

GRACIE FIELDS

The Lesson She Has Never Forgotten



Looking in at the Palladium, where Lena Horne has had a smash-hit, I heard that Gracie Fields may be topping the bill there during the autumn. Let's hope it's true. Larry Adler, Ted Ray and Nat "King" Cole and his trio, from America, are in a big variety programme opening to-morrow.

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GUESS WHO?

She is in London this week for variety. Can you recognise her from this picture in 1923?



Gracie Fields, who made a triumphant return to the variety stage last week, sent this intimate message to the "Sunday Chronicle":

TO-DAY many visitors to me seem to bemoan the fact that the world is so full of troubles, both big and small, that life is hardly worth while. But how many of them ever stop to think that if we all tried just to be that little bit better ourselves in our everyday life we could help to minimise the troubles that beset us?

Big worries always start as little ones and, if we endeavour to give a helping hand at the right moment, the small worries need never become big ones.

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I always think, as I go through life, that it is the little things we do that count. And by the little things I mean the CORRECT little things. People are rather too inclined, when faced with doing the right or the wrong thing, to take the easy way out by excusing themselves with: "Well, it's only a LITTLE wrong thing, it will do no harm."

But how do WE know?

I remember when I was very young being given a new doll and immediately I set to work to make a dress for it. Sunday came along, and as we had a family rule that no sewing was to be done on the Sabbath, the dress was not completed.

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But my excitement overcame my conscience and I excused it by saying: "It's only a TINY wrong." So I went into my room and started sewing the dress. With the first stitch I pricked my thumb badly and that finished the sewing.

That memory of disobedience has stayed with me throughout my life as an example. So let it stay with you whenever the temptation of "it doesn't matter" is upon you.

Do the little things correctly, thus enabling you to do the big ones the same way. Help with the little worries, and they will never become big ones. — GRACIE.

Frankie and Gracie were leaders IN YOUR VOTING FOR A COMMAND RADIO SHOW

TOP of the all-star bill chosen by Daily Express readers for a Listeners' Command Performance is Frankie Howerd—easily the most popular request, although he has been off the air for six months.

Runner-up is 52-year-old Gracie Fields—despite only one broadcast this year.

Here is your final choice. It would fill a two and a half hours' Sunday show—if Sir William Haley were prepared to spend the money and make his planners find the air and screen time:—

Comedians: Frankie Howerd; Ted Ray and Kitty Bluett; Joy Nichols, Dick Bentley, Jimmy Edwards; Peter Brough and Archie Andrews; Reg Dixon; Max Wall; Michael Howard; Arthur English; Max Bygraves; Bernard Braden and Barbara Kelly.

Singers: Gracie Fields; Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth; Julie Andrews; Donald Peers.

Impressionist: Peter Cavanagh.

Band: Geraldo.

Commerc: Wilfred Pickles.

I MADE the front page last week with my story of Gracie Field's big new Luxembourg series. Lever Brothers, makers of Wisk, are sponsoring this time what will undoubtedly be one of the greatest radio attractions of the age. I prophesy that listening figures will be colossal for this programme, for Gracie will have The Keynotes, Bernard Braden and Billy Ternent and his Orchestra, and, as I mentioned last week, Ternent doing a bit of his famous "stooging," apart from accompanying Gracie at the piano.

Thanks, Gracie

I THINK Gracie Fields's brief sermon is the best of many I have read, though so brief. But what a lesson she gives! I have cut out the article and shall keep it as a souvenir of her great work.

—Jas. Gregson, Blackpool.

The Theatre

Variety (Palladium).—A 52-year-old grey-haired woman walks on to the vast stage and re-establishes herself as a truly great entertainer. Here is Gracie Fields again, comic, sentimental, healthily vulgar, beautifully tender. "The Biggest Aspidistra in the World" still flourishes.