

The Secret of Our Happy Homes

Having seen no response to your request in the December issue, for some one to give a true picture of some of our happy homes in the West, and the secret of it, permit me to attempt it. I know quite well that I cannot do it justice, but if a thought or suggestion is brought out in a way that will make another home the happier, it is well worth the trifling effort. I fear that neither article, "How a Husband Should Treat His Wife," in the October issue, or "From a Husband's Standpoint," in the December issue, was overdrawn, though both were one-sided, but how fortunate for the welfare of our beloved Dominion that we have, as you suggest editorially, thousands of homes which are happy; from which are coming the boys and the girls who are to make our country far greater than it has ever been! You suggest that there is a secret to the happiness in these homes. I believe it to be found in the hearts of the principals—the husband and wife—even before their marriage, in their determination to be, not merely loving, as we commonly use the word, but to be religiously considerate of each other's likes and dislikes, virtues and faults, and to avoid carefully and persistently everything that might cause even a slight misunderstanding. Beginning married life with such a determination, assists very materially in the blending of these two souls and the founding of a happy home—not a mere place to live in. What matters it, whether the purse is well filled or lacks sufficient to provide for the necessities of life! The trials which all are heir to only help on apace the blending process and bring the home makers to realize more and more each day how much they are to each other and what a necessary complement the one is to the other.

The husband may be a farmer and his perplexities connected with crop failures, limited success with live stock ventures, or low prices for his products, but the wife, with her keen insight, knows how to keep up his spirits, and not only sees that his physical welfare is well cared for but nurtures his mind as well. She has always a cheery smile for him, a loving word, or a kiss, all of which helps to keep the heart young, and the purpose strong to overcome the difficulties for her sake.

Neither is the true husband unmindful of the wife's trials. How lonesome and homesick she is at the first, and how artfully she tries to conceal it! How the unfamiliar phases of life and the establishment and management of her own home test her powers in ways they have never been tried before; but the husband sees it and at least partially understands. His manner becomes more tender than he ever thought possible, and he does his utmost to make the new life a happy one for her, continually planning little surprises and noting with supreme satisfaction how well they are received and how, gradually, the new home ties become stronger than all others.

Home becomes a haven of rest to body and mind. If the husband is in the business world and is worried with the many problems connected with such a life, he finds in his wife one who sympathizes with his every trial, and is not slow to show it, and even though she be not able to counsel or advise in all matters, her confidence and trust inspires to greater effort and oftentimes means success to the husband, whereas without that loving confidence from the woman of his choice he would but fail.

Should such a home be blessed with children, how can they be other than loving and considerate of the happiness of others, first in their own home and afterwards with all they meet? Their advent to the home is felt to be a cause for rejoicing, rather than mourning, and the development of young

life is watched with fond interest, which only deepens and strengthens the bonds between husband and wife.

We can scarcely picture such a home without the sanctifying influences, to a greater or less degree, of the Christian religion. Every member of the family recognizes in some way the presence of the Christ, who took upon him the form of man, was subject to his parents until manhood was attained, and then went about doing good. With such a pattern kept before the mind by daily Bible reading and prayer, the children must, even though unconsciously, develop strength of character and purpose that will enable them to be true men and women as they face the sterner realities of life. From such homes are coming the strong men of our nation, who are making its laws, establishing and maintaining the institutions of which we are justly proud, and putting into their lives the spirit of true success, not always recognized by the world, but which brings its reward to every individual.

May the hallowed influences of our happy homes reach out and brighten those which are still darkened by ignorance and selfishness, hastening the time when it will be impossible to find such a picture of home life as those previously presented in your columns.

"Tillicum."

It gives the Western Home Monthly great pleasure to accord this letter a place on the editorial page. The greatest happiness a husband and wife can find is in ministering to each other's comfort and welfare and to the comfort and permanent welfare of their children. In other words, happiness, joy, and peace flourish in an atmosphere of unselfish devotion.

Dominion Aid to Education

Two speakers, one in Western Canada and one in Nova Scotia, have recently given expression to a thought that is worth considering, for it is a thought that, if it issues in action, may mean much for the young people of Canada. According to the British North America Act, education is entrusted to the provinces. This has been taken to mean that the support and administration of education comes under the purview of the provincial governments. The question is now raised as to whether it would not be in perfectly good order for the Dominion Government to make special grants to the provinces for purposes of education, the provinces to have full control in administering the funds. As a precedent it has only to be pointed out that quite recently \$10,000,000 was laid aside for agricultural education, and this sum, divided equitably among the provinces, is administered by the provincial authorities. What is to prevent an equal grant being made for public school education, on similar conditions?

There is a special reason for making such a grant for elementary education. One great difficulty with which the authorities have to deal in the Western provinces arises from conditions forced upon them by the Dominion Government. The foreign-born peoples have been hived in large settlements, and it is next to impossible to introduce among some of these a system of public schools. They are poor, unappreciative of the value of school education, and anything that is done must be on the initiative of the Department of Education. Indeed, the department must be ready to pay for school buildings and their upkeep, and must pay most of the salaries of teachers, if anything really worth while is to be done. So in this matter of

the education of the children of the foreign-born, the Dominion Government might well be called upon to pay the burden.

Apart from this consideration, it is clear that in so far as education makes for morality—and surely the schools do make for such—it is a matter that concerns not only the separate provinces but the life of all the people. Good behavior, intelligence, good taste, manual power in the people, are surely as important as good roads, penitentiaries, army corps and means of transportation. The first concern of a nation is the character of the life in its citizens. In no way can life-efficiency be so well promoted, as through the agency of the elementary schools. Taking one thing with another, there is no branch of the public service today that is doing as much good for as little money, as the public elementary school. The Dominion will be wise when it spends its money in this way, rather than upon a fleet or a standing army.

How to Aid the Railways

\$230,000,000 is a large sum of money. It is what the people of Canada have paid in lands, cash and guarantee of bonds to one of the transcontinental companies—and it is not the company most highly favored. Altogether the amount paid out to railway companies exceeds half a billion dollars. Call it a billion if you like, since it makes no difference to the Canadian people. They are wealthy. In return for all this outlay they own not a siding or a station house. The private individuals own everything. Usually those who put up the money have some share when dividends are announced. It is not so, however, in the case of railroad building. Those who put up the money get nothing, those who engineer the risk, get all. The manifest injustice of this system might be righted in a very simple way. The government might take stock certificates for all that it advances. This would leave the management in the hands of the companies, so long as they put up enough cash to control the directorate, or so long as they prove themselves capable as managers. Think what it would mean to Canada, if it held stock in the present companies in proportion to the amount of aid given. The income would amount to more than one-half of the total revenue from customs duties!

The Tariff Man

The following clipping from an exchange is good enough for further circulation. When we are tired of high living there is a way out. Are you willing to take it?

Don Quixote and his faithful Sancho had been walking a little distance when they observed a large assembly of plain citizens whose faces betokened anxiety and who were muttering angrily to themselves.

"Why are these men so wrought up?" asked the Don.

"Because of the high cost of living," replied Sancho Panza.

"And whom are they angry with?" asked the Don.

"With the Tariff Man, of course," said Sancho Panza. "For, see you, my master, this Tariff Man puts a tax on Argentine beef, and on New Zealand mutton, and on American fruit."

"I will immediately deal with this gentleman," said the Don.

"Master, of what avail is it to try?" cried honest Sancho. "He will prove to you that high prices are the inevitable result of our

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