

Literary.

(ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.)

SONG OF THE MYSTIC.

In the hush of the Valley of Silence
I dream all the songs that I sing;
And the music floats down the dim Valley,
Till each finds a word for a wing,
That to hearts, like the Dove of the Deluge,
A message of Peace they may bring.
But far on the deep there are billows
That never shall break on the beach;
And I have heard songs in the Silence
That never shall float into speech;
And I have had dreams in the Valley
Too lofty for language to reach.
And I have seen Thoughts in the Valley—
Ah, me! how my spirit was stirred!
And they wear holy veils on their faces,
Their footsteps can scarcely be heard:
They pass through the Valley like Virgins,
Too pure for the touch of a word!
Do you ask me the place of the Valley,
Ye hearts that are harrowed by Care?
It lieth afar between mountains,
And God and His angels are there;
And one is the dark mount of Sorrow,
And one the bright mountain of Prayer!

A woman's strength is most potent
When robed in gentleness.

The habit of always looking on the
bright side of every thing is a good one.
Fiction, like food, should be let alone
unless plain, fresh, clean and neatly
served.

Our bravest lessons are not learned
through success, but through misadventure.

Let our lives be pure as snow-fields,
where our footsteps leave a mark, but
not a stain.

The generality of men have, like
plants, latent qualities which change
brings to light.

The fortunate circumstances of our life
are generally found to be of our own
producing.

Happiness is not a reward—it is a
consequence. Suffering is not a punishment—it is a result.

Some people never find out that, an
opportunity is an opportunity until it
has turned the next corner.

Talent is a great thing, and true genius
may be greater, but perseverance
sometimes beats both of them.

Endeavor with greater zeal to guard
against and conquer those vices which
most frequently annoy thee in others.

If you would form a wise judgment of
the future of a nation, observe especially
what qualities count for most in public
life.

Light is above us and color surrounds
us; but if we have not light and color in
our eyes, we shall not see them outside
us.

You find yourself refreshed by the
presence of cheerful people; why not
make an earnest effort to confer that
pleasure on others?

Fate is not merciful, but she is exactly
just and it is seldom that one can lavish
exclusively mercy upon one individual
without robbing another of simple justice.

Observe in every direction. Keep your
eyes open. Go forward, understanding
that the world was made for your knowledge,
that you are to enter into it and
possess it.

If actions had no consequences there
would be neither good nor bad. Consequences
are the standard by which actions
are judged. They are the children
that testify as to the real character of
their parents.

The people generally push a man the
way he makes up his mind to go. If
going up, they push him up; if going
down, they push him down—gravitation
however, making the speed greater on
the decline.

Without self-sacrifice there can be no
blessedness, neither on earth nor in
heaven. He that loveth his life will
lose it. He that hateth his life in this

paltry, selfish, luxurious, hypocritical
world shall keep it unto life eternal.

There is very little satisfaction to be
got from lending a book. David Garrick
engraved on his book-plate, beside a bust
of Shakespeare, a French motto, which
is thus translated: "The first thing one
ought to do, when one has borrowed a
book, is to read it, in order to be able to
return it the sooner to its lawful owner."
But the borrower is so minded that the
last thing he thinks of is to read a borrowed book, and the penultimate subject of his reflections is its restoration.

The least complicated and shortest
rule of morals is this: Get others to
work for you as little as possible and
work yourself as much as possible for
them; make the fewest calls upon the
services of your neighbors and render
them the maximum number of services
yourself. The observance of this rule
gives coherence to our acts, imparts a
meaning to our lives, confers a blessing
on our persons, solves all doubts and
difficulties that perplex us, and causes
all the factors of our existence, including
intellectual activity, science and art,
to fall naturally into their proper places.

Every man has (to him) the labor of
Hercules to perform. Do not think
yours is the hardest of all troubles, and
when you fail be not too sure there is no
fault of your own; examine the matter
well, as cause and effect are not always
so closely allied that you can at once discover
their connection. Success is like
the robbers' cavern in The Forty
Thieves; there is only one key that will
open it—perseverance. Let nothing daunt
you, and if really in earnest and resolved
to conquer you must win. Allow no
such word as failure; the man who has
such an idea in his head must fail. It
is a painful fact, but there is no denying
it, the mass are the tools of circumstance,
lacking perseverance; they are like
thistle down on the breeze, and
straw on the river—their course is shaped
for them by the currents and eddies
of the streams of life. Youth should
never despair, when life is but beginning.
Perhaps while they are lying
warm and dark in their cocoons, the
butterflies think that life would be bleak
without that shelter; yet see how happily
they flutter in sunshine, when the
poor old husk is decayed and forgotten.
To the persevering man nothing is difficult.

Love not only wants to serve, but love
will find a way of serving. Love is not
perfected until it has persevered and
planned and changed its ways of working
indefinitely, to secure success in its
purpose of helping the loved one. It
may be that one can better be helped by
indirect suggestions than by plain-spoken
counsel. Finding this to be so, the
loving one will avoid directness of
speech in the line of sound advice, and
will work with tact and caution and
considerateness, so as to help the other
without disturbing him. It may be,
again, that the positive and earnest
advocacy of a truth in discussion between
two friends tends to set all the firmer
against it the one who would like to
learn the merits of that question, but
who cannot be thought in that way. In
such a case the positive and earnest
man will curb himself in the expression
of his convictions to the friend whom he
loves, lest he so jar upon him as to prevent
his gaining the good of a discussion
which is to be desired from it. It is not
enough to say that both parties ought to
study each other's ways, and come to a
common standard of fairness—he who
truly loves will be glad to go over to the
other's standpoint of thought and feeling
in order to help him, instead of
claiming the right to be met halfway.
Love is more than willing to do all that
is needed on both sides in a friendship,
and true love will find a way of doing it;
for it is a necessity of love to be the
mother of invention in the proof and expression
of its all-prevailing potency.

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