

Do Widowers Make Good Husbands?

THEIR QUALITIES FULLY DISCUSSED.

There is no gainsaying the fact that a prejudice exists against widowers, not only amongst marriageable girls, but also amongst their parents. For evidence in support of this assertion, one has only to take note of the manner in which the announcement of a girl's engagement and impending marriage to a widower is received by friends and relatives alike.

There is an upturning of the eyebrows and a scornful shrug of the shoulders from female friends, while congratulations are uttered in a tone which seems to imply that the future bride is to be pitted for not being able to find a bachelor for a husband.

Nor is this all. The parents of the girl are inclined to view with suspicion and distrust her once-married lover. He is not an eligible suitor in their eyes, and should the unfortunate man possess any children, they more often than not proceed to lecture their daughter on the folly and responsibility of marrying a man who simply wants someone to look after his little ones.

To accuse every widower who wishes to marry a second time of such selfish motives is, in the majority of cases, both unjust and unfair. There is no doubt that thoughts of his children do sometimes urge a widower to marry again against his own inclination; but he above all men judges by experience how absolutely necessary it is for the happiness of married life that true love and respect should exist between husband and wife, and he rarely marries a woman for the sake of having someone to attend to his children's requirements, quite irrespective of his own feelings. He may not at first be able to bestow upon a second wife his greatest love—which may be, still clings to the memory of the woman he first wooed and won—but he does bestow upon her a second love, which, after a time, will equal the first in strength and sincerity, if the woman he marries proves herself to be all that he expected of her.

The greatest argument which most girls have against marrying a widower is that they do not consider that a man can love twice. This, to be quite candid, is foolish reasoning. A man may have been most passionately attached to his first wife, and sincerely mourn her loss for a considerable period. But by and by he meets a woman who seems to possess many of the characteristics which he loved in the dear one taken from him. If he is a sensible man he recognises that it was not meant that we should always mourn the loss of loved ones, and having found a woman who is capable of filling the blank in his life, he slowly but surely transfers his affections to her.

And if his love is truly returned, the presence of even three or four step-children will in no wise detract from the happiness of his second wife, although, of course, she must work hard and use every endeavour to win the affection of the little ones also.

But there are other convincing reasons why widowers make good husbands. Their experience of married life, for instance, enables them to easily remove many of those troubles and difficulties which often prove such a stumbling-block to the happiness of a woman who marries a single man. The first year of married life is usually filled with innumerable little worries for the young wife. She has so many things to learn, and so many things to discover, and if she marries a bachelor, he can help her but very little, seeing that he is almost, if not quite, as ignorant as herself.

When a girl marries a widower, however, the pathway of married life is made much smoother. Her husband's experience enables him to guide his wife to a great extent, and he is able to teach her many things. If any little trouble connected with the household arises, or any untoward event happens, she has but to go to him, and he will usually be able to show her a way out of the difficulty.

Furthermore, he knows that woman is a creature of moods and fancies, and acts accordingly. His knowledge of woman's little ways, humours, and eccentricities stands him in valuable stead. He knows the kind of things which offend or raise the temper of a woman; he understands the many signs which show when trouble is likely to arise, and in obedience to them he acts in a manner calculated to make the wheels of domestic life work smoothly together. When one considers all these little points, the advantages to be derived from marrying a widower at once become apparent. He is invaluable as a counsellor, knowing exactly what to do, and what to avoid. He may not be so sentimental or demonstrative in his affections as the average youth—his bereavement, probably, almost destroyed such characteristics—but there is real worth in the love which he does display.

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How to Look Your Prettiest in a Photograph.

A curious fact relative to a woman's personality is that the two sides of her face are in not in accord one with the other. In other words, every woman has two faces, and one shows certain characteristics which the other does not, and each contradicts the other.

The left side is nearly always the prettier, although it would take a very keen eye to discern any difference; but it is worth while to remember this when posing for one's photograph.

The moral of this is obvious. The left side of the face showing to far better advantage than the right, it is every one's duty to keep the good side turned toward an observer.

Nursery Accidents, and How to Prevent Them.

1. Let the fireplace have a wire guard securely fixed before it.
2. Have a bracket placed high on the nursery wall. On this always keep the matches. When nurse leaves the room, even for a minute, let her place the lamp or candle on this. Lights have a powerful attraction for young children. No fear of punishment will prevent some children playing with them if they get the chance. (Note: Whenever possible nurseries should be lit with electric light. It is the healthiest and safest light for use where there are children.)
3. Have a gate, with a bolt on the outer side, placed at top of stairs leading to nursery.
4. Keep all medicine bottles and pill boxes, liniments and ointments locked up.
5. Never give very little children buttons, beads, marbles, or very small toys to play with. They are apt to put such things into their mouths, and the swallowing of them may easily lead to fatal accidents.
6. Never give painted toys to little children. They are sure to suck the paint off. Remember the nursery rhyme:

Willy had a purple monkey,
Climbing on a yellow stick;
When he had sucked the paint all off it,
It made him deathly sick."

7. Always pour cold water into the bath first, then add hot. Neglect of this

has led to children falling into the bath and being scalded to death.

8. Keep knives, scissors, pins, needles, and sharp implements out of reach of little fingers.

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