

Marriage and Divorce

BY JAMES M. STROEDER

Today the world is agitated by many grave questions. Social unrest and ferment have laid their deadly grasp upon all nations. Troubles from within and from without disturb the peace of the world. Casting merely a cursory glance on the world about us, we see many evils that are twisting their death dealing fangs about our boasted civilization. Among the numerous problems confronting the American public, divorce challenges our attention. Men have sought reforms in the past. At the present day the great minds are eagerly seeking to discover a remedy for this locherous malady which, like no other evil, saps and undermines our modern, twentieth century civilization.

We shall briefly discuss in this paper the end and aim of matrimony; its qualities and importance. Matrimony is that intimate union which unites man and woman in lawful Christian wedlock. This consequently presupposes the right of cohabitation. For Catholics, however, matrimony is more than a simple contract; it is a divinely instituted sacrament, binding until death. History, as also the Bible, teaches us that man existed in this world ever since the earth was habitable. The same sources also tell us that men united, thus forming the family. Still later, for mutual protection and safety, men saw fit to form a still larger unit—the state. Hence government. Man being a social animal, endowed with free-will and understanding, ever striving after happiness, experienced pleasure in the company of others. The family is and has always been the foundation of all order and institutions, both civil and religious. Upon it depends the magnificent structure of humanity. Without the family, the world would soon become depopulated. Men would cease to live. All would fall back into that chaos from which God shaped this delightful planet of ours. Historically and philosophically considered, the family, the smallest integral unit, is the first and original social structure.

The primary function of matrimony is the propagation of the human race. New individuals are to succeed those who have gone beyond. Marriage, therefore, is an absolute necessity. Although the majority of men embrace this vocation, still not all are obliged to marry. Those, however, who marry should recall the words of St. Paul concerning matrimony. "A woman," he says, "is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband die she is at liberty; let her marry whom she will." From this it follows that marriage is a contract made for life—a union that should be stable, and indissoluble. It is a sad fact that many people after a few years of married life obtain a divorce. Do not our courts often-times grant divorce for the most trivial reasons? Speaking of marriage and divorce, St. Luke Ch. 16, 18, says: "Everyone that putteth away his wife, and marieth another, committeth adultery; and he that marieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." Surely the verdict of such an authority bears some weight. Matrimony being a divinely instituted sacrament cannot be annulled by any power whatsoever. Yet our states and courts do not hesitate to set aside God's holy law and to dissolve the marriage contract. It is the great evil of today, more fatal and destructive than the terrible war which devastated blood-stained Europe. The Catholic Church, the pillar and ground of all truth, to which God entrusted the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and which He promised to guide and protect until the consummation of time, has never granted during the period of her existence a single divorce. Since marriage is an intimate union, stable, and indissoluble, of one with one until death, it follows that those who have been divorced in a civil court are still husband and wife, as they were before, and that neither can marry as long as both are living, because they are living in a state of public sin. We must, however, distinguish between a divorce and a "separation." For very important reasons, the latter is sometimes allowed, but, nevertheless, the parties concerned remain husband and wife. Matrimony can only be annulled if it was invalid. Tertullian, who lived about the second century, writes: "How can we find words to describe the happiness of that marriage, which the Church joins together; and the oblation confirms; and the blessing seals; the angels report; and the Father ratifies."

In order that the marriage contract be valid, both man and woman must be present and give their express consent, with free will, before the priest and two witnesses. The civil law also requires that witnesses be present. Catholics, as a rule, comply faithfully with the regulations of the Church in this regard, but there are many, and amongst them some who profess to be Catholics, that are married before a "squire," judge, or minister. Thus the state has arrogated to itself a right which it does not possess. In regard to the civil effects of matrimony, however, the state has the right to make regulations, especially such as pertain to inheritance. In the case of unbaptized persons also, the state has the authority to perform the marriage, because the Church, since they are not bound by her laws, has no jurisdiction over such persons.

As already stated, the primary function of matrimony is the continuance of the human race. The secondary purposes of marriage are to enable man and wife to enjoy the peace and pleasures of domestic and family life. Even as the family is the basis of all human society, so also does the success of the Church largely depend on the purity and sanctity of the home. But how is this possible when divorce is so rampant? Think of the many broken-up homes. Think of the many orphaned children. Consider likewise the moral evil wrought by this insidious monster, divorce. Is it not frequently the case that those who are divorced did not marry through a spirit of love pure and simple, but rather for the political, social, or financial position accruing to them by such an alliance? Who, as a rule, infest our divorce courts? Is it not the well-to-do and those of position and social standing? Love, pure and undefiled, is made the slave of money. Behold the other side of the picture. What do you find? Are not the poor, who are actuated by pure love and the proper motives, beautiful examples of happiness and contentment? Are they not more happy than the wealthy and divorced, although poor in earthly possessions? True happiness can exist between husband and wife only where love pure and simple, untainted by gold is found.

(To be concluded.)

Sparks from the Anvil

The days are growing longer and our wood pile is growing shorter, and with that additional day stuck in February we feel sure we'll run out before Spring—so closely have we figured.

The news from Russia is sometimes bad, but generally worse.

The latest Paris fashions decree: No sleeves, sandals, extremely short skirts, no stockings. There is nothing like hardening your constitution in this brisk Canadian weather.

Even low shoes are high.

Strong liquor makes the rich convivial and the poor drunk.

Whether eggs are sound or not, the price remains firm anyway.

Get a good complexion, try steaming the face—over a washtub.

A working man who drinks may become in time a drinking man who does not work.

The world will be nearer the millenium when war becomes as hard to make as peace.

A blind man gets small good of a lantern.

A broad hat does not always cover a venerable head.

Air may be free, but it costs considerable to keep it in automobile tires.

A fool's tongue is long enough to cut his own throat.

Better a bare foot than no foot at all.

A glass of water is sometimes worth a ton of wine.

If every farmer kept a few porcupines running loose with his hens on the street, auto-drivers would probably be more careful.

A man may talk like a wise man and yet act like a fool.

Never eat pie with a knife. It's all right to eat cheese with pie, but knives should be eaten alone.

Surgeons should have an eagle's eye, a lion's heart, and a lady's hand.

When mother read from the fashion journal that Catharine D'Medici wore a train 45 yards long at her marriage, her son remarked that he saw a train the other day one half mile long and four engines drawing it.

The best way to capture a moonshiner is to go on a still hunt.

Of all the strange things in human life hope is the strangest. No matter how dark it may be on this side of the hill, the other side generally gets the credit of sunshine.

There was a man in a little town, And he was wondrous wise; He swore (it was his policy) He would not advertise. But one sad day he advertised, And thereby hangs the tale, The ad. was set in quite small type And headed, "Sheriff's Sale."

Vor fünfzehn Jahren

Aus dem 2. Jahrgang, No. 3 des St. Peter's Bote.

Die Hege wegen der Separat-schule dauert immer noch fort. Mit aller Gewalt sucht man die Regierung zu zwingen, ihre bisherige Stellung zu der Frage aufzugeben. Laurier sieht jedoch fest. Er scheint zwar willens zu sein bezüglich des Wortlauts der Schulklausel Konzeptionen zu machen, die Sache selbst kann und wird er nicht preisgeben.

In der südöstlichen, an den Quill Lake angrenzenden Teil der St. Peter's Kolonie, wurden Sonntag den 5. Februar folgende Gemeinde-Vorsteher gewählt: Joseph Aldermann, Peter Bartisch, Adam Fürstberg, John Sommers und J. G. Wilkes. Ein Gotteshaus ist sehr notwendig. Bis jetzt wurde Gottes-

dienst in einem Zimmer in dem drei Meilen von der Station Watton entfernten Hause des Herrn Jakob Spring gehalten. Bereits einige Tage nach der Wahl berieten die selben mit dem Pfarrer den Bau der Kirche. Am 19. ds. fand nach dem Hochamte eine noch wichtigere Besammlung unter dem Vorstize des Vater Prior Alfred statt. Es wurde beschlossen die Gemeinde zu teilen. Sechs Meilen westlich von Watton befindet sich die Station Clairvaux (Engelfeld), und dort soll die neue Gemeinde entstehen. Die folgenden wurden gleich als Vorsteher gewählt: Heinrich Rordich, John Ritta, und John Bettin. In zu Watton gehörigen Anfield b. schlossen an der Südwest-Ecke von S. 33 eine temporäre Pfarwobnung mit zwei Zimmern und eine Kirche (Kraume) 30x48 zu bauen. Die Kosten werden sich ungefähr auf \$2,000 b. laufen. Es wird jetzt jeden Sonntag Hochamt gehalten, wofür Herr König als Organisten und Vorsänger Anerkennung gebührt.

Am 27. langte Vater Dominik in Annahem von seiner Winnebetareise wohlbehalten wieder an. Ritzlich fuhren die Herrn Lachmut und Philipp Winter von Annahem geschäftshalber nach St. Bruno und Arnold Dauf und John Halbach nach Kofstern. In der Abwesenheit des Herrn Dauf wird Georg Dopfer sein Geschäft versehen.

Der Passagierzug kommt gewöhnlich 7 Uhr Abends nach Münster. Nur in Humboldt ist ein Stations-agent. Herr Michael Schmitt aus Wahpeton, N. D., kam mit seinem Sohne dieser Tage wieder hier an. Er denkt jetzt ein provisorisches Wohnhaus für seine Familie zu errichten, um später, wenn die Stadtlage vermessen ist, und Lotten zu haben sind, ein ansehnliches Hotel zu bauen. Die hochbetagte Frau Wisser, Mutter des Joseph Wisser bei Dead Moose Lake, hat sich in der Nähe des Klosters eine Wohnung eingerichtet, wo sie mit ihrer Tochter ihre letzten Lebensjahre zubringen gedenkt. Obgleich Frau Wisser schon 82 Jahre zählt, so findet sie den Winter in Canada recht erträglich. Ihre Tochter ist eine Näherin von Fach und wird in Wien entgegen nehmen. Herr J. Ceder jr. bei Humboldt verkaufte an die Eisenbahnkompanie 100 Acres Land für eine Stadtanlage und erhielt dafür \$3,000 in Baar. Sein Sohn verkaufte 80 Acres für \$2,400. Herr Gottfried Schäffer, nicht zufrieden bloß bei St. Bernhard einen Laden zu haben, hat auch noch in Humboldt einen reichhaltigen Laden angefangen. Herr C. L. Mayer hat die Agentur für den Deering und Herr Wamer für den McCormick Harvester übernommen.

Am 21. d. M. wurde im Sakrament der Ehe verbunden Georg Kewzel und Fräulein Vincentia Gueinweiber bei einem von Prior Alfred gelebrierten Trauamte. Dienstag den 21. ds. verschied die nahe Humboldt wohnende Frau Katharina Sigaty im Alter von 31 Jahren. Sie starb im Wochenbett und hinterläßt 7 kleine Kinder. Sie wurde von der Klosterskirche aus beerdigt. Vorige Woche gingen vom Kloster 4 Fuhrwerke nach Fish Creek um das Lumber der alten Eisenbahnbrücke hierher zu befördern. Die Herren Caspar Däger und Carl Bonas übernahmen die Leitung von zwei Klosterfuhrwerken, und Herr C. L. Mayer hatte sein eigenes. Wieder ein neuer Anfieldler, John Steinbach, hat sich bei Münster niedergelassen.

Zoeben erhalten! Eine Tonne Weifische, Pickrel, Lake Superior Heringe u. Lachsische. Zu verkaufen in Limberg's Laden in Münster. Jetzt ist die Zeit, Ihren Vorrat einzulegen für die Fastenzeit, da diese Fische zu sehr billigen Preisen erhältlich sind. Hackett, der Fischhändler.

Sichere Genesung aller Kranken durch die wunderwirkenden Granthematisch. Heilmittel (auch Baumheilmittel genannt) Bekannte Circulare werden portofrei zugesandt. Einzige allein echt zu haben von John Emsden, Spezial-Arzt und alleinigen Vertretiger des einzig echten reinen granthematisch. Heilmittels. Office und Heilmittel: 3808 Prospekt Str., C. E., Cleveland, Ohio. Letzt. Kräfte sind ohne diese bei allen Fällungen u. solchen Konzeptionen

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