

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Then came a great shout about the flag.

"Let me tell you who I am.

"The work that we do is the making of the real flag.

"I am not the flag, not at all. I am but its shadow.

"I am whatever you make me, nothing more.

"I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a people may become.

"I live a changing life, a life of moods and passions, of heartbreaks and tired muscles.

"Sometimes I am strong with pride, when men do an honest work, fitting the rails together truly.

"Sometimes I droop, for then purpose has gone from me and cynically I play the coward.

"Sometimes I am loud, garish and full of that ego that blasts judgment.

"But always I am all that you hope to be and have the courage to try for.

"I am song and fear, struggle and panic, and ennobling hope.

"I am the day's work of the weakest man and the largest dream of the most daring."

"I am the Constitution and the courts, statutes and statute-makers, soldier and dreadnought, drayman and street-sweep, cook, counselor and clerk.

"I am the battle of yesterday and the mistake of tomorrow.

"I am the mystery of the men who do without knowing why.

"I am the clutch of an idea and the reasoned purpose of resolution.

"I am no more than what you believe me to be and I am all that you believe I can be.

"I am what you make me, nothing more.

"I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself, the pictured suggestion of that big thing which makes this nation. My stars and my stripes are your dreams and your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, firm with faith because you have made them so out of your hearts, for you are the makers of the flag, and it is well that you glory in the making."

THE RIGHT KIND OF A GIRL.

Let a girl be ever so graceful in the dance; let her be ever so elegant of walk across the drawing-room, ever so bright in conversation, she must possess some other qualities to convince the great average run of young men that she can be the manager of his home, the pilot that steers his ship of state. Frugality, womanly instincts of love for home, an eye to the best interest of her husband and the careful training of her children—these are the traits which make the good wife of today, and which young men look for in the girls they meet. Men may sometimes give the impression that they do not care for common sense in their sweethearts, but there is nothing they so unfailingly demand of their wives.