

## Christmas.

The flocks were wrapp'd in slumber along the dewy ground,  
The Shepherds lay in silence keeping watch on all around,  
The little thought such sight to see before their watch should  
cease,  
Now Glory be to God on High, and on earth be Peace.

The Angel of the Lord came down in floods of dazzling light,  
Above the brightness of the Sun when he goes forth with might;  
His voice, it was so wondrous sweet, it made their hearts to thrill;  
Now Glory be to God on High, and unto men Goodwill.

Fear not, he said, I bring glad news: in David's town this Morn,  
To you and all the world a Saviour, Christ the Lord is born,  
This day is born the Saviour Christ, to save us from all ill:  
Now glory be to God on High, and unto men Goodwill.

Then opened Heaven's Chancel, while the Shepherds gazed in fear,  
Out trooped the Choir of Angels: oh, the blessedness to hear!  
And loud they sang as though the Heavens were not enough to fill;  
Now Glory be to God on High, and unto men Goodwill.

Oh, praise the Lord of Hosts Who sent His Singers sweet that  
night,  
From the Holy place of Heaven, from the Choir that needs no light;  
Let love this holy Season keep, let strife and turmoil cease,  
GAnd lory be to God on High, and on the earth be Peace.

## Woman's Duties at Home.

BY MRS. EVERED POOLE.

(Continued.)

## DUTY AS A WIFE.

II. *Wife*.—The daughter steps out of the home life into a wider sphere—that of wifehood, and the shelter of her husband's home. Life enlarges—it becomes like a trellis work, vined over with dependencies, many things weak and lovely clinging to it—a central sun reflecting, though not lessening its light in the many orbs clustering around it. Surely a wife's first duty is to *grow*, and with a wider sphere to see that mind, experience, and sympathy expand.

Some "advanced women" think marriage narrows and cramps a woman's mental activities.

There is no reason that it should, though they have a foundation in fact for their belief.

Many women look upon marriage as a goal; once attained the woman definitely *sinks*; she becomes the household drudge, the overworked, harassed mother of children, worn out in the service of husband and children. *The fault is not in the fact of marriage, but in the woman and her training.*

## NEED OF TRAINING.

Girls often undertake the responsibilities of married life without *thought or training*, duties crowd in on them, domestic cares, capable of engrossing all day and half the night, absorb all their attention, they aim at being "Good wives and mothers;" and to this end "because self-sacrifice is always easier to a woman than self-culture," everything must make way for the effort "to make both ends meet."

Girls of the upper class give up the pursuits of their girlhood, throw aside books, accomplishments, mental recreations to perform so-called "home duties" and so decay sets in, mental and spiritual.

A mind soon loses its *power of application*, and only little things can be grasped and enjoyed.

With our working classes we see the same thing, the smart, neat servant, the comely, well-dressed business girl, often after a year or two's marriage, becomes a slovenly, ill-dressed, hard-featured woman. Dulness of mind, and dowdiness of body are sure to effect the happy intercourse between husband and wife, and make life so prosaic, and matter-of-fact to both, that they grow indifferent to one another, nay, even contemptuous of each other's feelings and tastes. Surely there is no excuse in these days of easily acquired knowledge, cheap scientific classes, and lectures, Mothers' Unions, Women's Guilds, and the hundred and one opportunities, even to the working classes of mental growth and improvement, for any woman to *stagnate*. There is no reason why a wife should not take a deep and keen interest in all kinds of outside work, far-reaching matters of religion, philanthropy, learning, politics, without for one

moment forgetting her womanliness or her proud claim to be called a "good wife."

All these interests broaden her mind, and outside interests should prove rather helpful than fatal to wifely duty.

## MARRING A HOME.

*But take care lest your very devotion to husband and children* becomes so absorbing as to leave room for nothing else, and to warp your whole character. Many a home is marred by the fatal exclusiveness of the wife and mother's love. You will see a woman, unselfish in and for herself, selfish and grasping for her dear ones, mean in her actions, warped in her judgment, violently prejudiced in her actions through her intense, absorbing, jealous love for her husband and children. Avoid narrowness of *love* as much as narrowness of mind!

There is not a wife in this hall to-night who will not agree with me that a husband is a delicate creature and requires *very careful handling*!

If you consider it your husband's duty to give a goodly portion of his time to your society, do see that your society is worth having when he wants to enjoy it. To this end I think it is every wife's duty to be pleasing in person, and you may be just as pleasing in a print gown as in a *crepon* costume.

## DUTY TO HUSBAND.

Men have *their* little weaknesses, have they not? And a man likes to be complimented above all things, and nothing compliments him better than for a woman to be evidently desirous of attracting his admiration, and securing his attention. But sometimes quite a different picture greets the husband's eyes—curl-papers (please pardon me), a good old faded, stained dressing-gown, slippers out at toes and down at heels, make a singularly unattractive picture, and such a slatternly woman could never tempt a kindly kiss. Depend upon it there is no one in the world in whose eyes it is so much your interest to look well as those of your husband. For on retaining his esteem and admiration mainly depends your life's happiness.

Careless in those matters, an untidy wife, with an untidy house and untidy children, you absolutely cast away from you your strongest influence and charm. Every man has a right to a well-dressed, well-mannered wife, if he has chosen her as mother of his children and mistress of his household, large or small. *Don't grow careless of your dress and habits.* What a husband wants—and you must pardon such an expression, utterly unorthodox, I am sure, in a Congress meeting—but what he wants in a wife is, "a thorough churn," one sharing his tastes and pursuits as far as possible, his best and safest comrade; so that he may feel that *one ear* at least is open to him, *one heart* will not misconstrue him, *one faithful love* will always condone his faults. It is a wife's supreme duty to be the husband's comforter when trouble comes, and the sorrow of heart.

Many a woman like a spoilt child in the sunshine, the disciple of indolence and frivolity, comes out like a heroine in the dark days of trouble.

You make a mistake, you men, if you keep your business troubles and worries from your wives. None so fit to share them. None so love to make sacrifice.

The wife who thus fulfils her duty will only have one trouble—your husband will get to love his home so much, and your presence in it will be so indispensable, that the little pleasure your soul so loves, in the form of "little cups of tea at your neighbors," and sundry visits to aunts, uncles, and cousins, will be seriously curtailed at his wish.

Surely it is the duty of a true wife to be her husband's helpmeet, not merely his housekeeper or his plaything. I would rather define it as his business partner. If your husband sees you looking closely after his interests in the matter of his income, careful in clothes you wear, food you buy, the home and its appurtenances, he will willingly and gladly appreciate your character and your help.

(To be Continued.)