

confidence in a natural spontaneous choice. When men and women love truly, a redemptive influence is set at work in their natures, and the mere fact that they are strong enough to give birth to such love, proves their worthiness of it.

"I know a young man who went to a great deal of trouble in the selection of a wife. He came to the deliberate conclusion that he ought to marry.

"He was acquainted with a number of excellent girls, any one of whom would be likely to make him a good wife. He went to his pastor and asked for the benefit of his advice and co-operation, which was readily granted. The two gentlemen met every evening for a week to discuss the pros and cons of certain eligible maidens, and organized a private committee of investigation.

"Finally they found a young lady who conformed to their high standard of womanly excellence, and the minister gave her in marriage to the sensible, cool-headed young man. Observe the sequence. She is a faultless wife, as far as one can judge from appearances, but though he admires her, it is not the intimate admiration which comes from a sense of possession.

"He seems to regard her perfections with a kind of remote awe, and in matters of morality she is a second conscience to him, a less flexible and comfortable one than his first. She drives him to church at the point of the bayonet, as it were, and wages war against many of his habits and amusements. In re-