



A Collect for Women
Mary Stewart

Keep us oh God from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, and deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face,
without self pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment and always gracious.
Let us take time for all things and grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,
straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences,
that in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know the great common human heart of us all.
And oh Lord God, let us not forget to be kind!

In 1904, Mary Stewart (1876 – 1943), wrote a “Collect for Club Women” which our club recites at meetings, as do club women throughout the world. Stewart stated that the Collect was written “...as a prayer for the day. I called it a Collect for Club Women because I felt that women working together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and that, perhaps, they had need for a special petition and meditation of their own.”