

How to Marry.

The following is a Philadelphia physician's advice to a young man prospecting for a wife:

When the adult age is reached—what! As truly as every positive requires a negative, every knife its fork, and that opposites attract, so, too, with the genus homo, like birds they must mate, and it is not good for man to be alone. The great event of a man's life is to seek and secure a sweetheart and then have a wedding day.

As a physical advisor, no marriage should occur unless both contracting parties are healthful subjects; to be a good animal is the highest gift in nature. A marriage has vast responsibility hanging upon it, the future procreation of our species, the perpetuation of the human family; therefore no man wants to become the father of a race of pygmies or deformed dwarfs—physically crippled—to the disgrace of himself, wife and his progeny.

Next, the salt of common sense is an important necessity. Since marriage resolves itself into a permanent covenant instituted by God, to be broken only by death, and not like a loose pair of shoes that can be put on in the morning and removed at night, it is an issue that should occupy the mental, the moral, the spiritual, the practical and the consequential deductions of all thinking people to the soberest degree. The civil law may separate but it cannot sever. A divorce is a blot on the page of history, and about it there is always a bad smell. Anyone who spouses the conjugal yoke with the prospect of divorce ahead weds a ignis fatuus. Hence a man should choose his wife as did the sainted Primrose of "Vicar of Wakefield" memory, who chose his as she chooses her wedding gown, not for fine, gloss surface, but for qualities that would wear well. A woman is either the fortune or bankruptcy of a man's future.

All tailors cut the coat according to the cloth, which suggests how young folks should consider the circumstances of each other. It is wrong for a struggling young man without money or influence in the world, to wed a girl of affluence and wealth, fostered in the lap of luxury by kind and loving parents, when the same conditions cannot be extended her in the future; but then it is wrong for her to encourage such a young man unless she is willing to share his struggles and misfortunes as an equal yokefellow and companion. The word wife means weaver, i. e., a wife should weave along with her husband the web of life.

There are too many young girls brought up under the present regime of society so-called, who, by indulgent mothers, become imbued with false notions and fritter away their time in learning useless trifles, until their muscles atrophy and leave them mere automatons to pose for the entertainment of a glass case. They like powder, eff-dit-frivols, study how to make conquests, etc.; in short, to assume all the evils of prevailing fashion. The creature dies young of tight laces' liver or ennui. Young man, beware!

There is no object so fascinating as a pretty-faced, intelligent woman, but then a woman to commend herself as an eligible candidate for matrimony should be useful as well as ornamental. A model wife is an economist, a bread saver, while her husband is the bread winner.

A little domestic drudgery is a homely antidote against disease, and often makes a fine wife and mother out of a mere botheouse plant. I advise a thorough knowledge of kitchen economy (Dady's Domesticity), for far too many girls nowadays enter marriage long before they have even learned to spank a pepper-box.

Anyone who follows this counsel will not go astray.

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