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A Chat with our Readers.

When June comes every woman longs for a place that is fragrant with the smell of warm earth and wonderful with the promise of coming flowers.

The June number of the Western Home Monthly will contain its usual quota of stories and articles which will be quite in tune with the season when you are glad to forget the work and worry of the winter that is past.

The Editor tells you about the stories first. One naturally thinks of romance and beauty when one begins to talk of June but you are not to be permitted to put aside all serious things just because the sun is shining on fields of tender green and orchards of blossoming fruit-trees. There, don't be alarmed, your favorite magazine is not to be dull and heavy. It never has been so in the past. You have discovered that you could always read every word on every page from cover to cover, haven't you?

There comes a day when a chance word or a deferential act, an anniversary or a meeting with a long-absent acquaintance causes you to realize that you are no longer young. You have often joked about being middle-aged, and the polite denial of such an assumption has been pleasant to your ears when uttered by a friend, but now you know the truth—you are growing old! It is strange that you have not noticed it before; odd that you have not noticed how college girls wait at doors to let you pass through and matrons with half-grown sons offer their chairs to you when you stand in crowded drawing-rooms. Now that your attention is called to yourself, you are astonished that you have not seen the significance of the kindly attention you receive wherever you go. You thought you were more popular than you used to be, but, after all, you are merely more aged.

This moment of realization is a test of character. Inevitably it must bring pain, for, even though vanity may not suffer, there is always disappointment in the thought of what it has been impossible to accomplish—so few of the dreams have come true! Following the awakening to the grim fact that a new generation, with eyes that discern, sees gray hairs and telltale wrinkles, there must be a gradual readjustment in one's relations with the people of a busy world that is not at all like the world of yesterday when the way of life lay, long and pleasantly alluring, before you. You may be tempted to assume an arrogant attitude toward the young and to lament because things are not as they used to be, but a little stern, unflinching frankness with yourself will enable you to accept your changed status meekly at first, and then gratefully. It is time for you to step aside so that others may pass along the pleasant paths that you have trodden, but you can find sweet solace in looking on as you pause by the wayside. It is pleasant to know that the resting-time is not far off. There is no need of haste now. For a while you are free to enjoy the memories, and the memories should make you charitable toward all. How many mistakes you have made, and yet how insignificant appear experiences that once seemed tragic! After all, the new generation is wiser than yours, and you find yourself rejoicing because you have been permitted to live through years of progress. Now

your point of view is safe and you may be sure your values are right. You are ready to go onward at a different speed, a slower pace, that permits you to turn often in order that you may speak a cheering word or perform a helpful act. It is a precious privilege to grow old. Slowly the realization comes as you learn to subdue the eager, restless spirit that was still selfish a little while ago when the importance of material things was exaggerated. The wonder of all is that the spirit within you is more and more refreshed, now that you know you are growing old; the miracle is that it is as young as it ever was, and you often smile because so few behold the miracle—because so few understand! It is this deathless youth of the spirit that gives you serene assurance of survival after the semblance of age has been put away. So peace dwells with you.

Since a prominent man expressed the wish that some day he hoped every woman might be so situated that she would not think it necessary for her to marry if she did not wish to, Canadian girls of every class have been interested in the wide discussion of our modern motives for matrimony. With increasing economic independence, are mercenary considerations vanishing?

This question has been answered by college presidents, social reformers and plain, every-day women. Naturally, opinions differ quite as much as the various points of view. One sociologist has declared that no woman in America is forced to marry in order that she may obtain food and shelter. An educator has discovered that college women "choose more wisely." Statistics show that while the number of wage-earning women has more than doubled in the last twenty-five years the percentage of marriages has slightly increased.

In one sense every right-minded woman marries for a home, since the home is the symbol of her new partnership, the sanctuary of all high, and holy hopes. It is as natural for the normal woman to long for a home as it is for her to desire the love of a good man. With the multiplication of industries and the ever-widening call for women's work, the number of mercenary alliances in the middle classes has been reduced to a minimum. The educated girl who marries so that she may be supported is either hopelessly lazy or the victim of an unwise training which has failed to fit her for life.

Time has proved, fortunately, that success in business, distinction in the professions and even fame in various artistic careers have not made woman less susceptible to the influence of the most old-fashioned of cosmic forces—romantic love, which continues to rule in this progressive world.

Even though a university degree may aid a girl to "choose more wisely" there is evidence that logic has not supplanted the peculiar power that enables a woman to behold a hero in even a commonplace man. So long as love continues to exist in the world—and that means until the human race is extinct—it is safe to say that women will be reluctant to marry for a home, and there is no doubt that economic independence has increased this reluctance. In response to the question, "Do women marry for a home?" we should say that a few exceptions prove the rule that Canadian women do not marry to be supported.

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