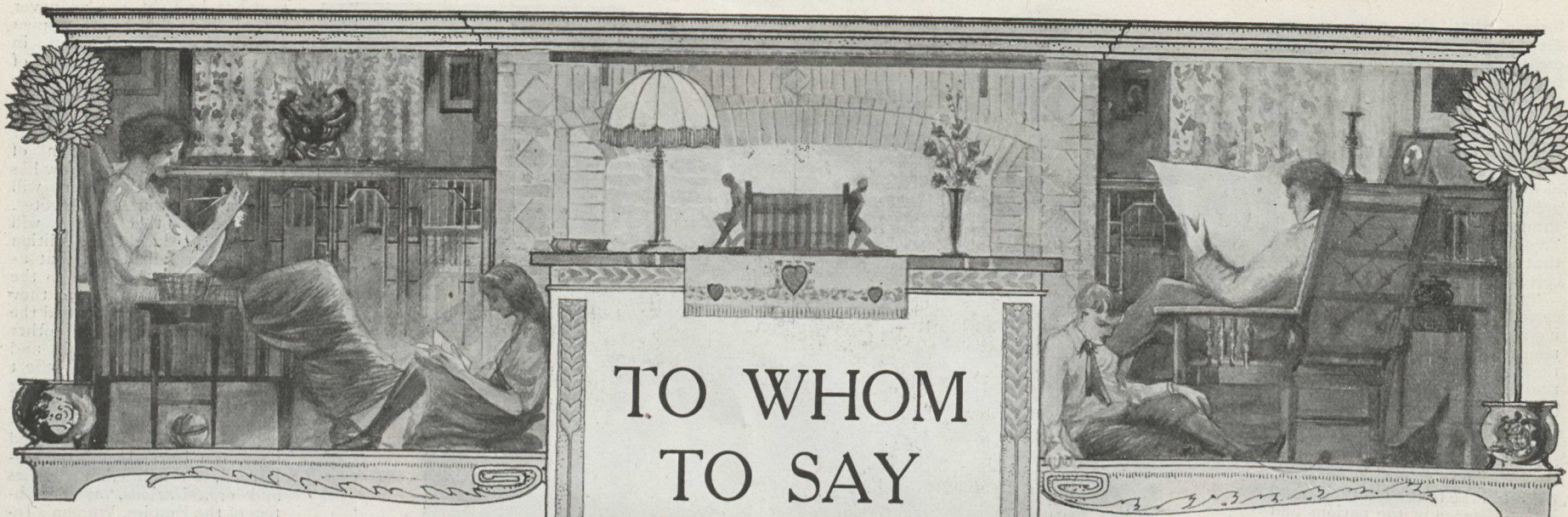




TO WHOM TO SAY "YES"

YOU, as a woman, are interested in marriage. Whether you are a girl growing into maturity, or have reached the marriageable age, or have a daughter or a grand-daughter, you are interested in marriage, and sooner or later you will be called upon to help solve the most difficult problem relating to matrimony.

This problem will involve one of the most important questions which will ever arise in your life. It will either affect your own happiness and that of your children, or it will affect the happiness of someone you love.

It will have a direct bearing upon the welfare of the state and of generations yet unborn.

It is a problem which often comes like a thief in the night, and has to be handled with the same celerity.

Stated in the fewest possible words, do you know how to "size up" a marriageable man?

Can you distinguish a sheep from a goat?

Do you know how to choose, from the circle of your acquaintances, those men who are alone worth while?

Your first impulse will be to say "Yes," for it is a common weakness that nearly all of us think we are good judges of human nature.

But if you will pause for a few minutes' reflection, you will find yourself somewhat less certain of your answer.

It is a notorious fact that many of the cleverest men and women have made the most unfortunate matrimonial choices.

Nor is it necessary to look so far from home. Coming right down to your own local circle of acquaintances, you will find numerous wives who have selected the wrong husbands.

Yet, when they married, all these people thought they were choosing wisely.

They thought they had solved the problem without an error, and when they found their answer was the wrong one, it was too late to change it.

And in those tragic words "too late" we begin to realize that it is not only advisable, but that it is absolutely vital for you to study well that all-important question: "How can I tell whether or not a man is worth while?"

A few generations ago the choice of a husband was a much easier matter than it is to-day.

Before the era of trains and steamships, the population was more fixed.

We grew up with each other. We seldom moved away from home and it was an equally infrequent occurrence for new people to come into our circle.

So if you had lived then and a young man had started paying his attentions to you, the chances are that you would already have known him well. You would have grown up with him, have played with him, have gone to school with him and have known his tricks and peculiarities.

You would have known whether he was truthful, whether he was kind, whether he was sincere. You would also have known his prospects in life.

In a word you would have had definite facts to consider, so that it would have been a comparatively easy thing for you to decide whether or not any young man of your acquaintance would make you a good husband.

But, oh, how different things are to-day!

Perhaps when the history of our times is written, it will be said that we lived in the Era of Restlessness, when each generation proved its progress by moving away from home.

The friends of our youth are scattered over a continent, and seldom a week passes when we are not introduced to some newcomers who are henceforth to be our neighbors.

A strange young man is introduced to you, or to your daughter, or to someone you love. Acquaintance develops into friendship, and presently you begin to see signs that friendship may ripen into love.

Immediately it becomes imperative that this young man should be sized up, and it is equally essential that no mistake should be made.

You have simply got to know whether or not this young man would make a good husband. But how are you going to find out?

That is the question of questions.

That is the problem which I am going to try to help you to solve.

When any great question arises, you have two guides to its solution.

You may rely upon instinct. Or you may rely upon reason.

In trying to judge a young man, I think most of us depend upon instinct. We say rather thoughtfully, "He seems to be all right," and for the rest of it we trust to luck.

Now if you had saved a hundred dollars, and a comparative stranger came to you and asked for the loan of that hundred dollars, would you lend it to him—upon instinct? Hardly. You would want some very definite information before you parted with your savings.

Then why should you trust him with your life's happiness, or that of your daughter, when you have nothing but instinct to guide you?

Besides, if you make a mistake in lending money, the

loss is not an irrevocable one. It is not one of those catastrophes known as living sorrows.

But if you make a mistake in the choice of a husband, you lose practically all that makes life worth living.

Thus speedily we are forced to the conclusion that you should not only use your instinct, but that you should also use your reason to the utmost in deciding whether or not a man is worth while.

Let us therefore suppose that you have a definite young man in mind, and that you wish to judge him from the matrimonial standpoint. You have only to select any of the young men you know and keep him clearly in mind while reading this article. Of course we take it for granted that he has no open vices, such as drunkenness, lying or bad temper. Anything like that would naturally disqualify him without further discussion.

As the problem is much too large to be embodied in one query, we will divide it into seven parts, into seven questions, and when we have arrived at the answers of those questions, I think you will agree with me that we have also arrived at the solution of the problem.

In the first place every man worth while must be earnest.

I do not mean that he must go around with a long face and never smile or crack a joke. But I do mean that if a man has no sincere convictions, he will never amount to much.

How could he?

Like a ship, a man must have a definite course and stick to it through fair weather and foul. Otherwise he will seldom, if ever, arrive at the haven where he would be.

There seems to be a growing class of young men who neither know nor care where they stand on such fundamental questions as faith, patriotism or duty.

This lack of principle, this vacillation, is in itself a most ominous indication. For the chances are that a man who



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has no sincere feeling about anything else, will be equally insincere regarding a husband's responsibilities.

Without earnestness, without sincerity, a man soon grows hypocritical, flippant, or shiftless.

Such a man is not worth while.

I would advise you to shun him.

Next in importance to sincerity, a good man must have that mental and physical alertness generally known as ginger.

He must have the ability to hustle.

He must be possessed of that dynamic energy which makes a live wire.

It makes no difference whether a man is a farmer or a manufacturer, a clerk or a mechanic, unless he has some ginger in him, he will very soon fall into the class of men who are not worth while.

If you marry such a man you will find yourself hitched to a dead horse. Instead of being a help he will be a handicap. A man without ginger will be a plodder all his life.

And what is a great deal more to the point, his wife will have to plod behind him.

This young man whom you are now considering; has he got a bright eye and a springy step?

Those are good signs of ginger.

Does he speak briskly when he is interested? Does he grow enthusiastic about the friends and things he likes? Has he got a hearty laugh? Does he sit erect and is he quick to grasp a situation?

These, too, are excellent signs of ginger.

Is he an early riser? Is he prompt in his engagements? Does he like to walk, or play ball, or skate, or even to throw stones at a tree?

These things, also, are marks of exuberant energy, of ginger. They are indications which show that you are on the track of a man worth while.

But if a young man is slow and sluggish, there is something decidedly wrong with him.

If he has a dead voice and a dull eye at twenty, what sort of a man do you suppose he will be at forty?

Do you think that such a man will be a good provider?

Can a cat catch mice when he has no spring in him?

I tell you, a man has to hustle if he wants to get along nowadays. The world has no time for a chair warmer or a couch weight.

You will therefore be wise to shun a man who has no enthusiasms, no eagerness, no ginger.

Such a man is already dead to the world. He has joined the army of those who are not worth while.

The third essential quality in a young man is ambition.

Is your young man ambitious?

And, what is more important, is he trying to realize his ambition?

Many a young man will say: "I'm going into business for myself some day." This sounds ambitious. But unless that young man is saving the necessary money to make a start, he is only fooling himself.

Be careful that he doesn't fool you.

But if you know a man who has a definite and reasonable plan for bettering himself in life, and if he is getting a little nearer and a little nearer to his goal every day, then indeed he is ambitious in the true sense of the word.

He has one of the important elements which make a man worth while.

You and I both know many young men who expect to make a success in life without any special effort.

But don't you be deceived.

They may be intelligent. They may even be unusually clever. They may be steady in their habits, truthful, and possessed of many other virtues. In short they may have all the necessary factors which make a man successful, but unless they are ambitious and are using sustained and intelligent effort to realize their ambitions, they will never amount to much.

Indeed, it is doubtful if they will ever amount to anything.

Suppose you had everything in your pantry necessary to make a cake: flour, sugar, baking powder, shortening and all the other items. And then suppose that instead of getting to work and making that cake, you sat down by the window and expected the cake to make itself.

How long do you suppose you would have to sit there before the cake came popping out of the oven?

"Well, then!" as my Aunt Milly used to say. "Well, then!" And if you marry a man without a sensible ambition, you will have to wait just as long before he makes a success of his life.

In one way it is difficult to size up a young man when he is trying to make a good impression on you.

From the very nature of the
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