

# AS SEEN THROUGH WOMAN'S EYES.

## When We are Married What Will You Do?

Matrimony, especially in its earliest stages, is a very delicate business; not, as the Prayer Book reminds us, to be taken in hand "lightly or unadvisedly." A perilous leap in the dark, which may turn out well, or may not. People have so many purely personal peculiarities, and the worst of it is you can never find them out until you come to live with them. You may be engaged to a girl for eight years, or eight and twenty; but until you've seen her put her fringes into Hinde's curlers and take it out again you don't know her. If you think you do you're a fool, and you'll live to find out your mistake. Several ladies of my acquaintance have told me that the first year of married life is always the worst. On the whole I agree with them; it takes time for two temperaments to shake down satisfactorily. They are quite five months getting over the frightful experiences of the honeymoon. I always argue that much should be forgiven to people who are supporting existence under such trying circumstances. Little slips ought to be looked over, and due allowance made for the intense state of nervous excitement into which the happy pair are thrown.

The terrible clause which changes matrimony from a delight to a duty is, "For life." Not just for youth, when hearts are light and life is seen through rose-coloured spectacles; not for a year or two, while passion runs its turbulent, heady course; not for fine weather and summer wear; but for always. When the hair is grey that once was golden, and the feet falter which once tripped life's measures with a fairy grace; for the long stretch of years when youth and the dreams and illusions of youth—lie far behind, half hidden in the mists of forgetfulness.

Yes, very often that is where all the tragedy comes in. You loved her truly when her eyes were bright and her cheeks were red—and I do not blame you; but it was, dear sir, but a poor and tawdry passion if it could not outlast the fading of the roses. Beauty, after all, is only skin-deep; though, as I once heard a learned professor say: "Since we are not in the habit of seeing people without their skins, we cannot afford to be too philosophical." But what about the gifts of mind and soul, which are far more than physical perfection? They do not wear out, and if you made your choice with your eyes open they were the buoys to which you anchored "Love."

You cannot tell when the knot is tied whether your path will tend; it may wind through peaceful valleys, or climb the rugged mountain heights. Before a year is out you may be scaling the ladder of success, or you may be reduced to pawing the silver tea-pot. It is an uncertain world, and no mistake.

Matrimony for you may mean a desirable high-class family residence, or cheap lodgings.

You may have won the right woman, or you may have married the wrong. She may turn out a domestic angel, or prove incapable of making a crice pudding.

But you have chosen her, and, good, bad, or indifferent, there is only one thing left—to make the best of her.

Come storm or sunshine, calm or flood, you must sink and swim together.

## The Care of China.

The cure of china is not so simple as it appears. Some paste is so perfectly hard that it never "takes" dirt, other specimens are very absorbent. Of course, china must not be rubbed with anything very gritty or the glaze will be destroyed, or at least scratched, rendering it more likely to be permanently impregnated with dirt or to have its pattern jeopardised. The Chinese employ Fuller's earth and soda with plenty of water, and the effects are charming, the china coming out of this mixed bath with a glistening complexion.

## How Husbands May be Made Happy.

Take a pride in your wife's clothes. If she is well dressed she reflects credit on you, and the casual passer by may think when he meets you escorting her out some fine Saturday or Sunday that she is your sweetheart. If you have good taste choose her dresses and decide upon the style in which they are to be made up. If you have never studied the subject and do not know red from terra cotta you had better leave her clothes severely alone, or insist that she sticks to black and white. Persuade her to wear bonnets; they look much more married. And you do not want her—when you are not there—to be mistaken for one of Diana's damsels. Give her half a dozen pairs of gloves whenever you are in funds or get an extra good dividend. Choose them assorted shades and then her friends will know when she has a new pair on without her telling them.

If her "get up" doesn't suit you don't wait to mention it until you are well on your way somewhere. Screw up your courage and brave the matter out in the hall. Never mind if she relieves the corporation of a little street sweeping. It may be a dirty habit, but it looks graceful. Do not remark unfeelingly when she complains that she hates going down hill. "That's because you wear your boots two sizes too small." Forget all you ever learnt when a boy at the art schools about sandals as the ideal of foot-wear. Abstain from going to your club every night. It isn't fair to take a woman away from a comfortable home where she has plenty of society and, having established her in a new "semi-detached," with damp plaster on the walls, leave her night after night to weep over her fancy work and wish she was single. If you must play whist, why not try a game of "double-dummy"? Return home on the nights when you make merry with your friends at a respectable hour. Two in the morning should be the outside limit. To come back with the milk is not duly realising your responsibilities as the head of a household. If you creep upstairs in your stocking feet in the chill and early dawn do not think to elude Nemesis by putting back the hands of the hall clock to a little past midnight. Your wife is sure to wake, and though the prevaricating "grandfather" strikes one, the distant echo of the milkman's cry will condemn you.

When she is ill in bed and you go to see her don't pace the room as if it was a quarter-deck, with thick, heavy boots or ones that squeak. Resist your natural inclination to ask injuriously how long she is going to stop there; and don't bring her three pounds of sausages for her tea. When the doctor says she is to be kept quiet don't play comic opera music on the piano downstairs with one finger or practise your old singing lessons. As soon as she is convalescent hire a pony trap and take her for a drive, but do not precipitate her into a ditch or collide with a watering cart.

Comfort her when she is distressed, even if you cannot quite make out what all the trouble is about. Stroke her hair, pat her on the back, tell her to cheer up, and trust to understanding the difficulty by-and-by. If she wants to cry don't stop her. Let her get it over. It will do her good. Only don't remark when she's scolding round, "Now, go and look what a fright you've made of yourself." Sympathise with her when the housemaid gives warning and the cook skedaddles in the night. Don't stop at mere expressions; show your sympathy in a practical manner by getting up to light the fire and stoning the steps down before breakfast. Always look on the bright side and assure her that "it'll all come right in the end." Never mind if the ornaments are thick with dust, or the kitchen fire smokes. Be a philosopher, and rise above such petty discomforts. Bask in the serene, untroubled atmosphere of contemplation, and think out your next article while walking up and down with the teething baby. Make a chum of your wife; interest her in your work, or your business, or your profession. Take her round the works or show her the office. Describe the routine to her and then she will understand a little of what your life is like.

## Character Affected by Hand-writing.

European graphologists have just laid down two new laws, which will be of interest to all those who believe that the personal characteristics of individuals can be discovered through an examination of their handwriting. One law is that, as the good and bad qualities of a writer are revealed by the manner in which he forms his letters and words, so it is possible for a writer to acquire virtues and vices by shaping his letters and words in a manner indicative of such desirable and undesirable characteristics. For example, a strong bar crossing the small 't' is said to indicate wilfulness, and consequently it is asserted that anyone who desires to develop a spirit of wilfulness need in future only cross his 't's in this fashion. In like manner generosity is said to be indicated in any writing in which the small 'o's are left wide open, and consequently it is declared that the surest way to rid oneself of the spirit of avarice is to form one's small 'o's in this way. "The second law is aimed directly at the style of handwriting which is taught in the schools of the Sacred Heart, as well as in many convents, both in Europe and in this country. This style was introduced some years ago by Carre, and one of its marked characteristics is its angularity and its lack of curves. According to M. I. Depoin, an expert graphologist, pupils who are taught in this way speedily show in their writing tokens of intellectual constraint and vacillation. This style of handwriting, he says, tends to make pupils inconstant, and also restrains them from giving any play to their imagination, while at the same time it is extremely apt to foster in them a craving for an ideal life, which is bound to prove injurious so far as

their material prospects are concerned.

The Abbe Leroy, who is much interested in graphology, does not think that M. I. Depoin's statements on this subject are well founded, and he has protested vigorously against the adoption of any law, which would tend to bring the Sacred Heart style of handwriting into disrepute. "I know," he says, "hundreds of honourable men who write in this manner."

It is worth noting that this is not the first occasion on which this style of handwriting has been adversely criticised. Bridier, the expert, who died recently, made a furious onslaught on it some time ago, even maintaining that those who adopted it were more likely to commit crimes than other persons.

## The Wife's Part.

A wife's part in the family income is generally best taken where the wife looks after the economical management of the domestic machinery. Many mothers try to help the family income by doing some outside work, but where a home and children are to be looked after the results are satisfactory in very few cases. The greatest value of a housekeeper and mother lies in economy in her home, in the wise education of her children, and in the encouragement of her husband. Where a wife is childless and has no household cares, then leisure is had to help the income, and this may be done in various ways. But, as a general rule, a wife's source of greatest help to her husband lies in the home and not out of it, by stimulating him to earn all that he can, and by wisely saving all that she can of his earnings.

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