

**HERE AND  
THERE A LEAF**

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Here and There a Leaf by Louise Heywood

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**LOUISE HEYWOOD**

**HERE AND  
THERE A LEAF**



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A LEAF**

**BY  
LOUISE HEYWOOD**



OF  
CALIFORNIA

**BOSTON  
SHERMAN, FRENCH & COMPANY  
1912**

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
I NO THOUGHT FOR TO-MORROW . . . . .	1
II BEARING THE CROSS . . . . .	12
III HE IS COMING . . . . .	21
IV ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE POOR . . . . .	28
V THAT IT MIGHT BE FULFILLED . . . . .	35
VI BE PATIENT NOW . . . . .	40
VII OUR GIRLS AND BOYS . . . . .	43
VIII COMMON SENSE IN RELIGION . . . . .	55
IX OUR RESPONSIBILITY . . . . .	66
X SETTLE IT WITH JESUS . . . . .	74
XI FAITH AND WORKS . . . . .	79
XII NOT BELIEVING BECAUSE NOT UNDER- STANDING . . . . .	87
XIII NO MIDDLE WAY . . . . .	91
XIV ARE WE GROWING OLD? . . . . .	98
XV THE RISEN CHRIST . . . . .	106
XVI THE PARTING OF THE WAY . . . . .	111
XVII WORDS OF CHEER FOR THE AGED . . . . .	115
XVIII FAR FROM HOME . . . . .	123
XIX THE GOOD FIGHT . . . . .	127

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
XX WOMAN'S HIGH ESTATE . . .	138
XXI TIRED MOTHERS . . . . .	149
XXII DEAR BABY RALPH . . . . .	164
XXIII HOME, SWEET HOME . . . . .	172

I

TAKE NO THOUGHT FOR TO-MORROW

We know not one moment of the future. We may be sitting quietly in our homes, and a flash of lightning, or the sudden development of a hidden disease may send us without warning into eternity. An accident on a railroad train or on an ocean steamer, a misstep, a fire at the dead of night, a hundred calamities which are sending others suddenly to their final home, are as likely to happen to us as to them.

To-day we may have all our loved ones about us, to-morrow they may leave us never to return. To-day we may be rich, to-morrow poor. To-day we may be in the exuberance of health and strength, and to-morrow be laid upon a bed of pain and weakness. To-day we may be strong in the use of all our reasoning faculties, an asylum may be our home to-morrow. Under the care of our Heavenly Father, and in ourselves helpless as regards our future, why take anxious thought concerning it? Whatever we can do to make our lives successful in all things honorable, we are to do. We cannot sit down in idleness and expect God to take care of us without any effort on our part. He has given us our faculties and our



2      HERE AND THERE A LEAF

energies, and we are accountable for the manner in which we use his gifts; but we cannot use them independently of him. We must have his approval, and his blessing, and after we have done our utmost, leave the result of our efforts quietly and patiently with him.

There is much happiness for us if we will only take it day by day, as God means we should, and not get so bewildered in the fogs and mists of life as not to see the beautiful sunlight beaming all along our path. Trials and disappointments must come, but the more patient we are, the lighter these will be; and the longer we live the more will they seem like the insect which lights upon us, and which we brush aside, an insignificant and but momentary annoyance.

Life is short. Why then not make the best use of it to-day? When shall we be content? When, if not now, live truly and earnestly, trusting God implicitly, and holding sweet and restful communion with him?

Much that might be sweet and helpful in our lives is overlooked, because we are constantly anticipating some fancied greater blessing than we now possess, and in our anxious care for the morrow, we fail to enjoy the blessings of to-day. In this manner all our days are full of unrest, and we spend our whole life anticipating, but not realizing; for, as soon as we have reached a desired point, we see beyond us still something to reach after, which we believe to be necessary to

our comfort or happiness. The truth is, that if we have not the spirit of contentment to-day, we are not likely to have it to-morrow. If we do not exhaust the resources of to-day, but pass them by unused, we are likely to do the same to-morrow, thus making all our days barren of joy and of the satisfaction which comes from the assurance in our hearts that we have made the most of the day's gifts to us. The feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction which takes possession of so many persons, whatever their circumstances and surroundings, and follows them all through life, is something startling. Now and then we find one who is comparatively at rest, but the majority, even of those who profess to trust God implicitly, are restless and dissatisfied.

What is the reason for this contradictory condition? Many Christians have a sort of indefinite belief that God is their Father, and that he loves them, and will take care of them in a general way. That he has an especial and daily supervision of their lives does not enter their thoughts, even when they pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." With this indistinct idea of God's relation to them, and their relation to him, their faith is weak and wavering, and as no one can be satisfied with anything short of complete faith in a personal Savior, they are not satisfied, neither do they appropriate to themselves the promised daily grace for daily needs. The promises of the Bible are not only for na-

#### 4      HERE AND THERE A LEAF

tions, but for the individual. God does not mock us in reaching out his hand to lead us. Neither does he stand ready to give us an occasional lift over difficult places, but hourly is his loving and helping hand extended, and if we would only grasp it and never let go, how many mistakes we might avoid! He is our God to-day. All that we need for to-day comes from his bountiful hand, according to the measure of our faith.

Perfect faith in God would so transform our lives that we would hardly know ourselves. To feel each morning that we are held in the hollow of his hand who controls all the gold and silver, the food and raiment, the good and the evil, to realize that God goes behind us to correct our mistakes, that he is all about us, that nothing can touch us without his permission, and that he permits nothing which is not for our highest good, would bring peace into our hearts and radiance into our faces which could not be mistaken. Every day would bring its own compensations, its own completeness, and we would not need to anticipate or look forward.

How can any one doubt that God means that we should live in this way, taking no anxious thought for the morrow, appreciating and making the most of the blessings of to-day, and enduring its annoyances with sweet submission to his will who knows how much trial we need, who is molding us daily into the image of his Son. How happy are we if we can say sincerely every morn-