

It is not shown in any way that she had any desire to fulfil her marriage vows. She endeavored to persuade the committee that she had done everything on her part, and that he had deserted her, but the evidence does not sustain her. The fault was evidently largely hers. The husband was a young man, not 21 years of age; he had not provided a home for her, but that is no reason why the marriage contract should be dissolved.

HON. MR. McMILLEN—How does my hon. friend reconcile that with the letters he sent her.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I will come to that presently. She had a skilled and artful lawyer, who knew exactly how to present this case in the best manner possible, and to suppress everything which might appear unfavorable to her case. She brings two or three letters here, but she admits that she had four or five others from her husband which she destroyed, evidently because they did not suit her purpose.

HON. MR. McMILLEN—There is no evidence of that.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Why did she destroy some and produce others? Why did she try to show by his letters that he did not wish to live with her? One would think that, writing on such an important matter, she would have kept copies of her own letters, but she had no copies to produce. She says in one place that the letters produced are all she had to produce, but when pressed by me she admitted that she had others from him that she destroyed. My hon. friend suggests that I should read the letters. I will read them, and make a few comments on them. Here is the first letter—and bear in mind that it is a reply to a letter from her, and evidently, from the manner in which it begins, she must have written to him how to address her. He does not address her at all—does not say “My dear wife,” or anything of the kind, but begins:

“Your letter of the 15th inst. duly received. I have no desire to call on you or yours. I only said in case we would not settle it satisfactorily. As far as the agreement goes, I meant a written one, legally signed by both of us, but as soon as I hear from my adviser I’ll write you more on the subject. I expect to hear in a day or so. I do not think your mother’s sickness was caused by this trouble or her conscience would have struck her when she said the things she did about me, without any foundation. I will write more as soon as the advice comes.”

That shows that she must have written some letter by which she led him to understand that she did not wish him to call on her

HON. MR. McMILLEN—He wanted to desert her.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—There was some negotiation evidently between the parties; she had written him that it would be displeasing to her if he called on her. I draw that inference; hon. gentlemen may draw what inference they please. It is evident that this young woman did not wish him to come. Her mother was dead at the time and there was no necessity for any further estrangement.

HON. MR. SANFORD—I beg to correct the hon. gentleman. The mother is still living.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I mean the father. He died two weeks before the marriage, so there was only the mother to object. I say that this letter convinces me that there was some communication with him in which she showed no disposition or desire to have him come back to her. If she wished to put herself in a right position she should have said that she was ready to fulfil her duty as a wife. If her letters were what they should be, she should have preserved copies of them, and produced them with all the letters she received from him. But she produced no copies of her own letters, and she destroyed his letters, with the exception of those which suited her purpose. There is no evidence here in any way that, by word or act, he had alienated his wife from him; there is no evidence to show that she desired to observe her marriage vow. She went through the solemn marriage ceremony of our church; she called on her Creator to witness that she would forsake all others and cleave only to her husband. And this was not done hastily or on short acquaintance. She had known the young man for eighteen months, and been engaged to him for twelve months, and the marriage was arranged three weeks before it took place. It was her duty to tell her mother the position in which she was placed, and failing to get her mother’s sanction to the marriage, she should have observed her vow and forsaken all others for him. But everything points to the fact that after the marriage