

SEE THE GLORY

by

Carolyn L. Canfield

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CHAPTER THREE

HOME HILLS

TO REAR THREE MORE CHILDREN after Mr. and Mrs. Cain's own family was grown involved both labor and sacrifice. That Adelaide's grandparents were faithful in this trust is attested by the fine results in the lives of their charges. Where else did Adelaide learn thrift, diligence, and integrity, care for details, meticulous neatness, and persistence under difficulties? These and other sterling qualities were not developed by lax discipline.

Adelaide and each member of her family had the will to work for worthwhile things. Her father returned to Alta to build a new house for the family. Dee's labor and artistry produced an orchard, berries, and a garden notable for lush growth and bloom. Gran worked hard at endless tasks. Adelaide learned to sew skillfully. The three children all shared responsibilities at home and took highest honors at school besides.

Grade school days at Alta ended for Adelaide in 1927. She was fourteen when she moved to Colusa to live with friends, and there she attended church as well as high school.

She said of this time:

“During my freshman and sophomore years in high school I lived in the home of a former Southern Methodist minister and his wife, the Reverend and Mrs. Thomas Hodgson at Colusa, California. While with them I joined the Southern Methodist Church and was baptized by sprinkling. I don't really think I was converted during my high school years, though I attended all the church services faithfully and was active in Epworth League and even went to one conference at Mt. Hermon, near Santa Cruz, which impressed me very much. I believe the strongest evidence in favor of Christianity which came to me during these years was the happy family life of the Hodgsons and their married sons and daughter, as well as that of the Minasians, another Christian family with whom I lived in my junior year.”

Returning home for vacation was a change of work for Adelaide rather than a rest. Hot summer days were filled with sewing, farm chores, berry-picking, canning, and similar activities. Then there was often a chance to earn money for further schooling by working in the homes of well-to-do people who spent their summers at nearby Lake Alta. Girls who worked with Adelaide spoke later of how she always commanded the respect of those who employed her.

One summer when other members of the family were busy elsewhere, Adelaide and Calvin undertook the responsibility of running the ranch. On one calamitous day Adelaide broke the sewing machine, and Calvin broke the mowing machine. This did not call forth an SOS for their grandparents' return; but, managing somehow, they made the necessary repairs. Self-reliance and resourcefulness developed their youthful fiber as problems multiplied.

Although the years were full of work, Adelaide also had time for recreation and sports; tennis, swimming, hiking, and skiing were favorites, as well as volleyball, basketball, and especially dancing.

Adelaide sometimes invited friends for holidays. One such guest recalls, "Those were times of singing and of eating vanilla ice cream covered with heaps of fresh raspberries that grew on bushes taller than my head." All the cloudless summer, entertaining could be done under a circle of trees in the garden where, among five-finger ferns and flowers, there were comfortable chairs and a table for just such occasions.

Topping a hill at the head of a canyon, the junction of the Yuba and Bear Rivers, the site of the house had been carefully chosen. It commanded a remarkable view. From Adelaide's front room upstairs she could look over the treetops in the orchard and beyond the wooded slopes of the canyon to the low hills that stopped their rolling in the expansive Sacramento Valley. Sometimes she could even see the Coast Range, almost a hundred miles distant. It was milky blue in the daytime, a purple screen for brilliant sunsets in the evening, and it blinked with beacons at night.

In this room Adelaide often sat quietly alone to think the long, long thoughts of youth. Popularity, scholarship, talents, church friends, good health, pretty clothes—did she not have everything that should total happiness? Then why were there longings for something more satisfying? Under a happy exterior, why were things still far from being all right?

~ end of chapter 3 ~

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