



## Confidence.

THE HEART OF HER HUSBAND TRUSTETH IN HER. (PROV. XXXI.)

THESE words of the Holy Ghost denote the first quality that a husband must find in his wife, — she deserves his confidence, she may be trusted ; with that, the man shall be happy, without it, his existence will be one of continual misery. As husband and father of a family, his happiness here below depends upon the amount of faith he can place in his wife.

Confidence might be defined : « a certain feeling by which we believe implicitly what another person tells us, by which we follow his counsels blindly and confide our innermost secrets to his keeping. » That feeling springs from the knowledge we possess of the person's qualities and accomplishments, or from the need in which we are of his assistance. It does not simply depend upon man to give his confidence to another ; confidence must be won, and, when once given, the person confided in, may strengthen or weaken it, by showing herself worthy or unworthy of the trust given. Naturally, suspicions may sometimes arise, but they will soon disappear before the continual example of true virtue and fidelity. Confidence is the soul of life, the charm of human intercourse, the chain uniting two hearts already bound in love. Something like death exists in a home where confidence is not to be found ; in fact, something worse, an existence replete with misery.

Were I speaking to men, I would say : « Act in such a manner that your wives may be able to trust you, because confidence is not given, disposed of at will ; it must be won, elicited by a continual repetition of upright acts. But since women and not men are the object of these lines, let them live in such a way, that they may always deserve their husbands' confidence by leading an exemplary life of sweet virtue, of patience and constancy, principally in vexatious moments. A man may have great faults, he may be a victim to some degrading vice, he may have his hours of anger, during which most insulting words and phrases may be hurled at his wife ; nevertheless, if she be what she should be, when passion's storm will be passed, repentance will return to the husband's heart, and notwithstanding violent words to which rage seemed to give credence, he will learn to respect her