

When And Whom To Marry.

Whom to marry and when to marry are grave questions that confront many people who have not yet come to feel that marriage is a lottery, says the Boston Globe.

Hence arise questions like the following.

1. How can I tell when I love?
2. Can I afford to marry poor?
3. What sort of a person will I be happy with?
4. Will I always be loved?
5. Will I always love?
6. Will I ever see somebody whom I will love more.
7. Shall I marry young or shall I wait until I am mature?
8. Should a man marry a widow?
9. Should a girl marry a widower?
10. Is it always well to marry if one loves?
11. Is there love at first sight?
12. What is love at first sight?

And many others. Ye who are married can best answer many of these questions. Only one who has made experiments in marriage in all its phases could singly answer all of them. And not unlikely the result of such experiment would prove anything but edifying.

I am therefore prepared only to give the result of my own matrimonial boat as a partial guide, completing the latter by giving the results of other men's and many women's ventures or marriages.

Probably the first approach of that tender feeling known as love is felt when at school a red cheek seems to the average boy lovely as a peach and he respects the possessor for her gift. Maybe a big blue eye strikes him as prettier than any he has seen in the picture-book mother bought him for a Christmas present and he wishes that he might have this living picture-book near by to look at when he chooses.

Now, she with the red cheek or she with the big blue eye may see across the aisle in the little school-room a bright little fellow whose clothes fit as nicely and look as pretty as those on the doll she takes delight in fondling at home.

For a doll is the first object outside the immediate household for which your little daughter shows any liking. The doll is her beau ideal. To win her favor one must conform to that model.

Its shape, the color of its hair and eyes, its clothing speak to her language mystic and full of meaning. To her it is the symbol of mother's care, first love, wifely devotion, and perhaps the incentive of those flatteries that in after years may turn some poor fellow's head.

The influence of the doll is never lost; it survives through life. Behind it all is the desire of possessing something to respond to the feelings, and rather than not have anything we too frequently take what does not satisfy our desires.

And as our impressions of what we need are true or false, so will possession bring joy or sorrow; and when the question comes to us, Whom and when shall we marry? we should inquire into our needs and ascertain just what sort of a partner will supply our needs.

The question should never resolve itself into whether blonde should marry blonde, whether brunet should marry brunet, or whether partners should be of the same complexion. An investigation, on the complexion hypothesis might prove entertaining, but would I fear, bring us back to where we started. But to my answers:

1. You are in love when you absolutely need object of your affection.
2. A poor person can afford to marry if marriage will increase the possibilities of escape from poverty.
3. You will be happy with the one whose tastes, education, and moral views are similar to your own.
4. You will always be loved if you observe the above rules, and do not lose sight of the fact that

"Still in mutual sufferance lies  
The secret of true living;  
Love scarce is love that does not know  
The sweetness of forgiving."

5. You always will love if you realize that obedience to duty is the only medicine for conscience, and that perfect happiness, in this world at least, is but the shadow of a dream.

6. You will see somebody whom you will love more when your sense of duty becomes blunted, which will only happen in case you have not observed the first rule laid down.

7. Marry young if your nature has developed fully; if not, wait until your nature has developed. Rather than marry when undeveloped never marry at all.

8. Marry a widow according to rules laid down previously.

9. Same as No. 8.

10. Always marry if you truly love, but do not confound fancy or infatuation with the noble passion.

11 and 12. There is a love at first sight, but it is simply a quick and mutual apprehension of similarity in tastes, education, and moral views.

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How the King Came Home.  
"Oh, why are you waiting, children,  
And why are you watching the way?"  
"We are watching because the folks have said  
The king comes home to day—  
The king on his prancing charger,  
In his shining golden crown,  
Oh, the bells will ring, the glad birds sing,  
When the king comes back to the town."  
"Run home to your mothers, children  
In the land is pain and woe,  
And the king beyond the forest,  
Fights with the Paynim foe,"  
"But," said the little children,  
"The fight will soon be past,  
We fain would wait, though the hour be late  
He will surely come at last."  
So the eager children waited  
Till the closing of the day,  
Till their eyes were tired of gazing  
Along the dusty way;  
But there came no sound of music,  
No flashing, golden crown;  
And tears they shed as they crept to bed,  
When the round red sun went down,  
But at the hour of midnight,  
While the weary children slept,  
Was heard within the city  
The voice of them that wept;  
Along the moonlit highway  
Toward the sacred dome,  
Dead on his shield, from the well-fought field—  
"Twas thus the king came home."  
God's doorstep is better than the devil's palace.  
Love is free, but it takes money to go to housekeeping.

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