

## **Official Collect of Business & Professional Women/USA**

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;  
Let us be large in thought, in word, in 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 generous.

Let us take time for all things;  
Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.  
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,  
straight-forward 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 forget not to be kind!

By: Mary Stewart

The Collect was written by Mary Stewart in Longmont, Colorado, in 1904. She had it published as a Collect for Club Women, because at the time she believed that women working together with wide interests and important goals was a new phenomenon, and that a special meditation of their own would give them a sense of unity. The Collect soon was adopted among working women throughout the world.

The first printing of the Collect was an obscure paragraph in the column of club notes in the Delineator. In 1909, Paul Elder and Company of San Francisco, printed it as a wall card, and it has been reprinted in many forms, in American yearbooks, by national organizations and in other publications around the world.

Miss Stewart, who until 1910 signed the Collect with her pen name, "Mary Stuart", died in 1943.

The Collect was officially adopted by BPW/USA in 1920.