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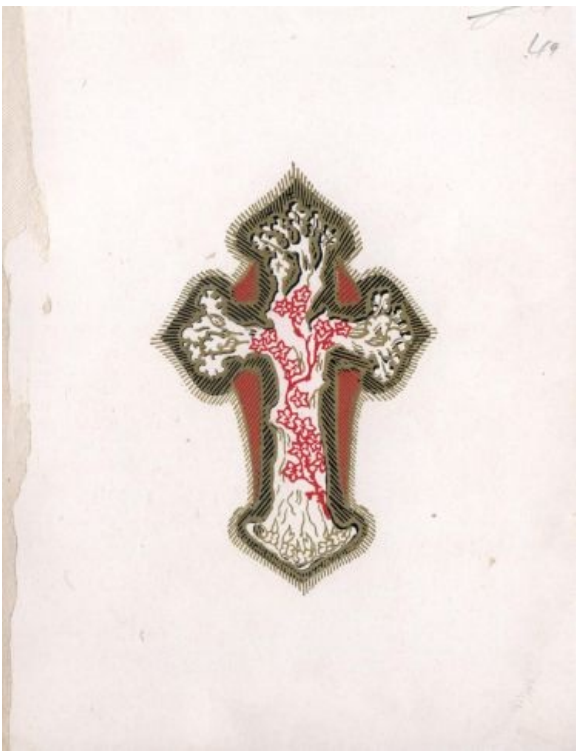
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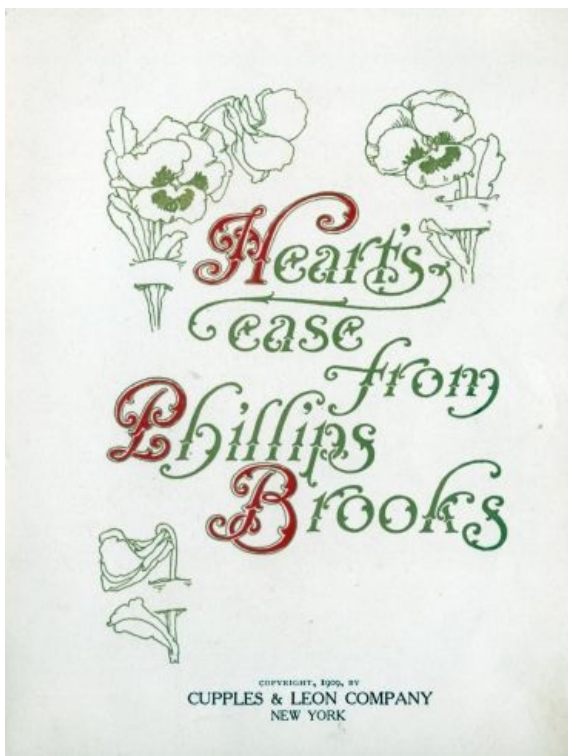
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EBOOK HEART'S-EASE ***







**Heart's-ease
from
Phillips Brooks**

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Happiness is perfectly hollow unless there is a meaning behind it, unless it tells of intention somewhere, unless it means love. "Eat and drink and be merry" is not the end of it all.

Whoever, by a Christian word he speaks or
by
a Christian life he lives, brings a new soul to
see
the perfect life and take the perfect grace,
has
poured out of his full hands a blessing on his
brother that leaves utterly out of sight any
gift
that riches can bestow on poverty.



We want a faith, a truth, a grace to help
us *now*, ... and we can have it. One
who was man, yet mightier than man,
has walked the vale before us.

Every attempt to do right has a tendency to
reveal to us more spiritual ways of doing right,
and our need of spiritual helps in doing it.

The thought of life is like that untouched line
we call the "sky," but which, when we try to
reach it, proves to be not one single line, but an
infinite depth ... stored with what strange uses
and benefactions we dare not say.

Some men's faith only makes
itself visible; other men's lightens
everything within its reach.

There is positive proof
in the single sunbeam of
the existence of the sun.



Strike God's iron on the anvil, see
God's goods across the counter, put
God's wealth in circulation, teach
God's children in the school,—so shall
the dust of your labor build itself into
a little sanctuary where you and God may dwell
together.

Make truth your friend and guide in all your
hourly business,—truth of plan, and purpose,
and labor... Whoever will not bow before this
monarch you have crowned, let him be rebel to
you.

If you are not spiritually minded, do not wait
for mysterious light and vision. Go and give up
your dearest sin. Go and do what is right. Go
and put yourself thoroughly into the power of
the holiness of duty.

All the world is an utterance of the Almighty.

It seems so far off,
that Cross of Jesus, and
it really is so near! For
it is lifted up so high that
the waves of time roll
unheeded and unmeaning
at its foot. It is the
power of perfection for us
to-day.

Each high achievement is a sign and token of the whole nature's possibility. What a piece of the man was for that shining moment, it is the duty of the whole man to be always.

May we not daily tread the same paths of holiness and sorrow, joy and love, that Christ has trodden, and see His footsteps on them still?

Even if you have to force yourself to your duty, —still, *do it*. Do your duty, even if duty be wearisome and hard, for then you are in the place where it can become joyous and easy to you.

We must answer for our actions; God will answer for our powers.



Some day certainly the fog shall rise, the clouds shall scatter, and in the perfect enlightenment of the other life the soul shall see its Lord, and be thankful for every darkest step that we took towards Him here.

Devotion is like the candle which Michael Angelo used to carry stuck on his forehead in a paste-board cap, and which kept his own shadow from being cast upon his work when he

was hewing out his statues.

David's pilgrims, going through the vale of misery, "use it for a well." ... When they grew thirsty they looked not merely farther on into the heart of the future, but deeper down into the bosom of the present.

The sense of evil in life does not *deny*, but implies the noblest capacities in men.



an must be a ray of the great sunshine under whose touch some special flower may open, and some special fruit fill itself with healthy and nutritious juice, some little corner of the field grow rich.

Any honest task is capable of being so largely conceived that he who enters into it may see, stretching before him, the promise of things to do and be, that will stir his enthusiasm and satisfy his best desires.

Your life cannot be frivolous or vulgar unless you are frivolous or vulgar. He who complains of his circumstances really complains of himself, and is his own accuser.

God is as willing that you should read your lesson in the sunlight as in the storm.

Heaven at last
will be the perfect
sight of Christ.

A life with no intention
of God in it *must be*
shallow.

he thoughtful trader believes that Trade, in its ideal, is generous and beautiful. It is the reality that he makes of it, by the way in which he does

it, that seems to him sordid.

T Character is the divinest thing on earth. It is the one thing that you can put into the shop or into the study, and be sure that the fire is going to burn.

Never does human nature seem so glorious and so wicked all at once as when we stand before the cross of Jesus! The most enthusiastic hopes, the most profound humiliation, have found their inspiration there.

The only way to run from God is to run to Him. The Infinite Knowledge is also the Infinite Pity.





Not simply His coming and His going, not simply His birth, or death, but the living, total life of Jesus is the world's salvation. And the Book in which His life shines orbbed and distinct is the world's treasure.

Remember we are debtors to the Good by birth, but remember we may become debtors to the Bad by life; and both debts—of service and allegiance—must be paid alike.

Not merely a Voice to be heard, but a Friend to be loved, a Shepherd to be followed, a Bread to be eaten,—so does the Christ of the Gospels present Himself in word and sacrament and every presentation of His personality.

The tent-life is the true life until the building of God, the "house not made with hands," is reached.



The visionary is the man who has no present; the drudge is the man who has no future. To be saved from being either,—that can come only by joining a clear, sharp, solid work to large hopes and great ambitions.

Does not the soul, finding the heart of its suffering full of joy, forget the mere rough outside in which that heart of joy was folded?

Ideality, magnanimity and bravery—these are what make the heroes. The materialist, the sceptic and the coward—he cannot be a hero.

To believe is the true glory of existence. To disbelieve is to give ourselves into the power of death, and just so far to cease from living.

It is only in poor men and in the lower things that success increases self-conceit. In every high work and in men worthy of it, success is always sure to bring humility.

Our strength is measured by our plastic power... Bricks and mortar are mortar and bricks until the architect can make them into something else.

A man who lives right, and is right, has more power in his silence than another man by his words.

Oh! believe me that no man lives at his best to whom life is not becoming better and better, always aware of greater and greater forces, capable of diviner and diviner deeds and joys.



God is omnipotent, and man is immortal. Therefore be patient and work. The end shall certainly be joy, not sorrow. The stone shall roll away and the dead come forth.

Optimism is a belief in a great purpose underlying the world for good, absolutely certain to fulfil itself somewhere, somehow. That must have been what God saw when He looked upon the world and called it "good."

A hundred men stand on the shore and say: "There is no land beyond." One brave and trustful man like Columbus, believes that the complete world is complete, and sails for a fair land beyond the sea, and finds it.

Put your faith where it will be safe; and the only place where a faith ever can be safe is in the shrine of an action.

I must have
some notion in

general

of what I am alive
for, or I cannot live

rightly

from hour to hour this

evening

and to-morrow morning.

Give our lives room to grow to truth, and
they

will grow to symmetry; give them leave to
ripen,

and they will richen too.



he only real way to "prepare to meet
thy God" is to live with thy God so that
to meet Him shall be nothing strange.

It is not good for a man to devote
himself to preparation for dying. It is
preparation for living that you need.

Our virtue should not be a deed, or a work,
but a growth—a growth like a tree's, always
rising higher from its own inward strength and
sap.

The moment that the face is turned away from
the dead past, and looks toward the living
future, a new power comes. Hope is awake, and
hope is infinite.

The gracious mercy that
binds Omnipotence a willing
servant to every humble prayer!

elf-restraint and honesty and independence, if
they are the crown upon the head of a benignant
despotism, are the very lifeblood in the veins of



a self-governing republic.

To be calm and serene, and yet to be full of energy and hope of higher things,—this comes to him whose life aims at the absolute.

If you cannot argue, live! Be true and pure and lofty and devout, and He who ever seeks the souls of men shall find His way to some of them through you.

When a man means to be honest solely because honesty is right, and not because honesty is profitable, there is a perpetual and beautiful tendency of his honesty to refine and deepen itself.

Dependence upon God makes the independence of men in which are liberty and courage.





There is a type of universal human life in harmony with the best life of all the ages, in tune with the sublimest and finest spiritual music of the universe, which you can live in your parlor and your shop.

No beauty is really beautiful which in any way hinders righteousness or weakens spiritual life.

To every heart's experience comes its time of desert-journeys.... It eats its manna in the wilderness.

You can know nothing which you do not reverence. You can see nothing before which you do not veil your eyes.

Repentance for safety, even for cleanness, is not complete. The true motive is that God may be glorified in us.



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