

shadowy and mysterious the old grey church looked in the moonlight; and how much taller and grimmer the tombstones appeared to-night than they did in the daytime! And why was it that the figure on the old monument—the figure of the knight in armour—seemed to be pointing with his extended arm at her, and at nothing else?

Ella redoubled her speed, for most certainly none of these were comfortable, reassuring ideas and fancies.

Ella had gone about half way through the churchyard, when all at once she stopped; her heart began to beat so violently that she could not go on; her eyes wide open, and with a look of extreme terror in them, fixed themselves on a distant corner of the sacred enclosure, the corner where Bessie Bryant's grave was. Was there not a white object there, a something that glimmered pale and ghost-like in the moonshine? There were never any sheep, she knew, allowed in the neatly kept churchyard; what could it be? She had hardly had time to frame this question in her very uneasy mind, when the object began to move, and she saw, to her dismay, that it looked like a tall form in human shape, and yet in no earthly garb. The apparition was clothed in loose, white robes, that waved in the night breeze, and shimmered dimly in the uncertain light. It glided across the grass until it reached the main walk through the churchyard, and passed out through the gate opposite to the one by which Ella had entered.

Ella's blood was literally chilled with horror as, in overpowering fear, that was too excessive to allow of her even giving vent to it with a cry, she watched it. She did not exactly believe in ghosts, but like many people she had a vague, unreasoning dread of the supernatural; and besides, her mental powers were never of the strongest, never resolute to overcome any sudden impression. When the spectre had passed out of sight, however, her spell-bound limbs resumed their faculties of movement, and with a desperate effort she hastened on; anything seemed better than remaining longer alone in that fearful, solitary place. She made her trembling way to the gate, and turned into the road beyond; but what was her terror when she saw the apparition moving on a little distance in front of her.

Again fear chained her feet to the ground where she stood; the whole moonlit landscape on each side seemed to be whirling round her; but still her eyes were fastened on that mysterious form. At length it reached the Bryants' cottage, where it passed through the door, and thus vanished from her sight.

A terrible notion now got possession of poor Ella: she must have seen Bessie's ghost: the drops of cold anguish stood on her forehead, the very power of thought forsook her; with feet that now seemed to be winged, she flew down the road and up the avenue. Soon after that Mr. Lindhurst, Miss Nancy, Mrs. Tredwell, the housekeeper, and the whole bevy of servants were standing in the hall of the Priory, with faces of blank

consternation, around Miss Ringwood, who lay there insensible. She had fainted with sheer terror the moment she entered the house, and before she could speak a word of explanation.

(To be continued.)

HELP FOR STUDY AT HOME.



LADY, who is probably the best woman Greek scholar in England, when generously helping an effort now being made to raise a college for women in London, said to me, "I am so glad to help, and to try and make it easy for girls to study. I look back with pity on my own youth; I had a pining, a longing after knowledge, which it was then hard indeed to satisfy. I am very pleased girls have now such opportunities for self-improvement."

In London and our large towns facilities for higher education abound and increase. Still in small towns and villages and in remote country places there are many girls with the hunger for knowledge, and scant means for gratifying it: no living teacher; in these hard times, it may be, no money to pay for lessons, could they be had, and but little to spare for books. It is for such girls that the Christian Women's Education Union has begun this year a students' branch, to assist by means of correspondence those whose schoolroom days are over, and who are anxious to carry on their studies.

Members of the students' branch will be expected to work at least six hours a week, which may be divided into periods of not less than half an hour each of uninterrupted study. In addition to this, half an hour is to be given daily to the Scriptures. The only subject prescribed is this. Only those who have tried it know what a blessing a thorough and systematic study of the Bible is, not merely a desultory reading through a chapter every day, but an earnest, reverent endeavour to grasp its meaning. Books to elucidate the Scriptures are numerous and not costly.

Members will be encouraged to avail themselves of the help given by the various University examinations, now open to women, or they may select one or more of the following subjects:—

English Language.	French.	Mathematics.
English Literature.	German.	
Greek.	History.	
Latin.	Physical Geography.	

Once a quarter accounts of studies and lists of books read are to be sent in, and members will receive in return comments upon work done, and suggestions for continuing it. They are invited to mention all difficulties met with either then or as they arise. The student's year to consist of forty weeks, so that plenty of time will be left for holidays.

Members will be asked to pay 1s. a year towards the expenses of postage, &c. All communications to be addressed to Miss Petrie, Hanover Lodge, Kensington Park, London, W. The women who have undertaken this work are no fancy students; they have proved themselves fit to teach others by hard study and good success at the Universities. For instance, the one who overlooks the Latin and

Greek has lately passed the classical tripos at Cambridge; the one who undertakes English language and literature is an undergraduate of University College, where she has won the first prizes for those subjects.

In conclusion, one word may be added as to the inestimable value of these early years of study, when the mind is full of vigour and enthusiasm, and there is little to oppress or distract. When middle life comes, with its manifold occupations and cares, one duty treads on another's heels, till the day is not nearly long enough for all. However great, then, the opportunities, time fails, and, like bees in winter, the mind must subsist on the stored treasures of life's spring and summer.

F. E. W.

A GOOD DAUGHTER.



R. CARLYLE, in his recollections of Mrs. Carlyle, daughter of the Haddington physician, says:—

"She always spoke of her mother with deep affection and great admiration. She

said she was so noble and generous that no one ever came near her without being the better. She used to make beautiful presents by saving upon herself,—she economised upon herself to be generous to others; and no one ever served her in the least without experiencing her generosity. She was almost as charming and as much adored as her daughter.

"Of her father she always spoke with reverence; he was the only person who had any real influence over her. But, however wilful or indulged she might be, obedience to her parents—unquestioning and absolute—lay at the foundation of her life. She was accustomed to say that this habit of obedience to her parents was her salvation through life—that she owed all that was of value in her character to this habit as the foundation. Her father, from what she told me, was a man of strong and noble character—very true, and hating all that was false. She always spoke of any praise he gave her as of a precious possession. She loved him with a deep reverence; and she never spoke of him except to friends whom she valued. It was the highest token of her regard when she told anyone about her father. She told me that once he was summoned to go a sudden journey to see a patient; and he took her with him. It was the greatest favour and pleasure she had ever had. They travelled at night, and were to start for their return by a very early hour in the morning. She used to speak of this journey as something that made her perfectly happy; and during that journey her father told her that her conduct and character satisfied him. It was not often he praised her, and this unreserved flow of communication was very precious to her. Whilst he went to the sick person, she was sent to bed until it should be time to return. She had his watch that she might know the time. When the chaise came round the landlady brought her some tea, but she was in such haste not to keep him waiting that she forgot the watch; and they had to return several miles to fetch it! This was the last time she was with her father; a few days afterwards he fell ill of typhus fever, and would not allow her to come into the room. She made her way once to him, and he sent her away. He died of this illness, and it was the very greatest sorrow she ever experienced."

with a lighter heart when she looked up at him with her eyes shining with happiness, and a tinge of colour in her face.

"Our son is growing quite a big boy, Alick," she would say, as Reggie stumped up to them with a headless doll in his arms, and she had always some little speech or anecdote to relate, to which he would listen patiently. She might talk about the children as much as she liked, but when she spoke to him of his work, he would refuse to answer.

"Never mind my work, Violet," I heard him say once. "I want my wife downstairs again; that is a subject closer to my heart." And I believed

him. No work, no ambition could have replaced her; with all his faults she was the dearest thing to him in life.

I think all this made her very happy, for there was always such a contented look on her face; so no wonder she grew better and stronger.

"I think illness teaches one to value one's blessings more," she said to me one Sunday evening, when the children were in bed, and I was still sitting with her. "I am afraid I have been very discontented, and have wanted my own way about things. I used to long for a quiet country life. No, I never said so," as I seemed inclined to interrupt her, "but the wish grew almost morbid.

Perhaps my long rest has done me good, but I do not feel a bit afraid now; I don't think I shall feel so tired over it again. I see it is the place Providence has intended for me, and by-and-by I shall have a longer rest still."

I saw what she meant; life was strong within her, and she did not believe she should die; she was only girding herself for the daily struggle, making up her mind to fill her place nobly. But I knew she had no need to dread the future; her husband's strong arm would interpose between her and any great difficulties; she would not sink again because her day's work was too heavy for her.

(To be continued.)

THE STUDENTS' BRANCH OF THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S EDUCATION UNION.

READERS OF THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER have often been referred to an article called "Help for Study at Home," which appeared in these pages on June 18th, 1881. It was written by a member of the Christian Women's Education Union, and gave an account of the newly-formed Students' Branch of that well-known society.

The time has now come for replacing it by a newer record. What I with two friends had then started on a modest scale (for I was only beginning my own college career in those days) to help three or four girls in an informal way has since grown into an organisation of which we little dreamed. Nearly eleven hundred students have been entered in the members' book, and sixty-five friends have co-operated with me in the work.

Let me first speak of our purpose, and then of our plans.

Many and varied are the opportunities that women now have for getting a good education. Not only is the number of first-rate schools growing fast; fresh means are also continually devised for enabling us to build upon the foundations laid in the schoolroom.

Of the three great English universities, one, the University of London, has thrown open its degrees to women without restriction, and Oxford and Cambridge have taken the first steps in the same direction.

Colleges such as Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville Hall, Oxford, and Girton and Newnham Colleges, Cambridge, and the College at Westfield, Hampstead, for the London degree, have been founded.

For those who cannot go to college there are public examinations to read for at home, and classes and courses of lectures to help forward study that is undertaken either from a desire to be well equipped for teaching others, or from a desire to gain more of the "knowledge that step by step may lead us on to wisdom."

But for many girls all this is out of the question. Their means are small, or their homes are in remote places, or their time and thoughts are much occupied with domestic duties and domestic cares. They resolve, nevertheless, that in the interval between the set work of the schoolroom and the actual work of life they will not lose what they have already gained. So they choose a subject, and find some books, dull and old-fashioned, confused and superficial maybe, upon that subject, and plan to give a certain time every day to reading.

Those who are very resolute, very studious, very fortunate in outward circumstances and sympathising friends, persevere and enjoy, and

grow up into intelligent and well-informed women.

Others who begin equally well falter after awhile, discouraged and disappointed. The books are difficult; there is no one to whom they can appeal for explanations; working alone, when no one else cares or even knows about the work, is very dreary; interruptions break up the appointed time, and private study comes last of all in the day's duties, for nothing from without binds to it. They arrive then at the sad conclusion that "it is all very well for those who are clever," but for them "it is no use."

These are exactly the girls whom the Students' Branch tries to help before they go on to conclude that study is neither interesting nor repaying, and cannot therefore be necessary for them. It offers guidance as to books, and then as to ways of reading them, companionship with others in study, and constant intercourse with a teacher who has made the subject her own, and has in most cases been distinguished in it at the university. Finally, there are rules providing the "must" that is so different in its results from the "may" of our solitary schemes.

Such is our purpose. I will now speak of our plans for carrying out that purpose.

All our instruction is given by means of correspondence. The teachers are almost as widely scattered as their pupils, and the classes form a sort of "college by post." Who may join? How do they join? And what happens when they have joined? No one is admitted who is already receiving regular instruction at home or at school. No one is admitted who is under sixteen years of age. Only those are admitted who mean to abide by the rules.

Students may join either as Members or as Associates. Both are expected to belong to a Scripture class, and to give half an hour every day to the regular study of the Bible. God's Book comes first on our list; for what is other learning worth apart from knowledge of "the sacred writings which are able to make us wise unto salvation"?

The Scripture classes are in the four following groups, since our aim is to follow out rather than to supersede existing organisations for Bible reading.

- (a) Members of the Bible and Prayer Union.
- (b) Members of the Christian Progress Union.
- (c) Members of the Young Women's Christian Association.
- (d) Readers of the Daily Lessons of the Church of England.

Girls whose other opportunities for secular instruction make them independent of our aid, and girls whose home duties are so numerous that they could not set apart time for secular study, are invited to become Associates.

Members also belong to one or more of the other classes, and give at least six hours a week to reading in connection with them. The following are the subjects taught:—

1. English Language and Composition.
2. English History and Literature.
3. Greek.
4. Latin.
5. Arithmetic.
6. Mathematics.
7. French.
8. German.
9. Physical Geography.
10. Church History.
11. Christian Evidences.
12. Political Economy.
13. Botany.

The three terms begin February 1st, June 1st, and October 1st. New students are admitted three times in the year, viz., early in January, May, and September. After applying to me in accordance with the rules, they receive a card of membership, and are put into communication with the ladies whose classes they wish to join. From them they receive a plan of work for the term, suggestions for carrying out that plan, and, further on, an examination-paper. They are welcome to ask questions on difficulties as they arise, and at the end of the term they send in a report of what they have done. Occasional papers of a general kind are issued by me, addressed to all the students. There are no fees, but students pay a trifling subscription towards expenses of postage and printing.

Application for a copy of the rules should be made to me, enclosing a stamped envelope; and I can assure my readers that it is a real happiness to us to lead others out of the dull monotony or empty amusement that too often deadens a girl's life, into some of those paths of intellectual and spiritual effort that we have ourselves found so pleasant.

I have only described that branch of the C.W.E.U. which I was asked to organise. Information as to its work in schools, etc., may be had from its founder, Miss Cavendish, Addlestone, Weybridge. Its object, throughout, is to bring Christian influence to bear upon the higher education of women, and to raise the intellectual standard of education avowedly religious.

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