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Paying her Own Way Through College What the Girl Student Does to Earn the Money

THE careers of successful men often show that they have obtained their education by their own efforts. But one is not to overlook the fact that many girls, determined to secure advanced education at any cost, "work their way" through high institutions of learning. Indeed, the number is in the thousands.

At most of the colleges where young women are trained for life work—at Nazare, Smith, Barnard, Mount Holyoke, Oberlin, Wellesley, and even Radcliffe, the feminine adjunct of Harvard—ambitious pupils of limited means

add to their resources by turning their talents to commercial advantage.

At some places these enterprising girls are not above cleaning boots; they add to their limited capital by housework, by sewing for wealthier pupils, by darning and mending, by tutoring, instructing dancing classes, making candies for sale, renting bicycles and by doing a hundred and one other things that appeal to the average girl of resourcefulness.

It is a healthy commentary upon the spirit of modern civilization that these commendable efforts upon the part of poor girls to help themselves are regarded in the right light. Such girls are respected, rather than shunned.

First, then, a woman will, or won't, depend on 't.
If she will do 't, she will, and there's an end on 't.—SHIL.

"JUST leave your shoes outside the door and I will polish them for you," said a senior at a well-known woman's college to a wealthy young freshman at the beginning of the term.

The newcomer was somewhat startled. She wanted to have her shoes polished, but she fancied a janitor would be around to do the work. Instead, here was a fine-looking, self-respecting school-mate offering to polish her shoes.

As she became better acquainted with college life and conditions, the younger girl ceased to regard the offer made by her senior as remarkable. She found a number of girls in the school who were adding to their finances by selling their talents or their labor.

She found, too, that such girls were as highly respected by their comrades as the petted daughter of a millionaire—in many instances more so.

So little, in fact, does the aristocracy of wealth hold at most such institutions, that an incident at Wellesley may be cited as an illustration.

It is stated that a college bootblack there—she was one of the best pupils in school—one day found herself overwhelmed with commissions.

Her roommate, a wealthy girl, who, doubtless, had never shined her own shoes in her life, rolled up her sleeves, pitched in to help, and never ceased plying the polishing brush until

the last shoe was cleaned and shining.

Then the two girls washed their hands and went merrily together to a college entertainment.

It is estimated that at least fifty girls of Vassar earn their own living, or, at least, add largely to limited resources. In fact, some do such thriving businesses that not only do they make their way through college, but have substantial sums left at the end of each school year.

Several girls tutor their rich sisters; others began making peek-a-boo shirtwaists when that particular type of garment first came into vogue. They reaped quite a harvest.

A number of students own bicycles, and they post notices on a big bulletin board in one of the corridors, along with other advertisements, announcing that the wheels are for rent by the hour. Quite a nice little revenue is derived in this way.

Two young women have built up a paying business through their expertness in making a tasty apple custard.

These young women tried their wares when they first came to college, and soon there was a great demand for them. Now stands in front of their rooms are laden with these delicacies, and the girls, as they pass by, take a cup and leave a dime.

Several dollars a day find their way into the pocketbooks of the young caterers. Vassar has a large room provided with stoves, tables and utensils for cooking and making candy. A great many girls manufacture confections there

—especially fudge. This is on sale at stated places and nets the makers considerable profit.

The richer girls seem to appreciate the efforts of their less fortunate classmates, and many a time twice the price of an article is paid.

No girl has ever been known to lose caste in Vassar through her efforts to pay her way, but rather she becomes a favorite with her classmates. All who are thus employed have high standing in their work.

Some years ago a visitor at Vassar found in the senior class alone twenty-five girls who had thus helped themselves through school, while a large number of others were scattered through the lower classes.

The college itself, it was learned, had several positions to offer which gave some remuneration. Two girls had charge of the institution's postoffice, and several others distributed mail through the corridors. One was caretaker of the chapel, another kept the hall and parlors supplied with flowers; still others worked in the library.

Those of artistic tastes or practical endowments made money by painting dinner cards, calendars, valentines and other such seasonable articles; some derived a revenue from knitting slippers and golf jackets, others by making gymnasium suits.

As the college is some distance from the town a number of girls pick up handy additional revenue by acting as agents for merchants. They sell candy, lace collars, ribbon, and even room furnishings.

Mount Holyoke girls seem to acquire thriftiness from the brisk New England air that they breathe. During the summer vacations, many of them work to replenish their purses for the coming season. Some act as waitresses at mountain and seaside hotels during the summer. Girls at Mount Holyoke are agents for pub-

lishing houses, and magazines, and occasionally for manufacturers of gloves, corsets and such things.

It is stated, however, that most of them take up these side lines more in order to secure pin money than for the purpose of paying their scholastic way.

Domestic work is incumbent upon the girls at Mount Holyoke. This system is a survival of the days when higher education for women was in its infancy, and when any financial concession would prove of value to the mass of students. Consequently, instead of keeping a regiment of servants, the pupils themselves were required to do a considerable part of the house-keeping work.

Students act as housemaids and waitresses, and none escapes her share of domestic service. But the tax on each girl's time is small—the limit is fifty minutes a day, but most of them get through in much less.

In a way, this is working a career through college, as the result means that the expenses of each student are thus reduced by from \$100 to \$150 a year. The wealthy girl is treated exactly like her poorer schoolmate.

Students at Barnard College—the sister of Columbia—are continually attempting to solve the problem of getting through the higher school on a slender purse. In some instances

they are successful; in others, they at least earn pin money.

A students' exchange here looks out for the interests of such girls. Sometimes paying positions are obtained outside, but most of those who earn money are enabled to do so within the college.

Tutoring backward students is a principal source of revenue. This pays a dollar an hour to the student-teacher, and helps to swell the assets of many an upper class woman.

Barnard has a large sweet tooth, and filling it brings revenue to industrious cake and candy makers.

Sweetmeats usually find ready sale. Many girls do plain or fancy sewing for their classmates. Others sell stationery, pencils, fountain pens and other articles.

Some girls are fortunate enough to have clerical positions downtown in New York, which they fill after school hours. A few do light sewing for families, and others spend their afternoons or evenings reading to invalids or acting as companions.

One girl supported herself entirely during her senior year by such outside work. She held a scholarship, so that there was no tuition to pay.

She obtained some light clerical work, taught a small dancing class of girls in the evening and during leisure moments made candy for sale in the college exchange.

Girls of Smith College, Northampton, Mass., are especially resourceful in padding out slender assets by tactful business enterprises. Some time ago one of the graduates of this institution submitted to a friend her account book for a year. Upon the income side were items as

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