

Certainly we have frontiers to be faced; certainly we have need of pioneers. These frontiers are different from those we usually connect with the word and require different types of pioneers. There are urgent demands for forward thinking people, and many glorious opportunities lie ahead for those who are capable of answering these demands.

Nuts and Raisins

Eleanor Felts

"A commerce that whitens every sea in quest of nuts and raisins, and makes slaves of its sailors for this purpose!"—Thoreau, "Life Without Principle"

Whenever we think of commerce, we think of romance, for the word commerce connotes adventure. Since the wane of feudalism, commerce has become more and more lucrative. Ships ply the seven seas, churning the green water to froth. The odor of spices, strong and acrid, and the scent of perfumes, rare and delicate, emanate from precious cargoes. Shimmering silks and lustrous satins cross the seas to adorn beautiful or wealthy ladies. Rare and exotic foods are rushed from distant ports to titillate the palate.

But what of the human cargo? It still exists. It is man's exploitation of man. Unfortunately, it isn't entirely the shame of the past. The United Nations is faced with this problem in the year 1949, and doubts its ultimate solution because of the avidity of the very people who demand the products of commerce.

The sailors seek adventure, but they find themselves slaves of tyrannical masters whose pecuniary gains are to them far more important than a mere man's soul. The masters, in turn, serve a society whose insatiable and sensuous demands are the sills of commerce.

Undoubtedly, commerce is auriferous, but what has it done for mankind? Can one stand before his Creator with a "handful of nuts and raisins" to show for his life's labors?