

to do it more than I do—though, heaven knows, I've needed to do it enough.

Mrs. Fowler was mystified. She had expected something impressive and convincing, and she had only spent an afternoon with a woman who babbled to a sick girl about elves.

She sat for a long time alone in her room when she arrived home, waiting for God to come and approve of her as He always had done in the past—but none of that satisfactory sense of well-being filled her. She went to the small bookshelf by her bed and searched among her little booklets of meditation and spiritual guidance. But none of their precepts could fill her with her old self-satisfaction, or ease her bewilderment. She kept seeing the way Gertrude had smiled at Mrs. Pendleton, and hearing the child's eager voice.

At last she knelt by her chair and sought for words where before words had always come effortlessly. Parts of her dream kept reappearing vividly in her mind, and she could not forget the anguish she had felt during the night at her exclusion.

Then, as she knelt there, lacking words, she gradually forgot she had wanted to pray. She forgot doubt and fear and remembered only humiliation—the humiliation in her dream, and the humiliation that afternoon before a child who had not even bothered to acknowledge her presence. She began to feel she had been cheated and betrayed, that she had been flouted, and that it would only be after an immense struggle that she would be able to forgive both Mrs. Pendleton and Gertrude for their disloyalty and lack of appreciation.

It was not right or just that all her efforts should be discounted like this. Who was Mrs. Pendleton anyway? What training had she had? What powers did she possess? Had she ever healed anyone? Was she doing the Lord's work?

Righteous indignation filled Mrs. Fowler. She forgot her attitude was one

of prayer—she saw only Gertrude's inexplicable preference for Mrs. Pendleton and the obvious injustice of the whole affair. She forgot now she had felt the Lord sent her to Mrs. Pendleton, and remembered only that she herself had been slighted and passed by in favour of someone obviously inferior.

Well—she would wash her hands of the whole affair. She had important work to do—her time was not to be trifled with. She'd let them see how they could manage without her.

* * *

THAT night Mr. Fowler said, and how's little Gertrude?

Oh, Mrs. Fowler told him, I took Mrs. Pendleton with me to see her to-day. The child seemed to take quite a liking

to her—such a simple soul Mrs. Pendleton is—quite childlike herself, really. So I thought I'd get her to visit Gertrude occasionally and I'd leave the case. Not that I'm in the habit of giving up, but the child doesn't seem to show any progress, and really I've more important work to do. I can't be wasting my time on unproductive patients who won't co-operate. My energy's too precious to be dissipated like that. Mrs. Pendleton'll be glad to go and see Gertrude occasionally, I'm sure.

She laughed rather like a horse whinnying. Of course, she's a peculiar little woman. You should just have heard the nonsense she talked this afternoon. But then, some children aren't very particular about what makes sense, or what's the truth, and some adults don't seem to think lying to a child is wicked.

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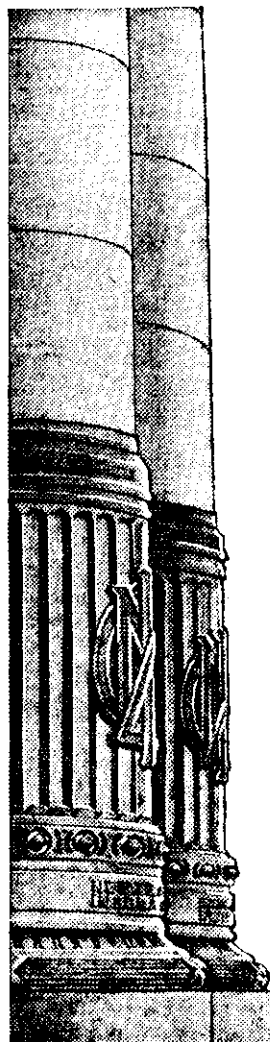
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BAND BROADCASTS

EVERY Sunday, for some weeks, starting on May 25, Station 2YA will broadcast from 5.45 to 6.5 p.m. items by brass bands heard in the recent contest at Wanganui. Here are the dates and list of bands to be heard:

May 25, Hawera Municipal and Blenheim Regimental; June 1, Invercargill Civic and Taranaki-New Plymouth; June 8, Wellington Watersiders' and Oamaru; June 15, Queen Alexandra and Westport; June 22, Palmerston North Garrison and Fielding Municipal; June 29, Stratford Citizens' and Auckland City Boys'; July 6, Auckland Watersiders' Junior and Patea Municipal; July 13, Wellington Tramways, Rangiora and Christchurch Municipal; July 20, Ashburton Silver and Wellington Boys' Institute Junior.

Pipe band recordings will be heard each Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 9.15 a.m., starting this Saturday, May 10, as follows: May 10, City of Christchurch and Hastings District; May 17, Port Ahuriri and Manawatu; May 24, Timaru and Tauranga; May 31, Nelson and New Plymouth; June 7, Temuka and St. Andrews; June 14, Rushine and Burns (Dunedin); June 21, Wanganui Highland and Ashburton; June 28, Patea and Canterbury Caledonian A; July 5, Hamilton and Canterbury B; July 12, Auckland District and City of Christchurch; July 19, Hawera and City of Wellington.



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