
Married Life

life at highest, there must be ebbs as well as flows ; nor yet that at deep ebb a new springtide may be at hand ; nor even sufficiently how often absence makes fond. Again—" *Il ne faut pas seulement aimer, il faut le dire—bien souvent.*" Here is the best of mutual explanations, save often also silence : for even Psyche must not ask all questions ; no heart can open all its mysteries, still less should express all its passing moods, but forbear no less than bear. All the old wisdoms are ever verifiable ; and above all those which make for co-operation around the progressive family-rearing of which we all still know so little, the home-building which commonly needs so much thought and care ; and, with or failing these, the widening ranges of friendships and duties which are surely in some measure within the reach of all. Happy are they who keep in memory their brightening days in the past, who keep clear view of the manifold interests and causes and possibilities of the present, and who have looked together into the future with courage and hope. Lives once thus truly intertwined, even if shaken or at times divergent, will usually again twine on. Happiest are those marriages which afford but little material to the dramatist, little even to the poet ; at most perhaps the tale of Baucis and Philemon, and two or three homely Scottish songs. Yet, beyond their romance in youth, they are realising in age another. For ever-renewing love, and therefore renewing youth in age, are