought her for a sketch of her life and a photograph of her face, and which seemed to take it for granted that she must have done her work in a continuous whirlwind of inspiration, and as one long revel of humanitarian kite flying.

Miss Nightingale's answer was pre- vaded by a feeling of deep religious conviction. She could not have done her work, she said, but for the support of a constant sense that it was God's work as well as hers. But the God she communed with was the God of order, business exactness, minute patience, the God ever more clearly revealed to her through the homeliest matters of good gruel, fresh air, clean sheets, sunny expos-

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Mr. R. E. Fleming, the well-known and popular Toronto representative of Messrs. Ewing & Sons, Cork Manufacturers, Montreal, writes: "I have been a constant sufferer from catarrh of a severe and most disagreeable type for eight years, which became worse each winter, in spite of the hundreds of dollars I spent with catarrh specialists and many remedies, which only afforded temporary relief. I tried Japanese Catarrh Cure about a year ago, and since completing this treatment have not felt the least symptom of my former trouble. A few months ago I recommended it to a friend similarly affected, and he is now completely cured also. I can highly recommend it to any person troubled with this most annoying disease."

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ure, careful nursing and cheerful surroundings—these all seen in their immediate bearing on the relief of human suffering and on human chance of recovery. In and through these lowliest shapes, and in the grateful sense of the cheer and alleviation they wrought, did she feel herself brought face to face with the tenderest attributes and divinest laws of heaven, and realize the patient fact that she was co-working with God. And so the whole tenor of her letter seemed to read: "If any woman say I love the God of mercy and compassion, and hate learning how to make smooth gruel, to rub a limb, bandage a wound and secure ventilation, that woman's religion is vain. For precisely in doing these things will she feel herself brought into vital touch with a renewing and comforting power, manifest as an actuality of experience and not as an idle dream."

There is a vast deal, not merely of practical good sense, but of devoutest piety in this letter of Florence Nightingale. The world, unhappily, is full of people who sentimentally persuade themselves that they love God, humanity, art, literature, Shakespeare and the musical glasses, but who, brought to the test of the hard and self-denying work involved in getting at the central heart of any of these, prove the utter lack of stuff that is in them.

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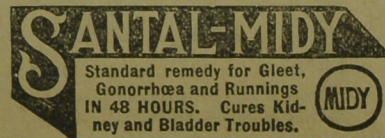
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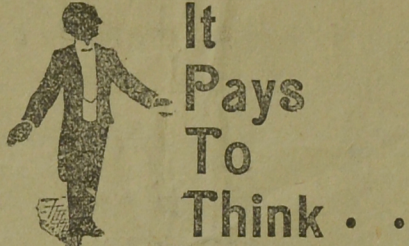
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Express for Point du Chene, Halifax, and Pictou... 12.45
Express for Sussex... 16.30
Express for Quebec, and Montreal... 17.00
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TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

Express from Halifax and Sydney... 6.00
Express from Sussex... 8.30
Express from Montreal and Quebec... 12.40
Express from Halifax and Pictou... 16.00
Express from Halifax... 19.15
Express from Moncton, (Saturday only, 23.50

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D. POTTINGER,

General Manager

Moncton, October 18, 1901.

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2.00 p. m. Leave Stanley for Cross Creek Station, connecting with Canada Eastern freight for Fredericton, also with C. E. Express for Chatham, returning to Stanley 4.00 p. m.

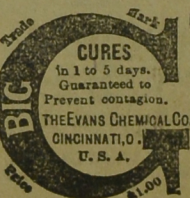
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D. R. MOORE,

General Manager.

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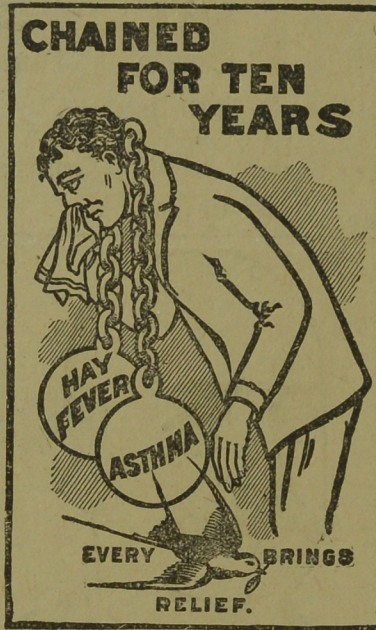
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