

Page 2 The Mary Stewart Collect.

Now Mary says "Take time for all things" How can we? Remember she composed this many years ago. The sands of time are running faster in our day than when she wrote this collect. Housewives of to-day have to cope with an hundred tasks to accomplish anything in a very few hours. Most of us just skim off the cream. We dare not stir up the bucket or we would be training for a race, and I think Mary meant us to be calm, gentle, and serene in this way. It takes so little to stir up a discussion in a meeting. She wants us to be unruffled, to use tact, and being serene means peace, a feature we all pray for and for which we plead.

Then we know it is the little things that make differences. We all want to do the important things but we have to remember the wall is not all built of big stones. The little ones are needed to fill in the crevices. To make a strong foundation, this is necessary. Someone has said "Trifles make perfections but perfection is no trifle".

Then there is the natural human heart which we all possess. Do to others as you would they should do to you. The old golden rule is still basic in Christian living.

The last part of the Collect is the real prayer. "O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind. This seems to sum up the whole total for if we are kind we will keep all the items of the Collect remembering that kindness is a virtue. Kindness is to do and say the kindest things in the kindest way". Kindness has a twin sister called courtesy. To-gether they have come down hand in hand through the ages. We find them in the schoolroom where the teacher tries to instill into her pupils the rudiments of right living and playing the fair game of life. We see them again leaning over the depressed and discouraged, bidding them be of good cheer and leaving them encouraged. We find these twin sisters with the ill in the skillful fingers and hands of doctors and nurses as they soothe the ailing and bind up their wounds, or again guiding the feeble steps or assisting the fading eyesight of old age and always wiping the tears from the eyes of little children. You know there is nothing so kindly as kindness and nothing so royal as truth.

As we repeat this Collect, may we strive to remember this is a prayer, not a chant, and may each phrase be uttered with reverence and sincerity.