

the exception but not the rule. If you do not love, do not marry. Singleness is blessedness compared to marriage without love.

No woman should marry a man who is in any way inferior to her, she not only wrongs herself, her family, but risks being dragged below her level. Do not rely on the opinion of friends, but upon your own personal knowledge of the individual's life and character. How can another know what you want in a companion? You alone know your own heart. If you do not know it, you are not fit to be married. No one else can tell what fills you with pleasing and grateful emotions. You only know when the spring of true affection is touched by the hand of a congenial spirit. If you know (not fancy) the man who can make true answer to the soul's true love, whose soul is all kindred with yours, you know who would make you a good husband.

Do not be mistaken, like many who have found out to their sorrow that, if he is a little fast before marriage, he will settle down into a just and sensible husband; history repeats the failure of such beliefs. Directions as to the choice of a husband can only be of a general character, for the circumstances surrounding each one will have specific influences. One good rule, is that, during the period that intervenes between engagement and marriage is to let your deportment towards him to whom you have given your affections be marked by modesty, and dignity, respect and kindness, and if this is reciprocated, you both will grow in each other's confidence; you may reasonably hope that you will be helpers of each other's joy in the most endearing of all relations.