



Gratia A. Countryman and Family Papers.

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Given May 19 - 1922

At Langnet 3

Y.W.C.A. conducting
class.

I feel honored with the opportunity-
to talk to women who have
taken time out of their busy lives
for the growth of their minds + spirits.

Material things press us so
closely these days, that it takes
Real self denial to follow our
ambitions - ^{and suppress the underlying things} I feel sure that you
have had to exercise such self denial.
I am an enthusiast over gardening.
This spring I noticed that some of
our tulip bulbs had been planted
too deep - and while the most of them
were proudly blooming, these others
were barely above ground in time to
bloom, but the put forth their blossoms
right down next to the ground.

One year our crocuses ~~bloomed~~ came
up through the ice and bloomed with

② the ice thick around their feet.

The tulips and crocuses were determined to add their beauty and fragrance to the spring, it was their ambition to fulfill themselves

Even under adverse circumstances. =
My Fredrick suggests that

~~How~~ many of the games we played as children were symbolic of the efforts we still must make

"Tag" that heated chasing after things hard to catch. "I spy", that diligent searching after things hard to find. "Puss" wants a corner, that competitive struggle for positions too few in number to supply the demand.

Ambition and persistence effort

May I be personal here, and pay a tribute to my parents. My father & mother were pioneers into this country in the early fifties. Father had been

③. obliged to leave College and travel
up here with his little family because
of hemorrhages of the lungs. He
took up a ~~Romantic~~ and settled
down to an outdoor life. In winter
he caught ice where mother watched
him out of sight to see that he did
not lie down in the snow with a
hemorrhage. But the Minnesota
climate cured him, and ten years
after he was married, mother
stayed on the farm with three little
children, and Indians as frequent
callers, while father at intervals went
to college until he completed his course,
where he worked so hard to get, and
what mother sacrificed so much to give
him, they were determined to have
for their children. So when my
brothers were nearly ready to go to college, I
remember very well as a little girl the
family Council when father said if we
could deny ourselves and live on so much
per day, he could send the boys away to school.

4) Economy meant nothing to me then - a child is happy with simple things, but I know now what a simpler home we had so that the boys could go to college. So father + mother gave us, the best thing they could - an education - No they gave us a bigger thing, an example of ~~ambition~~ big ambitions accomplished through effort and self denial

Why this effort - Why are you willing to sacrifice time, material pleasures to study. Because there is in each of the instinct of growth just as there was in our tulips, The mind and heart reaches after the sun and air.

Sometimes these days one doubts that there are ambitious hearts beating beneath the vapid empty painted faces that one passes continually on the streets. But I think there is. It is only

6 They remind me of something else
that grows in my garden - and
which seem to grow better, faster
and more luxuriant than anything
else - ~~dandelion~~ weeds, ~~dandelions~~
They add neither fragrance nor pleasure
But they plant themselves and grow
and grow -

6 1/2 Yes - Ambition, effort - growth
is a universal instinct, and you
and I who have ^{latter} ~~had~~ our efforts
directed ^{toward better things} and who realize that it
takes self denial and a vision
to go in the right direction
to work for worth while ambitions,
must see both feet against the
shallowness of these times and
Trace Hard. These are dangerous
times, we are rushed headlong
at a pace that kills, no time
to think - speed - speed. We
must Trace Hard against it, or
it will overwhelm us and destroy
our vision of the larger life.
- Open free, growing, blossoming life.
No more stimulating words
were ever spoken than those
words of Jesus Christ, "Seek
ye the truth" for the truth shall
make you free". I love those

⑦ words. The truth shall make
you free". The truth - the things
that are, God's nature, man's
experience, the knowledge of the
forces around us - truth enlarges
one's outlook as if one stood on
a hill. Truth frees from the
petty, from binding chains of tradition.
Truth gives us an open mind, a
listening ear - "I will incline mine
ear" says the psalmist "He that
incline mine ear morning by morning to hear
as a learner". Ho, Every one that
thirsteth, Come" or from Shakespeare
Fruit 'longues in tree -

Yes, one studies anything & everything
to free one's powers, for a vision
of the larger life, for the
attitude of ~~some~~ - to throw off

8.) the arrogance & ignorance.

There is no self denial too great
to attain the sincere responsive
mind, which can appropriate
life's lessons patiently, ~~and~~

One day I asked Dr. Hosmer
who is too blind to read for himself
what he did when there was
no one to read to him, oh, he
said I learned much poetry when
I was young, and I repeat that to
myself, and I think over the lives of
great men and their deeds -

A mind which has sought truth
and now abides free from worry
from complaint, ~~from~~ in the rare
atmosphere of truth.

But it is not done without
self denying effort - If you have
caught the vision - follow it.

9) Once there was a painter, who
painted his picture with a wonderful
Red glow, and other artists said
Where does he get his colour from,
and they bought costly pigments
but they faded, and they read from
rare old books, ~~but these~~ and made
colours from old & forgotten recipes
but their colours had not the glow.

But the painter's picture on, his
work grew richer and more glowing
but he got whiter & whiter, and
~~when~~ one day they found him dead
before his richest picture. They
hunted for his pots & crucibles, but
they found no pigment - which they
had not.

But when they ~~de~~ undressed
him for his burial, they found
~~the~~ a wound above his left breast.
~~His life blood was into his wound~~
The people were asked - Where did
he get his colour from - but his work ^{was} ~~was~~