

THE LIFE STORY OF ELIZABETH FRY

THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDIES FOR GIRLS

BY CHARLOTTE BREWSTER JORDAN, ELIZABETH FRY (1781-1845)

"I like the city, your fall-bermsted eye; I like your carriage and your stilet gown; Your dove-like habits and your silent preaching; But I don't like your negative teaching."

No. 11 is your friend, and like a friend Point out your very worst defects—any, never Start at that word! But I must ask you why You keep your school in Newgate, Mrs. Fry?"

The foregoing deplorably unmetrical rhyme, called "Keep Your School Out of Newgate, Mrs. Fry," was the outcome of an effort by Thomas Hood to put in ballad form the popular amazement at the prison reforms brought about by that active philanthropist, Mrs. Elizabeth Fry. The cordial support which the most eminent men and women of Europe have since given Mrs. Fry's helpful plans has proved Hood's diagnosis of her teaching to have been as poor as the puns in which he tried to express it.

This woman, who braved the ferocity of the prison inmates and the bantering of the uncomprehending, was naturally of such timorous temperament that she could never have achieved her good work had she not been actuated by the thought that she was called of God to minister to his suffering and sinful children. As a child she was afraid of the dark, nervously apprehensive, once approaching trouble, and gave into morbid self-protection. Her presentiments in regard to the death of her mother, whose very slumbers Elizabeth used to watch with nervous jealousy, were sadly fulfilled when Elizabeth was but 12 years old. After this unexpected blow Mr. Gurney, the father, became greatly self-absorbed, and naturally indulgent, let his 12 young children bring themselves up the best way they could. Utterly untrained, their lives henceforth afforded a great contrast to the systematic religious training which the mother had enforced. After the violence of their grief had passed away, the bereaved family led the exalted existence in their beautiful country seat at Earlsbam.

Elizabeth Gurney, the third daughter, whom the loving mother had called her "dove-like Betsy," had grown into a tall, slender girl, with flaxen hair, extreme exuberance of spirits, a flippancy in quoting the atheistic aphorisms of the French Revolutonists, a fondness for wearing becoming scarlet riding habits, for hearing the band play, for attracting the notice of admiring officers quartered in the neighborhood, and for going to the opera to see "The Prince"—a petted, fly-away girl, whose many entries in her journal form a fair index of her cheerful character. "July 11—Company to dinner. I must beware of not being a flirt; it is an abominable character; I hope I shall never be one, and yet fear I am one now, a little. Be careful not to talk at random. If I do pass this day without a foolish action, it will be the first I ever passed so. If I pass a day with only a few foolish actions, I may think it a good one."

Strange as it may seem, under these deliciously diametric characteristics lay excellent foundation for the high destiny which Elizabeth Gurney ultimately achieved. Her volatile spirits, her enthusiasm, when diverted to more serious subject, fresh and vigorous; her quickness at repartee gave her facility in choosing the right word for courtier, censor or confidant; her keen insight, her zest for solving the strong points of a situation, lent an almost legal force to her pleadings for the unfortunate tamed by her kindly heart, and the cunning of her self-interest developed into the shrewd penetration and the readiness of those whom she was to influence.

Underlying her girlish archness lay a habit of self-analysis which frequently caused her great discomfort. We find in her journal entries a declaration that she is, sincerely questioning her right to be so occupied with trifles, "dress in particular." After several months of struggling she decided that her high spirits ran away with her, and she began to sing, and that she must henceforth give up these greatly enjoyed and otherwise innocent diversions. She had several lapses into her, her besetting sins, and night would find her drifting back into her pleasure-loving life. It had been for the forcible remonstrances of William Savery, a visiting American friend. Upon the day of his first address the seven beautiful daughters of Mr. Gurney sat in a row under the gallery of the Norwich meeting-house. Betsy's usual restlessness being made especially conspicuous by her smart purple boots, laced with red. From that day, however, her love for the world's pleasures was dead.

Her father was not a plain friend, and fearing that Elizabeth's impressionable nature might lead her to make resolutions which she might afterward wish to withdraw, he had written to London on a text visit, of which her journal records a round of dancing, opera and rouge. Her awakened conscience, however, took the zest out of her gayety, and she was glad to hear William Savery speak in London, her resolution was taken to become a plain friend. She had a horror of emotional religion, which she believed led to fanaticism, and she therefore approached with great soberness the decision which she never afterward wavered. Hers was a restless nature, which developed to the best advantage when hemmed in by certain fixed restrictions, and she therefore found a definite support in Friendly Society, in the plain dress (the becoming poke-bonnet having not yet succeeded the Friendly heaving hat) and in the temperate use of the familiar phrase "plain friend."

Elizabeth Gurney had meanwhile started a Bible-reading school among the poor of the neighborhood, which soon numbered 30 children, whom she interested through the shelter of her presence, unaided by the pictures and "gifts" so helpful to modern teachers. At the age of 19 the impetuous Elizabeth married Joseph Fry, bade farewell to her tearful school children, and went to live in Mildred's Court, London. The Frys were such decidedly plain friends that they considered the Quaker Bible quite worldly. She certainly was always extremely liberal-minded, notwithstanding her scrupulous conformity to the externals so valued by her new relatives.

The domestic cares of a prosperous family always entertaining largely and hospitably pressed so heavily upon her for the next year that she was unable to comment in regard to this period of her life except her active philanthropy in the parish. Frequent illnesses weakened her physically, but left her high, active spirit unimpaired. Meanwhile the family removed to a beautiful, luxurious home at Pisahat, where Elizabeth Fry had become an approved minister of the Society of Friends. Here she founded a school for the poor Irish of the neighborhood, materially assisted the annual encampment of Gypsies, learned the art of vaccination from an eminent physician, and so skillfully inoculated the children of her indigent neighbors that smallpox was practically stamped out from the surrounding villages.

Interference a Vice, Not a Crime. PORTLAND, April 18.—(To the Editor.)—I will not occupy much of your space in dealing with Rev. Ray Palmer and his dealing with the poor Irish of the neighborhood, who were warded to family knowers, "Hell on Earth." The loathsome conditions and consequent suffering of the inmates deeply touched the tender-hearted woman, but beyond providing food and clothing for the sheltered, she did not work with which her name is identified

until four years later. Meanwhile she tried to interest her friends in some practical way of confronting the terrible Newgate problem. Those who objected to a woman pioneer in this reformatory work upon the ground that a mother's place is in her home little appreciated Elizabeth Fry's recoil from the publicity which the novelty of her work must entail, nor her wrestling with conscience when trying to decide which duty urged the stronger claim; nor did her detractors at first realize that it was the warm motherly nature inspiring her with sympathy for the little children of the prisoners which touched their brutal natures and formed the real keynote of her success.

Capital punishment at that time existed for 300 different offenses. The women of the prison, tried and untried, were herded together with their little children in a bare filthy room, where they were all supposed to eat slightly, drink freely and sleep without bedding. Half-perished with the cold and insufficiently clad, they spent the days gambling and begging for

drink money. The howlings of this inferno were so terrible and the savage irrepressibility of these degraded and maltreated inmates was so dangerous that the prison authorities implored Mrs. Fry to leave her valuable outside. This she refused to do, and instead she began inquiring into some way to speak with the prisoners. When the doors had been looked after, she gently laid before the astonished women the misery of their little ones and besought them to co-operate with her in organizing a school for them. Quite touched by her prayers and solicitations, the women chose the most trustworthy of their fellow-prisoners as teachers. Soon the mothers also attended the skillfully conducted school. Sewing was taught them, matrons were appointed and the place gradually assumed an orderly and spotless appearance.

Another great trial which she assumed was the personal comforting of prisoners sentenced to execution. Nothing but a real sense of the genuine support which her sympathy conveyed to those whose scaffolds were building enabled her to confront these terrible ordeals, especially when the poor victims were to be hanged for petty theft, for accomplice in forgery or for passing counterfeit money. Her knowledge that they were spurious. So agonized did Mrs. Fry become over these visits to the cells of the unjustly condemned that she began inquiring into some purpose. "Is it for man thus to take the prerogative of the Almighty into his own hands?" As a result of her efforts among prominent philanthropists and in the House of Commons the penal decrees were made far more humane. Societies were organized to provide instruction and employment which would make prisoners self-supporting, and the funds necessary to bring about this new regime were made by John J. Gurney, Elizabeth Fry's brother. The government also intrusted to this heroic band the care of the transport ships, laden with the practical wisdom which the system was relieved of much of its horror and barbarity.

Meanwhile financial difficulties and the consequent removal from beautiful Pisahat to a common street in London, combined with the loss of many of her friends and relatives, sadly impaired Mrs. Fry's health. Throughout all her trials, however, she was to others the strengthener and comforter. Her increasingly large family was also a great care, her twelfth and youngest child being born on the same day as her first grandchild. She nevertheless continued to make in the companionship of her noble brother several helpful journeys abroad.

In her journal she thus describes a visit to the city of France during this visit: "I went first from Newgate to the lady mayors and the sheriffs, the king next with his own people. I had to hasten to take off my cloak, and then went down to meet him at the carriage door with my husband and seven of our sons and sons-in-law. I then walked with him into the drawing room, where all was in beautiful order, neat and adorned with flowers. I presented to the king our eight daughters and daughters-in-law. . . . and afterward presented 25 of our grandchildren. We had a solemn silence before our meal, which was handsome and fit for a king, yet not extravagant, everything most complete and nice. I sat by the king, who appeared to enjoy his dinner, perfectly at his ease and very happy with us." In all her interviews with strangers and celebrities she prayed constantly to be kept "faithful, not forward."

Her pity for the lonely coat-guardmen led her to anticipate the modern traveling libraries, and through her exertions 20,000 volumes were secured from the government for distribution among servants and employees.

A woman of undevoted executive ability, Elizabeth Fry nevertheless possessed a single-heartedness and loveliness of character such as is not often granted to readers of her life. The secret of this happy combination is found in a letter to her sister where she says: "Ever since my heart was touched at 17 years old, I believe I have never awaked from sleep, or been in health, by night or day, without my first thought being how best I may serve my Maker."

She died in 1845. Forty years later a church was erected to her memory in the garden of her Upton home. Princess Louise laid the foundation stone and many of Mrs. Fry's great-grandchildren were present at the ceremony.

the subject of moral censure. One commits a crime, and becomes liable to an indictment. To say that one indulges in a crime, or commits a vice, would be a perversion of language. The two things are distinct.

Even all overt offenses are not crimes. As Austin, in his work on Jurisprudence, accurately says: "An offense pursued at the discretion of the injured party or his representatives is a civil injury. An offense which is pursued by the Sovereign, or by the subordinates of the Sovereign, is a crime."

Vice in general is that civil habit or disposition out of which crimes proceed by way of consequence. Envy is a vice, but a murder perpetrated by an envious man is a crime. The following passage occurs in Emerson's "Essay on Compensation": "The league between virtue and nature engages all things to assume a hostile front to vice. The beautiful laws and substances of the world persecute and whip the traitor. He finds that things are arranged for truth and benefit. But there is no den in the wide world to hide a rogue. Commit a crime, and the earth is made of glass. There is no such thing as concealment. Commit a crime, and it seems as if coat of snow fell on the ground, such as reveals in the woods the track of every partridge and fox and squirrel and mole."

Intemperance is an evil habit, and

"In figuring on the amount of John Day lands needed for a year's pasturage, I find that 50 sections would be necessary for 500 sheep. Such a tract of land would be the grass off for a half a mile from their camp, so that really a whole section would be spoiled for camping purposes alone.

"Neither could we apply Mr. Minto's theory to catchments of artesian wells, as our land is of the light, ashier order, that would drink up all the water we tried to store. Artesian wells have been proven impracticable where they could not be drilled on the bedrock of the country. Heppner's experience in the artesian-well business furnishes ample proof of this.

"Although I have run sheep in Eastern Oregon for years, I can show you no way of no way to lease these lands satisfactorily to the majority of stockmen. I consider it wise to leave well enough alone, when sheep and cattle men respect the only good use of the land is to leave it. We do not feel like leaving. We have built up snug dwellings and cosy farms in the various valleys and creek bottoms of the John Day, and we will be of no use to us if tramp sheep persist in turning our green hillside into terraces of dusty trails. We have no Winter range on the John Day, and the outdoors have no Summer range on the prairie portion for the improvement of the Wasco and Wheeler Counties; so we have to feed hay for months at a time. We have just as good a right to swarm down on their Winter ranges as the tramp sheep have on our Summer range.

Long years of persecution by tramp stock has embittered us on this question, and we now propose to protect our pastures and ranges. The leasing of three sections to each party living contiguous, as Mr. Minto suggests, would soon result in one man monopolizing a large tract of range, by subleasing sections.

"Mr. Minto's plan at me in regard to slaughtered sheep and perjured jurors is all right. We John Day stockmen feel a good deal like the Boers do in South Africa. Just as the Boers would not leave their own land to be used by the British, we do not feel like leaving. We have built up snug dwellings and cosy farms in the various valleys and creek bottoms of the John Day, and we will be of no use to us if tramp sheep persist in turning our green hillside into terraces of dusty trails. We have no Winter range on the John Day, and the outdoors have no Summer range on the prairie portion for the improvement of the Wasco and Wheeler Counties; so we have to feed hay for months at a time. We have just as good a right to swarm down on their Winter ranges as the tramp sheep have on our Summer range.

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LEASING THREE SECTIONS

JOHN DAY STOCKMAN ANSWERS JOHN MINTO.

An Ordinary Band of 5000 Sheep Will Require at Least Fifty Sections for Range.

John C. Luce, a well-known stockman of the John Day Valley, who is sojourning at the St. Charles, takes exceptions to some points advanced by John Minto, in yesterday's Oregonian, concerning the leasing of Government pastures. To a Minto's theory in regard to leasing three sections and no more, by any one stockman, might work very well in the foothills near the grass off for a half a mile from their camp, so that really a whole section would be spoiled for camping purposes alone.

"Neither could we apply Mr. Minto's theory to catchments of artesian wells, as our land is of the light, ashier order, that would drink up all the water we tried to store. Artesian wells have been proven impracticable where they could not be drilled on the bedrock of the country. Heppner's experience in the artesian-well business furnishes ample proof of this.

"Although I have run sheep in Eastern Oregon for years, I can show you no way of no way to lease these lands satisfactorily to the majority of stockmen. I consider it wise to leave well enough alone, when sheep and cattle men respect the only good use of the land is to leave it. We do not feel like leaving. We have built up snug dwellings and cosy farms in the various valleys and creek bottoms of the John Day, and we will be of no use to us if tramp sheep persist in turning our green hillside into terraces of dusty trails. We have no Winter range on the John Day, and the outdoors have no Summer range on the prairie portion for the improvement of the Wasco and Wheeler Counties; so we have to feed hay for months at a time. We have just as good a right to swarm down on their Winter ranges as the tramp sheep have on our Summer range.

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BACKACHE

Women Suffering with Backache are Requested to Read These Letters From Women Who Have Been Cured of it by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Could Not Sleep

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I thought that I would let you know how much good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done me. Before taking it I suffered very much with backache, could not sleep nights. Now, thanks to your medicine, I rest very well every night and am better than I have been for years. I want every woman to know what your Vegetable Compound has done for me. I know it will help others if they will only give it a trial."—MISS GRACE COLTON, Oswego Falls, N. Y.

Backache and Headache

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I had headache and backache, was nervous all the time. I have taken five bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and have had better health since taking it than I have had for ten years. I am stronger than I was and weigh more than I ever did. I think it is the best medicine on earth and have recommended it to others. May God bless you for the good you have done to suffering women."—MRS. MARGARET WILD, Clover Bottom, Ky.

Profuse Menstruation

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—My trouble was profuse menstruation, lasting for more than twelve weeks. The flow was so great I thought I could not live over night. I had pains in my right side very severe at times, hot flashes so that I thought I would burn up. I had to stay in bed nearly all the time for two years and six months. I had two doctors but they did me no good. My neighbors thought that I could not live. While I was in this condition, a lady gave me some of your medicine. I began its use at once and in two days felt that it was doing me good. I soon got out of bed and commenced to do my work, something I had not done for over two years. I continued taking your medicine and now feel as though I was young again. My changes are now regular and people are telling me how well I look. I tell them that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound did it all."—ALMENA B. DUNLAP, 29 S. Kent St. Winchester, Va.

Thirty years of constant success is the record of

LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

chance of giving pleasure. You will pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that you can do or any kindness that you can show to any human being, you had better do it now; do not defer or neglect it, for you will not pass this way again.

CANCELLATION POSTPONED.

East and West-Bound Freight Rates in Statu Quo.

Announcement was recently made by the Oregonian that, effective yesterday, April 20, all percentage arrangements to and from the territories of the Southeastern Northern Valley Freight Association, the Southeastern Freight Association and the Northern lines would be abrogated. This was to have applied on all through business not based on combination basis. As outlined at the time, it would have materially raised rates, as the through rate would have been made up of a combination of all local rates. Shippers of salmon and of iron pipe would have been directly affected by the proposed change.

Telegraphic advices received here yesterday from General Freight Agent Moore, of the Northern Pacific, at St. Paul, state that he is advised that the Southeastern lines have postponed cancellation of rates and divisions to and from Southeastern points.

"OVERLAND LIMITED."

Name of New O. R. & N. Train to Chicago, Which Starts Tomorrow.

It has been found necessary in order to make the name of the trains between Portland and Chicago uniform, to change the "Portland-Chicago" special to the "Overland Limited," which will leave at 9:15 P. M. The "Portland-Chicago Special" leaving at 6:20 P. M. the coaches, sleepers, library and dining cars of the "Overland Limited" will be the broad-vested and will be thoroughly equipped with every new device, and supplied with every convenience for the comfort of its patrons. The time, as already advertised, will be 12 hours shorter than heretofore, and passengers leaving Portland in the morning at 9:15 will reach Chicago at 9:20 A. M. the fourth day thereafter, consuming but 70 hours of actual running time. The change of name made in these trains is for the purpose of making the same uniform, with a similar train, which leaves San Francisco, and connects at Granger, on the Union Pacific.

Railroad Notes.

Victor A. Schilling, city passenger and ticket agent of the O. R. & N., left last night for Eastern Oregon. He is interested in valuable mining properties at Summit, in the Palouse country.

L. B. Gorham and A. E. Cooper, commercial agent and agent of the passenger department of the Rock Island, have returned from Puget Sound. Traveling Passenger Agent Menzies, of the same line, is in the Palouse country.

Owing to the announced intention of the Falling estate to erect a large building on Third street, corner of Washington, the city ticket office of the Rio Grande Western and the California & Oregon Steamship Company will remain at their present place, 253 Washington street. It was the intention to move from there May 1 to 125 Third street.

Hardman Pianos, Wiley B. Allen Co.

Consumption

is contracted as well as inherited. Only strong lungs are proof against it. Persons predisposed to weak lungs and those recovering from Pneumonia, Grippe, Bronchitis, or other exhausting illness, should take

Scott's Emulsion. It enriches the blood, strengthens the lungs, and builds up the entire system. It prevents consumption and cures it in the early stages.

THE PALATIAL OREGONIAN BUILDING

Not a dark office in the building; absolutely fireproof; electric lights and artesian water; perfect sanitation and thorough ventilation. Elevators run day and night.



Pain in the Stomach

Loss of appetite, nervousness, headache, sleepless nights, an irritable temper and a wasting of flesh mark the dyspeptic. His stomach needs nerve force to make it work, just as a steam engine needs steam. When a man finds that he is using up his vital powers faster than nature can replenish them it is time for him to call a halt. Soothe and quiet the irritated nerves, strengthen and invigorate the stomach, give the tired brain rest and sleep, and he will get well. The quickest way, the easiest way and the best way to do this is to ask your druggist for a bottle of

DOCTOR MILES' Nervine

and give it a trial. Get a bottle now, before your system is entirely broken down and disease gets a firm foothold.

I suffered from chronic stomach trouble and nervous prostration for nearly two years. I could not sleep, had no appetite, was nervous and irritable and was unable to attend to my business. I had been taking Dr. Miles' Nervine and Nerve and Liver Pills but a few days when my appetite returned and I could sleep at night. I was soon restored to good health which I have enjoyed ever since.

A. B. BOCH, Decatur, Ind.

Sold at all druggists on positive guarantee. Write for free advice and booklet to Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

CATARRH

AVOID drying inhalants, cleanses, and harsh remedies. ELY'S CREAM BALM is such a remedy. CATARRH is quickly absorbed. It opens and cleanses the nasal passages. Heals and protects the membrane. Restores the mucous membrane. Family Size, \$1.00 at Druggists or by mail. ELY BROTHERS, 56 Warren Street, New York.

BLOOD POISON

PERMANENTLY CURED. You can be treated at home under same guarantee. If you have taken mercury, iodine, potash, and still have sores and pimples, eruptions, itching, and other skin troubles, write for circulars. Correspondence confidential. THE HEALTH APPELLING CO. 1000 17-18 State Street, Boston, Mass.

Table listing names and addresses of various professionals and businesses in the community, including lawyers, doctors, and merchants.

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