

## The Family Circle.

### COURT YOUR WIFE.

BY GEORGE HOLTON.

O middle-aged man, I've a word with you,  
As you sit in your office this morn;  
Has the worry of life, with its worry and strife,  
Pierced your heart like a festering thorn?  
Does the touch of your gold feel too clammy and cold,  
Are you weary of flattery's scorn?

Alas for the days when the passion of youth  
Burns low in the desolate heart!  
When the laughter and tears of our innocent years  
Nevermore from the sympathies start,  
And the hideous mien of indulgence is seen  
'Neath the flattering mantle of art!

Perhaps you've tried friendship, and only have found  
Deception and selfishness rife;  
Perhaps you have poured to the needy your hoard,  
To be pricked by ingratitude's knife;  
And perhaps you have been through the whole round of sin,  
Did you ever try courting your wife?

No? Then take my advice, and I think you will find  
'Tis a pleasure as charming as new.  
Follow memory's track till at last you are back  
To the days when you swore to be true—  
Yes, dream more and more, till she seems as of yore  
To be watching and sighing for you.

And when you go home to-night buy a bouquet  
Of the flowers she used to admire.  
Put them into her hand when before her you stand,  
With a love-like kiss of desire.  
And oh watch her eyes when they open with surprise,  
'Mid flame up from a smouldering fire!

Then all through the evening be tender and kind;  
Hover near her with eager delight;  
Call her "Darling" and "Sweet," the old titles repeat,  
Till her face is with happiness bright,  
Try it, world-weary man, 'tis an excellent plan:  
Go a-courting your wife to-night!

### A VISIT TO THE WEST INDIES.\*

BERMUDA.

The inhabitants of the "Land of the Lily and the Rose" are hospitable, well informed and agreeable. A stranger is at once impressed with the marked courtesy of the people; from the highest to the lowest, one will receive the most polite attention. On the whole they are comfortable, with here and there a family possessing ample means. The negro women are really pretty, polite, and as well dressed as anybody, attend church regularly and are interested in the schools, have their own secret and benevolent societies. The Bermudians pride themselves on the fact that there are no beggars, or any such thing as pauperism here; there may be poverty, but absolute want does not exist. Instead of the tumbledown shanties of our cities, here the negro dwells in marble halls; the houses of the richest and the poorest are built of the same material, a snow white coral formation, which underlies every foot of soil on the islands. When first quarried it is soft, and cut into blocks with a saw. It hardens by exposure, and is durable and will last for centuries.

Life is not so dull in Bermuda as might be supposed; there are plenty of outdoor amusements, driving, rowing, yachting, etc. As Bermuda is a British army and navy station, it has a society elite. There are two regiments stationed here, and during winter it is the station for the North American fleet; this gives tone to society. Strangers bringing letters of introduction meet with ample attention. Some of the most lovely and desirable residences are owned by Americans. At "Fairy Land" resides General Hastings. Mrs. Hastings is a niece of Ex-President Hayes; they are very hospitable and kind to visitors. If the moon and tide are right, one of the most beautiful sights that can be imagined is presented here. You row into little coves, then around islands into inlets where is the mangrove, every leaf glistening in the moonlight; you can almost see the faintest dancing. Many more Americans would love to dwell here, but no alien

\* We continue the letters of W. B., on Bermuda and the West Indies, of which, though so near to us, we know comparatively so little. They will be read with interest, especially in view of the increasing commercial importance to us of these islands.—Ed.

can own or inherit real estate in Bermuda, and Americans seem to have an antipathy against being naturalized.

One of the greatest needs of Bermuda today is a good system of public schools and trained teachers. At present all the educational work is done by a few earnest people, whose labors are not appreciated and poorly rewarded, but what education there is is compulsory. The pupils pay a fee of 6 cents a week, though no child is excluded if unable to do so. The antagonism of races is very strong; the whites absolutely refuse to attend the same school with the black. Those who can afford it hire private tutors, or send their children abroad to be educated.

The Episcopal Church is the Established church here, and more than one half the population are of that denomination. They have twelve parishes and two chapels-of-ease. There are nine Wesleyan churches, two Presbyterian, one Reformed Episcopal, one Methodist Episcopal. The latest census show the number of each as follows:

Church of England.....	10,600 members
Wesleyan Methodist.....	1,516 "
African.....	1,292 "
Presbyterian.....	624 "
Roman Catholic.....	565 "

The ministers of the Presbyterian Church are Rev. W. Robson Notman, M.A., and Rev. Dr. Burrows.

The churches are very plain, built generally in the form of a cross, surrounded by the church yard. The oldest church is St. Peter's, at St. George's; the communion plate of massive silver was presented by King William III, in 1684. Trinity Church, known as the Cathedral, was a beautiful structure, erected in 1850, but was destroyed by fire 1884. A new cathedral is now being built on the old site.

There is a society in Hamilton for the propagation of the gospel, but what it accomplishes I am unable to ascertain.

Bermuda, in a military sense, is the Gibraltar of the West Indies. No naval power in the world or all combined, could ever take possession of it. It is surrounded by a chain of coral reefs and sunken rocks, through which is only one navigable opening (although the Admiralty are in possession of a secret outlet in case of war), and which is very intricate and dangerous. This natural defence is supplemented by heavily armed forts and batteries at suitable points. In case of necessity the buoys could be sunk instantly. The channel is lined with torpedoes, and subterranean mines. This makes Bermuda a naturally impregnable fortress, second only to Gibraltar.

A stranger coming here wonders why this speck of land in the midst of the Atlantic ocean should require a fort on every exposed point; why there should be batteries and martello towers at every turn; why red-coats and marines should meet you at every corner; why from 8 to 10 of the largest war vessels are stationed here? But it should be remembered that this is the rendezvous of the British fleet of the Atlantic ocean, and here are vast supplies of coal, arms and ammunition stored in case of necessity. The importance of Bermuda to England cannot be estimated. In case of war her strong position here would give her an immense advantage, as a base of naval operation against the enemy. Up till 1863, convicts were transported to this island, and it is on record that over 9,000 convicts arrived in this colony, the great dockyard having been built by convict labor. In addition to the forts and batteries already mentioned, there is a large submarine mining establishment, by which torpedoes and other subsidiary means of defence can be put down at short notice and movable road batteries are in readiness to supplement the stationary defences. Bermuda can never be conquered so long as England remains mistress of the seas.

There are many private gardens in the vicinity of Hamilton that are beautifully laid out and kept in perfect order; some of them contain magnificent specimens of the Indian rubber tree. One very near the Hamilton House can be seen that was sent here 35 years ago from Essequibo. It has now grown to be an enormous tree, the trunk 14 feet in circumference, running up three or four feet

from the ground, and then dividing into five large limbs rising in all nearly 50 feet from the ground and covering with its dense shade space all around to at least 70 feet.

There are numberless walks and places of interest to the visitor. Those who have visited the museum at Edinburgh, Scotland, will probably have seen a splendid stalagmite with the following description:—"Stalagmite of carbonate of lime, sawn from the floor of a cave in the Island of Bermuda." This cave is known by the name of "Walsingham Cave." The height of the cave where the stalagmite stood was 15 ft. above the floor, and it reached to within 4 feet of the roof. There were five spots in the roof from which the water, percolating through the limestone rock and saturated with calcareous matter, was frequently dripping and depositing on the stalagmite. It was cut and sent to Edinburgh by the late Admiral Sir David Milne, commander-in-chief of Bermuda in 1819. In 1863 his son, Admiral Sir Alex. Milne, who held the same position, visited the cave. He found the stump and observed that the five drops had during the previous 44 years formed on its surface several small knobs of new matter each of which he measured. The quantity of matter in these knobs amounted altogether to scarcely 5 cubic inches. As the stalagmite contains about 44 cubic feet, a period of 600,000 years would appear to have been required to form it, if during the entire period the stalagmite was forming, the drops falling from the roof upon it were not more numerous and did not fall more rapidly than in 1863. These caves are very curious and beautiful; from the roofs innumerable stalactites, perfectly white, several yards long and coming down to the delicacy of knitting needles, being in clusters; stalagmites also rose up in pinnacles and fringes throughout the water, which is so exquisitely still and clear, that it is sometimes difficult to tell where the marble tracery ended and its reflected image began.

Early in the morning of the second day after leaving Turk's Isle we were on deck in order, if possible, to catch a glimpse of Jamaica. In this we were not disappointed, for far away in the distant horizon could be seen the land of "Wood and Water." After breakfast, however, we approached sufficiently near to realize the grandeur of the mountain scenery stretched out before us. The "blue" mountains (for their color resembled their name), with their towering peaks ascending into the clouds, and on their sides great ridges and canyons resembling a piece of crumpled paper, was a sight never to be forgotten. From the shores of the ocean till far away up they are covered with forests of the rarest cabinet woods.

Those great gorges so plainly visible, are caused by the heavy rains at certain seasons, causing rivers to flow down, and digging their way into the mountain's sides. No visitor should miss a view of the mountains from the sea, with their denticulated ridges, gullies and gorges.

All along the coast are undulating plains covered with tropical verdure of all kinds. Now we have an excellent view of a sugar plantation, with its cluster of white cottages, while right before us lies Port Royal, with its batteries commanding the sea in every direction.

We take our pilot (negro) on board and in a short time we "lay to" opposite the old decayed town above mentioned. It has, however, a most eventful history, having occupied no unimportant part in West Indian story. It has been devastated by fire, depopulated by pestilence and destroyed by earthquake, and now little remains save parts of the fortifications and sea wall. The town includes the Royal Naval Dockyard and many new fortifications have been constructed lately.

Kingston Harbor is almost surrounded by a peninsula called the Palisadoes, on which is built Port Royal; the position is very similar to that of Toronto, the Island occupying the position of the Palisadoes. We enter by a narrow channel and come to a standstill alongside the war-ship *Urgent*; we transfer our naval sailors and officers to this grand ship with regret.

It is related that, during the great earthquake of 1692, a wealthy merchant named Lewis Galdy, who lived at Port Royal, was

swallowed up by the earthquake, and by another shock thrown back into the sea, and was saved. There is a memorial stone bearing an inscription as above in the old kirk.

There is in addition to the white troops, a garrison of West Indian soldiers, a fine body of men. On the opposite side of the entrance to the harbor is situated Apostles Battery, and further seaward is another, Fort Clarence, and armed with guns of the largest calibre.

Half an hour more and we are alongside the wharf at Kingston. Our impressions of this town as we approach were very meagre, as subsequent events prove. It lies low and has an unhealthy appearance from its position. The streets are narrow and uneven, while the side walks are a mere apology, and cannot be used but as stairs leading up to one entrance then down to another. The sewage runs down the centre of the streets, exposed to a scorching sun, while the scavenger work is well and faithfully performed by the Moon-goose, a large East Indian bird, imported for that purpose. This bird resembling a crow, but three times the size, does good service from a sanitary point, devouring as it does all kinds of filth thrown out on the streets. They are very tame and never interfered with.

All places of business close at 6 p.m. excepting the groggery stores, of which the number is legion. Every second or third door bears an inscription "licenced to sell ale and beer, and spirituous liquors." This is a desperately hot climate, but the quantity of liquor of all kinds consumed is in proportion. Some of the drinking places are mere holes; all that is necessary is to pay a small fee and put up a shingle, nor is this confined to the city, but outside, along the various drives, are miserable huts with "ale and beer" above the entrance, and some no entrance at all, as the whole front is an entrance. This is one of the saddest sights in Kingston. I am informed that there is more liquor consumed in Jamaica than in any other country of equal population, and from observation, and conversation, I am convinced that until the white man ceases to impose upon and destroy the powers of the black man, little genuine progress can be made. This is a profitable market for liquor men, and they will continue to retain it as such as long as they can. It seems as if all the money and influence spent in the propagation of the gospel are gone, nothing to be seen on the surface but loss of time, influence and money. The natives are as ignorant to-day as ever they were and are perfectly satisfied with their condition.

The Church of England in Jamaica is the largest, most influential and energetic. They have lately erected a theological college and are making every effort to keep to the front. The Presbyterians are a very weak body; the natives take more to the Methodists, as they do in Bermuda. In the Presbyterian church not one black person was seen, while in the Methodist church over 100 were present. What is the matter with our church?

The population of Kingston is 48,000, and of the whole island 640,000; the black population being 500,000, and colored (mulattoes) 120,000. It is calculated that the population is 20,000 less now, owing to immigration to the Isthmus of Panama, during the progress of the canal.

The public buildings in Kingston are entirely devoid of any pretension to architectural elegance, the lower portions being used as stores and the upper flats for offices. The Town Hall is a large and severely plain apartment over the post office. The only other buildings of any note is the Colonial Bank.

(To be continued.)

Deseronto Tribune: There is a growing tendency even among members of the different churches to indulge in Sunday evening parties, entertainments and suppers, thus destroying the reverence and respect for the Lord's day, which every working man, and indeed all classes, should be jealous of preserving. The so-called continental Sunday should be of all days the family and children's day, the day on which parents should make a point of spending many hours pleasantly and profitably with their sons and daughters. Let all classes of the community unite to preserve the sanctity of the day.