

WHEN IS A WOMAN OLD?

This query on my mirror hung: "When is a woman old?" It clings to me and long has hung. The answer must be told.

Alas, some are old before half way, And some are never old. For these but laugh life's cares away, While those both fret and scold.

And yet it is no easy task, However well controlled, To answer one, if she should ask, "When is a woman old?"

The graceful ones are still young, And those alone are old Who try to make themselves look young When age has taken hold.

The oldest ones of all the old Are those who would look young, For they will always feel and soild When age's sign is hung.

The old in years who live among Those younger in their hearts Will find themselves remaining young Long after youth departs.

As long as women cling to youth And dread their olden age, They never can be old, for youth, Their youth fills up the page.

Yes, some are old before their time— Old age usurps their youth— And some are young beyond their prime Unless they hide the truth.

THACKERAY'S MOTHER.

It was the mother's influence that remained with Thackeray through life. Divided by half the world, the child clung to her memory, the separation was followed by years of tender remembrance, which ended only with his death.

LIFE'S LITTLE DAYS.

One secret of a sweet and happy Christian life is learning to live by the day. It is the long stretches that tire us. We think of life as a whole, running on for us. We cannot carry this load until we are three score and ten.

A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE.

Father of all, graciously look upon us as a family now seeking to behold thy face. As the morning light is thine, so the blessing of the whole day must come from thee. Guide us with thine eye, we humbly pray thee, and give thine angelic charge concerning us, lest at any time we dash our feet against a stone.

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Forty Creeds Will Not Make Him A Nobleman In The Sight Of God.

(S. Y. Herald.)

The Price of wisdom is always raised— Job, xxxiii, 16. We no sooner hear that a man has died than we ask, How much was he worth?

The answer to that question depends on who gives it, and on the standpoint from which the man's career is observed or criticized.

If you or I were to give it we should probably have special reference to his financial condition. This is neither a natural nor improper. Money, when its aggregate assumes large proportions, indicates qualities of character which are necessary to the progress of the world.

I am not inclined to depreciate the pursuit of wealth, for in a certain broad sense the happiness of mankind is mixed up with our love of money. The rivalries of commerce are the mother of invention, one of the corner stones on which are reared the splendid institutions which are a blessing to all classes alike.

Destroy all love of money and we should revert to barbarism. One of our chief incentives would be lost. Curb the love of money, injure into it that sense of personal honor which disdains trickery and upholds honesty in all transactions, and you stand as close to the millennium as human nature is likely to get for many a cycle to come.

But in admitting this I am not to forget that man is both a mortal and an immortal being. If he were merely mortal he might find some plausible excuse for neglecting more important matters and devoting himself exclusively to what gives him pleasure here and now.

When, therefore, I ask an angel what a man's worth I am rather startled by his answer. He tells me that we are all worth what we can take with us into the next life—no more, no less. No man is worth a million dollars ten minutes after his death.

When a man's feet pass the silver shroud, therefore, he is to be reckoned as worth his qualities of character, for nothing else counts to his advantage. If he is studious, true, loyal, noble in soul, he is rich, whatever his previous condition has been, and if he is grasping, self-seeking, covetous or avaricious, and without distinction in soul, he is a very poor man.

His position in the next world will be dependent on his ability to draw a large check in this world. The wealth of heaven consists of high thoughts, holy aspirations and memory of good deeds. If he possesses that kind of wealth he will be all right there, as he is all right here.

It does not possess it, he is all wrong here and he will be all wrong there. Forty creeds will not make him a nobleman in the sight of the Lord. Believing is nothing more than the plan of the house, but doing is building the house.

The whole matter can be summed up in a few words. Christ's purpose was to teach you certain principles on which to base a character. What He requires of you is the character, which is your life work, and not simply an enumeration of its principles, which is merely your creed.

Your money is a side issue; your character is the important thing. A man may make money, but he must leave it. If he makes character he takes it with him. Money perishes; character is immortal.— George H. Hepworth.

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