

How Much LOVE is a Wife Entitled To?

"With All the Luxuries in the World," Is the Wife of

Banker Harris Justified in
Her Complaint That She
Is Wretched Because
**"I WANT
TO BE
LOVED?"**

Mrs. Beverly D. Harris.



Like a "Bird in a Gilded Cage" — "Everything I Want, Except One Thing—LOVE."

"Don't bother too much about money. If you have enough of it for happiness, that should satisfy. It's living together, playing together, thinking together, that means everything. And make your thinking so varied that some part of it never can end."

"As long as we were making the money, doing it together, everything was happiness. When it was done everything seemed to end, everything we did together."

Professor Walter M. Gallichan, in "The Psychology of Marriage," has this to say:

"The retention of a husband's affection is an art that all wives should study. I am inclined to the view that unfortunate wedlock is most frequently caused by man's ignorance concerning woman's inmost emotions and needs. But many marriages are wrecked by women. Some women rival men in tyranny, bullying and domineering. Others are exorbitantly exacting in their demands upon the husband's leisure time and interfere with his pleasures. We have all met the husbands who have abandoned studies, recreations and hobbies because these seemed to threaten domestic peace. There are wives whose sweetness seems to vanish in a dramatic fashion very soon after the marriage ceremony. The gentleness and amenability of courtship are transformed into acrid criticism, fractious behavior, outbursts of temper and moods of sullenness. It is impossible for two average egotists to live without an occasional jar or misunderstanding. There must be a resolute cultivation of sympathy, tact and patience on the part of both partners in conjugality."

According to Jeremy Taylor, the famous English philosopher, "a good wife is Heaven's last best gift to man."

"A good wife," he once wrote, "is man's angel and minister of graces innumerable; his gem of many virtues; his casket of jewels; her voice, his sweet music; her smiles, his brightest day; her kiss, the guardian of his innocence; her arms, the pale of safety, the bloom of his health, the blossom of his life."

If a good wife is one-half as precious as Jeremy Taylor pictures, is she not rightfully entitled to just as much of her husband's time, attention, devotion and

"Not only was she the victim of his temper, his egotism and his brutality, but she also seems to have been at times compelled, through his conduct, to suffer from the reproaches and insults, espionage and conduct of the servants, or alleged servants, in his own house."

Mrs. Harris was not the victim of any such wretched marriage as was Mrs. Stokes. Perhaps more nearly resembling Mrs. Harris's case was the unhappy married life of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman B. Kendall. Here was a woman of the highest character, with a devoted husband, who was also above reproach. The Kendalls were enormously wealthy, with a town house in New York and summer homes at Bar Harbor, Maine, and elsewhere. But Mrs. Kendall and Mr. Kendall were not happy together. Mrs. Kendall loved social life; Mr. Kendall loved the pigs, the horses, the cows, the green meadows of his country estates. What was the joy of one was an intolerable bore to the other. For the happiness of each they determined to separate, and Mr. Kendall, with great generosity, courtesy and all best wishes, presented his wife with property worth \$4,500,000, and in addition to this an annual income of \$100,000 and allowed her to have a divorce. Mr. Kendall promptly married the well-known young beauty, Miss Betty Lee, whose portrait is printed on this page, and Mrs. Kendall has married again and is now Mrs. Eldridge M. Roberts. Both have now found congenial partners and are happy.

It is interesting to read these observations by the first Mrs. Lyman B. Kendall, who, without reproaching her husband at all, based this advice to young married couples on her own first matrimonial experience:

"Try to keep your interests close together. Learn to play the game the other likes. Wear the clothes he likes. Find an interest in the society he likes. Find the attractive things in his friends."

"If he wants you to have expensive things he can't really afford, let him get them for you—sometimes. And don't let him become all-absorbed in his business. And you, don't become too absorbed in your gayety and your dancing. And keep close together."

Mrs. W. E. D. Stokes, the Victim of a Husband Who, the Judge Declared, "Never Was Fit to Marry Any Decent Young Girl."

READERS of this page last Sunday will recall the plaint of Mrs. Beverly D. Harris, wife of one of the vice-presidents of the great National City Bank of New York, about her husband's devotion to his financial work in Wall Street: "I have all the luxuries in the world, everything I want except one thing. I WANT TO BE LOVED!"

"My husband was all Wall Street—Big Business. Sometimes when he would come in from his office in the evening I would ask him to take me to a theatre or a dance. Always he would say, 'Tomorrow, baby.'"

"On one occasion he even forgot his birthday. And that, too, after I had decorated the house and bought many, many presents for him."

The busy financier, wrapped up in the complex complications of Big Business, brought his problems from the bank to his home.

From his eager wife the absorbed man of Great Finance received absent-mindedly the welcoming kiss, and after dinner hurried out to a directors' meeting or a conference at some financier's house.

The wife was given every luxury, every comfort, and was handsomely established in her suite of rooms in the great hotel in Pennsylvania. She had clothes, jewelry, automobiles, leisure and no exactions. And yet the banker's wife, surrounded with "all the luxuries in the world," was hungry to be loved.

Thus the situation of the New York banker's wife raised the question which was discussed in these columns last Sunday as to how much love a wife is entitled to. No court has ever answered that question with exactness. There is no book in any library which indicates that Cupid has ever measured out the precise amount of time, attention, devotion and caresses

which a worthy wife may reasonably demand of her husband.

The "Bird in the Gilded Cage" has been often pictured by novelists and dramatists, and sympathy always goes out to the wife, who has everything in the way of worldly luxuries—but lacks the one thing her heart longs for—LOVE!

Continuing to study the question of how much love a devoted wife is entitled to, it is interesting to recall the following pertinent paragraphs from Ella Wheeler Wilcox, who had an insight into human nature equalled by few and excelled by none:

"The woman who allows her husband to think that she is incapable of any enjoyment without his presence makes a serious mistake. Let him know (if it is true) that her greatest happiness and most sincere pleasure lie in his society, but let her also indicate the power to entertain herself or to find amusements with other people and he will feel twice the desire to be with her. It flatters a man to be told that a woman is fully dependent upon him for every moment of happiness, but he soon finds that the thought irks him and secretly rebels against it."

"No man lives who does not need some sort of pleasure separate from a woman's society. Either in business, books, sports, clubs or solitude he can enjoy himself, and if he is made to feel that a woman is fretting over the time he gives to any one of these things the thought soon divorces itself from sentiment and becomes an aggravation. If he knows, on the other hand, that she is having a very good time herself entertaining friends, attending social or club functions, studying music or art, he hurries home to her with far more eagerness and anticipation."

"No man should marry a woman knowing he is to be absent from her more than half the time unless he provides or helps to provide for her some means for a safe, wholesome and enjoyable use of her time."

No woman should marry a man knowing he is to leave her alone for long periods without formulating a system of occupation for herself which will insure her own protection from the plans of outsiders, oft-times foes, in the garb of friends.

"No two people should demand absolute control of each other's time. There are wives who seem to stand in a sort of 'your time or your life' attitude toward their husbands from the hour they are married. There are husbands who have the same exacting ideas of a man's right. It is human nature to resent this espionage, no matter how dearly the tyrant is loved. It is a husband's duty to see that his wife has recreation and enjoyment and that she is not left to her own resources continually. He should think of her comfort and happiness always, but this in no way argues that he should always have her by his side. A wife should not depend upon her husband for every hour of entertainment. Nor should she expect him to find no enjoyment outside of her society."

The causes of matrimonial unrest are as many and as varied as the characters of the couple involved in the marital disharmony. In the discussion of Mrs. Harris's unhappiness no element of husbandly mistreatment enters, such as the conduct of the notorious W. E. D. Stokes, as alleged in the divorce and other proceedings which have occupied the courts.

On one occasion a judge made these scathing remarks from the bench about Stokes:

"Mrs. Stokes's harrowing story of abuse, of cruelty and neglect convinces the court that he never was fit to marry any decent young girl, much less to be the father of her children. Instead of making a real home he seems mostly to have made a hell for his wife during the eight years that she seems to have suffered and endured his flagrant, insulting, depraved and, as she testifies, degenerate conduct."



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Mrs. Lyman B. Kendall No. 2—Her Husband's First Marriage Was a Curious Combination of Money, Leisure, Kindness, but Utter Disference in Taste.

caresses as she requires to satisfy her craving for love? Should not a husband be willing to sacrifice his business or any other personal interest in order to gratify the longings of the woman who forms his most priceless possession? There will be many, both men and women, who will think so. Wives, they will say, have cause to complain when they are denied love even though their husbands are lavishing on them all the luxuries in the world.

Others, however, will take a quite different view of the matter. They will argue that women who complain as Mrs. Harris does are taking a foolish and very superficial view of love. In putting because they do not get more caresses, more hours of intimate companionship and other outward indications of love, they are overlooking the fact that it is often a man's supreme devotion to his wife—his anxiety about her future—which leads to this seeming neglect of her for business.