MARRIAGE IMPROVES MEN AND WOMEN

"Has any one ever pinched into its pillulous smallness the cobweb of pre-matrimonial acquaintanceship?" George Eliot asks the question, apropos of the infatuation of Dorothea Brooke, young, clever, pretty, and well dowered, for Mr. Casaubon, elderly, ungainly, dogmatic, and, in the eyes of all her friends, altogether unattractive as a suitor. The novelist, moralizing over the unaccountable attachment, sagely decides that life would be unable to go on at any period but for the liberal allowance of conclusions which facilitates marriage under the difficulties of civilization.

This "liberal allowance of conclusions" explains many of the marriages whoch afford a never ending puzzle to everybody who knows the contracting parties. The truth is that not only is it not given to us to see ourselves as others see us, the difference of vision extends to our point of viewing others, and some psychologists go so far as to affirm that scarcely any two people, not trained in the same school, or not molded by the same influences, ever seeth e same thing in the same light, and not always even when so trained. Considering the celerity with which many people rush into love, and forthwith into matrimony, the wonder is not that there are unhappy marriages and occasional divorces, but that there are not many more of them. For, after all, most married couples, however ill assorted they seem to outsiders, manage to jog along comfortably together; to make the most of each other's virtues, and overlook or ignore each other's faults. The best proof of the divine charnacter of the institution of marriage is the fact that living together in this relation improves both men and women, if there be any good material in them to work upon, and often lifts them quite out of the selfishness which lay at the root of their first desire for and pleasure in each other's society. Time and , especially the development of that most unselfish form of affection, the paternal, transforms the giddy girl and the self-assertive man into the thoughtful, tender, self-sacrificing wife and mother, husband and father, who, in looking back upon the first years of married life, find in them nothing to compare with the full fruition which experience and the education of lives devoted to the care for others have brought about them.

All marriages made in haste are by no means repented at leisure; and taking the leap in the dark a goodly number land upon their feet with no broken bones or bruises to speak of. No one who has given serious serious thought to the subject can deny the existence of love at first sight. In these days when everything must be analyzed and explained, mental scientists have a theory to the effect that every one, man or woman, is possessed of an aura, a species of personal atmosphere which surrounds them and attracts or repels with more or less magnetic force, according to the strength of the aura and its relative action upon the auras of others. By this they account for love at first sight, as well as for the antipathies which persons sometimes experience without apparent cause. When two auras are wholly sympathetic heart leaps to heart, each finding its affinity in the other. In such cases it is as though they had known one another from the beginning time is obliterated, and the perfect fruit ripens with magical rapidity under the touch of the arch magician, love.

But, alack and well-a-day! people sometimes mistake mere fancy, that will-o'-the-wisp, for the steady fire of love, and the false light leads its pursuer

"O'er bush and o'er brier,
Through mud and through mire,"

to his or her woe and undoing.

It is always best to make haste slowly, especiallyi n undertakings of moment; to look before one leaps. This does not mean sloth, nor undue vacillation, the halting Between two opinions until opportunity is lost. On the contrary, one takes time only to make sure that one is right, and then goes ahead in good earnest.

The nearest and dearest intimacy possible to humanity is that between husband and wife. "They twain shall be one flesh," said Jehovah concerning the first man and woman. Together they must stand or fall, and whatever affects the one reacts upon the other. Each sees the other as he or she is never seen by relative or friend, and all that is mean and small as well as all that is good or great in the character of either stands disclosed to the eyes which are incessantly fixed upon it. This, if there were no other reason, is good cause why the partnership which is "until death do them part," should be carefully considered beforehand, and the partner chosen with anxious thought and due deliberation. Incompatability of lives, of ways of training, and of outlook upon the world are quite as disastrous to home comfort as the most violent temper could be. It is merely the difference between a cold rain, a continual drizzle, and a heavy storm.

Men have the advantage of women in many things, and it is much easier for a man to make a suitable choice than it is for a woman to do so. His education usually gives him a wider experience, he goes farther afield, and his acquaintanceship is wider. Moreover, under the operation of existing social laws the man has opportunities of seeing the woman in her own home, and in her daily life, which are rarely possible to the woman with regard to the man. Many a girl stands at the marriage altar to utter the vows which commit her future life into the keeping of another for weal or woe, for better or worse, in complete ignorance of her husband's past, of his real tastes, of the trend of his motives, the range of his intellect, indeed of many things which it concerns her deeply to know.

She has found him an agreeable escort, a pleasant companion for an evening, a good partner at a dance; he has, she has been told, money enough to provide for a wife, and, above all else, she is in love with him, or thinks she is, which not infrequently answers as well. For women have a fashion of building an ideal for themselves, with which they invest any lover who strikes their fancy, and, by a merciful provision of fate, the ideal in process of time becomes more or less adjusted to the lay figure which wears it, and the "liberal allowance of conclusions" endures.—Helen Oldfield.

Was Jesus a Carpenter?

That Jesus of Nazareth was a carpenter by trade before he began his ministry is generally assumed. Painters and poets have represented him as working beside Joseph at the carpenter's bench. The assumption rests, however, upon a single sentence in St. Mark's gospel. In the parallel passage in St. Matthew he is spoken of, not as a carpenter, but as "the carpenter's son." There is no other mention in the gospels or elsewhere in the New Testament.

That Jesus was a woodworker of some kind was a tradition early current, and yet evidently received with some doubt. Justin Martyr, one of the earliest Christians after the apostles, whose writings have come down to us, says that Jesus "was deemed a carpenter, for he was in the habit of making plows and yokes." As will be shown later, this probably means only that Jesus had enough knowledge of wood working to make certain agricultural implements. In fact, the recorded sayings of Jesus, according to the careful analysis of them in the current Craftsman, tend to show that his regular earthly vocation was quite other than the carpenter's.

Jesus in his sayings shows familiarity with domestic, commercial, professional and agricultural life. The grinding of grain, the making of bread, the mending of clothes, the washing of dishes, are used by him as illustrations. He knows the ways of the banker and the money lender, of judges, lawyers, policemen, criminals and physicians. He quotes the current prices of articles of trade. He has observed children at play and the professedly devout at prayer. He knows the details of feasts and weddings, even the order of the guests at table and the proper kind of garments. But the references to these things are rather those of an observer from the outside than of an expert from the inside.

But when we come to the farmer's, fruit grower's, and shepherd's life we have details that show the expert. The works of sowing and harvesting are described with minuteness. So is the work of the vineyard. So is especially the worry of the shepherd. No particular references to these passages are necessary. They will occur at once to every reader of the gospels. Furthermore, he knows the signs of the weather. In fact, everything indicates the Jesus in his early life had kept sheep and worked on a grain-growng farm, and also in the vineyard and about fruit trees, especially the fig.

On the other hand, allusions to building operations of any kind are almost entirely wanting. In only one place does he offer any comment upon a work of architecture. That is when he goes forth from the magnificent Temple of Herod at Jerusalem and replies to invitations to admire it with a prediction of its overthrow. He tells of the building of a tower, but only to point the moral of counting thecos t in advance, lest it be left unfinished. In the parable of the houses built on the rock and on the sand no details are given of the work of man. Attention is fixed upon the forces of nature which preserved one house and destroyed the other.

Even if he did make plows and yokes, as Justin Martyr says, it would seem to have been as a part of farm work rather than as a carpenter. That a preacher and teacher should have neglected to draw illustrations from his own trade or from the trade which he had seen his father practice when he was a boy, is incredible. the only conclusion seems to be that the passage in St. Mark's gospel is based on a misunderstanding of the fact stated in St. Matthew's, that Joseph had ceased to ply his trade before Jesus was old enough to be interested in it, and that Jesus himself was not a carpenter, but a shepherd and farmer.

Of course, from one viewpoint it makes no difference what was the occupation of Jesus before he entered upon his ministry. But every detail, and the truth about it, in the life of one who, viewed merely as a man, influenced human history more than any other is of universal and perpetual interest.

It Is Very Comfortin'.

It is very comfortin'
When your hair is gettin' thin,
And the crow feet in your eyes have
come to stay.
Just to feel her little hand
Smoothin' back each silver strand,
While you meet her lovin' look and
hear her say:
"My dear, it seems as tho'
Every year you live you grow
Handsomer than in the olden days;"
Then you look up at your wife
And you think in all your life
You never heard a sweeter word of
praise.

But the tear drops will arise
To our dim old fadin' eyes,
And you kiss the gentle hand, still
white and small,
While you try to tell her how
You loved her then—and now,
But bless me if the words willl come
at all;
For just then there comes to you
The trials she's gone thro',
And borne without a murmur for your
sake;
You can only bow your head
At the lovin' things she's said,
While your poor old heart will only
ache and ache.

But she knows what ails you then,
And she kisses you again,
While you hear her gently whisper,
sweet and low:
"Life has brought more hopes than
fears,
We have known more smiles than
tears,
And the years seem ever brighter as
they go."
Yes, 'tis comfortin', you know,
When your step is gettin' slow
And you're slidin' down life's hill
a'mighty fast,
Just to feel her little hand
Smoothin' back each silver strand,
While she tells you that she'll love
you to the last.

The Jury Blushed.

Philadelphia, Pa.—A jury from Missouri has been "shown." The members of the jury are not natives of the Western state, but had acquired the habit of saying, "show me."

Into e trial of the suit of Mrs. Mary Sanders, a society woman, for $453.75 as the value of a small valise lost by a hotel porter, it was contended that the amount was excessive, because the list of things declared to have been lost could not have been packed into the valise. But it was shown that these things could be packed in such a bag:

Three evening gowns, one skirt, one night robe, one chemise, four pairs of silk stockings, two pairs of something else, one box of ribbon, one pink silk wrapper, set of toilet articles, handpainted satin box, one pair of bedroom slippers, two pairs of gloves, one white skirt, one fancy girdle, two undervests, pair of patent leather shoes, pair of kid shoes, twelve handkerchiefs, extracts, perfumeries, fans, toilet powder, one puff, hair crimper and some toilet confidentials.

A duplicate of the lost valise was unpacked before the jury and all the articles named were taken from it.

The jury blushed, and decided that Mrs. Sanders had earned the verdict. —Chicago American.

Harvard football players are participating in a new —— Something, which they don't know whether to pronounce "stahdium" or "staydium."

Ecstacy is happiness magnified into pain.—From Everybody's Magazine for December.

BRIDE OF THE PACIFIC

(Concluded from page 17.)

animals, are used up every year in the work of the city and its industries. It is a sacrifice as great as in war, and the suffering is greater and more prolonged, and unattended by any stirring martial splendors. Well may we sigh for the horseless age.

I saw crates of ducks and poultry so near dead from exhaustion that they barely had life enough to squawk. How can people eat such poultry, after having seen it? The good thing is they don't see it, and it is nothing but what goes in any city.

At Pasco Friday there were several dozen passengers thrown off to await a train. The mercury was at zero, and women and children were freezing, with no fire in the waiting room shed, and no coal in sight. In the other end of the shed called a station at this famous junction were the railroad men, working with warm fires, and tons of coke stored there. An old German broke in on them, and demanded that the passengers get shelter and warmth. Coal was "rustled," and the sufferers made comfortable. The ducks and chickens are not the only victims of cruel treatment. At Kent, Wash., Saturday afternoon, about 50 head of beef cattle were standing in the stock yard in from six inches to a foot of water. They had been there for some time, as all look dejected and hung their heads. It was late, and I suppose they spent the night in that torture pen, where they could not lie down or stand up with comfort. Certainly money made by cattlemen or transportation companies at the expense of such cruelty to dumb brutes will carry a curse with it, and we should not eat the beef.

According to a statement of the Seattle city treasurer, assessments range from 20 to 50 per cent of values. The powerful interests, like great corporations, are in one class and the smaller fry, like home-owners and small business men are in another. I leave the reader to imagine which. Only a law requiring publicity of assessments before equalization will ever correct this evil.

Seattle has her own water system, taking the supply from the Cedar river. The plant cost about $1,500,000; would be worth $5,000,000 in the hands of any private corporation; costs $80,000 to $90,000 a year to operate and produces $300,000 net revenue to the city. An electric light and power plant is going in that will be still more profitable, also owned by the city, as the result of a fight made by the little one-cent Star.

I interviewed Mayor Humes, a very clever politician, who talked to me half an hour about his administration, but all his remarks sounded very fine to two or three callers who were in his office while I was there. He is a strong type, rough and ready, vital Western politician, who stands well with the "b'hoys," and the classes who attract most attention at the hands of the police, and get very little.

Will H. Parry, formerly editor of this paper, is in president of the city council, and one of those solid muldoons in politics. He has developed from a small journalist into a municipal plutocrat, who has things pretty much his own way. He believes in stalwart Republican machine politics, but admitted that if tax levies ran up much more there would be no remedy but for the people to put in a business administration.

Seattle school management is far superior to the city or county government. On a 5½-mill levy the schools board has run up-to-date schools, with a high school of 2000 attendance, has built all school houses needed and kept up to the demands of a growing population. Out of their ordinary receipts they have this year spent about $300,000 on buildings and real estate. E. W. Shorrock, banker, is a ruling spirit.

It was a pleasure to meet many former Salemites, many of them in positions of prominence, and all prosperous. I met Mrs. J. G. Wright at the Occidental Hotel, the guest of Mrs. Allen, whose husband was a builder of the Salem water works. Major Tolman, whose father was surveyor-general, is in the quartermaster's department. J. G. Luhrman is running a skating rink on Lake Washington. I met Mr. and Mrs. George F. Meacham, both formerly of Salem. He was a school teacher in the early days in North and South Salem, and became city treasurer of Seattle. I hope to go to Seattle again some day and meet more of the people, but must close this letter for want of space.

MARCUS WRIGHT.

A Wide Difference.

The editor of an exchange has discovered that there is a wide difference between the school book of the present and those of long ago. He says that when he first went to school he read the lesson something like this: "See the cow. Is not the cow nice? Can the cow run? Yes the cow can run. Can the cow run as fast as a horse?" But the latest up-to-date style of reading it by the average kid is about as follows: "Git onto the cow? Ain't she a bute? Sure she is a corker. Can the cow get a move on herself? Can she hump it like a hoss? No, she ain't in it wid de hoss."—Coast Mail.

A DISTRIBUTOR OF THE SURPLUS

The Distinction of the Government Printing Office.

It is believed in Washington that President Roosevelt means to ask congress to put the government printing office under the control of the department of commerce and labor. That office has an unchallenged distinction. It is the most extravagant printing shop in the world, and prints the most worthless and superfluous stuff. It can be defended only as the St. Louis "Progressive Printer" defends it, by saying that the "Government vaults would be gorged" if "some provision was not made for distributing the surplus revenue back into the hands of the people." As a surplus distributor and antidote to vault gorging, the government printing office has unquestionable genius. Probably nobody will interfere with it, even when the surplus sinks into a deficit.—"With the Procession," in the December Everybody's.

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