

THE EVILS OF DIVORCE

INTEGRITY OF THE HOME ASSAILED FROM WITHOUT AND WITHIN.

PAUL TAUGHT FOR THE HOME

Although a Bachelor He Advised Parents to Love Their Children and Children to Care For Their Parents. That Wives Should Honor Their Husbands and Husbands Should Love Their Wives—Love the Home's Sheet Anchor.

Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada, in the year 1904, by William Bailey, of Toronto, at the Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Los Angeles, Cal., June 5.—In these days of widespread separation and divorce, and when the integrity of the home is assailed from without and within, the advice of the preacher who takes love for his theme may help to dispel the clouds that now overhang many a household. The text is Eph. v., 25, "Husbands, love your wives."

Two, startling facts about Paul's personality have always vividly impressed me. The one is the estimate of his physical personality formed by his enemies in the Corinthian Church who had sat under his ministry and therefore knew him well. Paul himself tells us that they said, "his bodily presence is weak and his speech contemptible." Chrysostom, according to Albert Barnes, declared that "Paul's stature was low, his back crooked and his head bald." According to Nicophorus, Paul was a little man with curvature of the spine and a pale countenance, long and wrinkled, and with a head like Julius Caesar, noted for its scarcity of hair. Whether these descriptions are true, we know not; but it is little likely that the Corinthians would have spoken of him as they did, and that writers so near his own time as Chrysostom and Nicophorus would have so described him, if this intellectual and spiritual giant had possessed an imposing personality. And yet, all through the Pauline writings, figures of speech bristle with the symbols of the athlete's arena. The runner, the fighter, the gladiator, the struggle with the beasts of Ephesus, all have their inspirations and gospel teachings.

The second fact, which stands side by side with the first, about the personality of Paul is this: Paul was a bachelor. It has been contended that he was a member of the sanhedrin and, if so, must have been married, but the expression in Acts xxvi., 10, on which the theory of his membership is based, is vague and may have amounted to no more than the testimony of a witness. On the other hand, his arguments in I. Corinthians ix., 5, clearly implies that both he and Barnabas were unmarried. This condition, however, by no means indicates that he was deficient in the affectionate side of his nature. His letters show that he lavished on his children in the faith the love that other men give to their offspring and that he was an exceedingly affectionate, warm-hearted man. He taught his children and children that they should care for their parents, that they should honor their husbands and husbands that they should love their wives. It is in reference to this last commandment that I would speak to-day.

There is special reason at this time for showing the need of a husband being truly devoted and loving to his wife, because there seems to be a popular theory abroad that the old-fashioned idea of a family home is gone and gone forever. But instead of believing that the old-fashioned idea of love should be done away with, I believe that, like the garden beds which used to be planted in our ancestors' front yards, they should be cultivated more and more. Marital affection may be old-fashioned, but I believe it is one of the noblest, finest, most beautiful things in life. The Holy Book declares, "whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing." It is no part of my purpose to tell young men how they should proceed in trying to win the affections of the girl they desire to marry. My design rather is to urge married men to show their wives the same deference, the same love and devotion, that characterized them before the twin stood at the marriage altar, hearing

and saying the solemn words which made them one flesh.

Why is the true wife's value above the price of rubies, as King Solomon declared? She is her husband's business partner; her husband's equal in brain as well as in heart power. She fights with him, in a financial way, the great battle of life; therefore, like her husband, she has a right to expect the same rewards for her labors that he has for his. It has been the habit of some cynics to represent a wife as a mere parasite, a hanger-on, a clinging vine, a barnacle or a human leech sucking out the life's blood of her masculine partner. The true wife is a consumer as man is a producer, but she is also a financial producer as man is a producer. Like man, she produces far more than she consumes. As the book of Proverbs pictures: "She is like the merchant ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She considereth a field and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple." Mark well these words: A true wife "perceiveth that her merchandise is good;" not a slattern, not a female doll, not a painted millinery establishment. I am speaking of such a wife as the book of Proverbs describes. It is a faithful portrait, the fidelity of which many a man in this church could attest by his own experience.

"Oh, no," says the masculine egotist, "woman is not the breadwinner of the family. It is the husband, who, as a lawyer, wins fees in the court-room; as a physician, gains money from patients; as a soldier, fights his country's battles; as a legislator, enacts laws, which the male executive enforces; he is the merchantman, who sells the goods; he is the foundryman, who manufactures the steel rails. Man, man, everywhere is man the breadwinner. We find that man tills the fields, and man rules the money markets, and man sits upon the judicial bench and the professional chairs." Is that a fact, my brother? This true man is the visible breadwinner. But when you are looking for the driving force which produces results in society do not make the mistake of supposing that there is no power but what you see.

The power behind the throne is sometimes greater than the throne itself. If this be not true, how can you account for the wonderful results which come into many men's lives at the marriage altar and end with the deaths of or the separations from their female silent partners. Who was Napoleon Bonaparte? The greatest military strategist of the ages? Yes. But after all you can find his wonderful success flanked by two incidents in his life. They start with his marriage to Josephine. They ended with his divorce. Had Josephine's partnership nothing to do with Napoleon's success? What was William E. Gladstone? That statesman whose energy and commanding genius were the wonder of his countrymen, acknowledged that the reverence and trust of his devoted wife had been a source of inspiration and stimulus to him all through his long career, and that to have her sitting by him on the political rug, turning or looking down at him from the gallery of the House of Commons quickened all his powers. Who was John Bright, the great commoner? He also was the husband of a woman his equal in personality. On the day of their marriage she turned and said to him, "John, attend to thy business and thy public affairs, and I will provide for the home and relieve thee from all cares at home." And so great is the value of a true wife in relation to her husband's success that nearly all great men are ready to testify to this fact and declare that they can never repay the obligations which their wives have placed upon them.

I was taught the obligation which a true husband owes to a true wife some years ago by an eastern minister whom I consider one of the greatest pulpit geniuses of his age. I was about to be married, and was talking with him, when he gave to me this characteristic advice: "Always love your wife. But more than that, always learn to respect and follow her judgment, because she can be your best adviser. When I was a young man I started out with some success. I knew I could speak, and I could also write. And often when I would write something I thought very fine I would take it down to my wife and read it. Sometimes she would look up from her sewing and

say, 'John, don't say that.' With that I would throw down my manuscript and stalk up and down the room in disgust. 'Why do you say that?' I would ask. 'Do you know how to preach?' Are you a better judge of preaching than myself? Haven't I spent four years in college and three years in the seminary? What business have you to tell me what to do? You are nothing but a woman anyway.' But after a long experience I found that my wife's judgment was always better than my own. When I followed her judgment I always came out right, and when I followed my own against hers I always came out wrong. And, though I am now an old man and one of much experience, yet whenever I am in doubt about anything I have ever written I always go to her. And when she says, 'John, don't say that,' I take my pen and scratch out the whole page. My success is due in a great measure to my wife's judgment and not to my own."

Men, husbands, friends, how are we going to repay our wives for all the sacrifices they have made for us? "Oh," some husband says, "I do my full duty to my wife. I provide for her a good home. I give her all the money she needs." You do? Oh, that is very kind. As far as I can make out you give your wife nothing but her own property. She earns her support, just as you do, and she has a right to at least one-half of your income. If from a mere cold-blooded standpoint you had to hire a housekeeper to do the work she does, you would have to pay far more for her wages than your wife ever spends for clothes and entertainment. "Then if that be the case, and it is the case," some man says, "how am I to pay my wife unless I pay her in money?" Why, give her the same rewards the apostle has commanded in the words of my text. Did Paul ever speak of money in reference to the husband's duty to his wife? No, he takes that for granted. He says, "Husbands, love your wives."

But that is not all. He gives his commandment in the superlative sense. "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it." Ah, could there be any sweeter or more devoted or more intense measure for a husband's affections than that? It is love the true wife longs for, as it is love the true husband in the home should long for. Not money so much as love, sense, devoted, loyal, self-sacrificing love. Husbands pay your wives for their sacrifices of life in the golden coin of mingled love.

But there is a promissory note connected with every marriage certificate which should compel a husband to give his love to his wife as well as his gratitude for what she does. It was on account of this loving promise which he made to her that she, a young girl, was persuaded to leave her father's home and turn her back upon her school friends and, like Ruth, who followed Naomi, go with her husband where he went and lodge with him where he lived and make his people her people and his God her God. Therefore it is a man who has won his bride upon the promissory note of love does not fulfill his contract he is a swindler as well as an ingrate; a deceiver, a falsifier, a perjurer, as well as one whose ideas of gratitude are as monstrous and distorted as that of the wayward son, who would trample

upon a mother's bleeding heart and turn upon his father's love. You believe a merchant is dishonest who through the bankruptcy court would repudiate a debt he could pay. Why will you not say a husband is dishonest and contemptible who would repudiate the obligation of a lifetime love, which he accepted when he pledged himself to the young girl by his side on his wedding day, when they stood amid embowered orange blossoms?

This swindle in reference to promissory affections which a husband sometimes practices up to the very moment the wife is absolutely helpless after the perpetration of the fraud. Say what you will, argue as you may, talk glowingly and poetically and grandiloquently about woman's opportunities, a wife's opportunities have always been and nearly always will be circumscribed by the four walls of her home. The husband has his outside business relations, friends as well as his store friends. He meets men on the street, in the cars, in the office, behind the counter. He can get away and does get away from the home. But for the most part the wife is anchored to the kitchen, the bedroom and the nursery of home by the children. Therefore if he fails her and defrauds her of his promised love she is absolutely helpless and must suffer more than he can realize. She has practically no redress, for she has given up her all for him. If, however, on account of her husband's neglect, a wife turns her back upon him and goes forth to meet the world as an independent woman, then the world itself will turn its back upon her.

In the death knell of a husband's love I also hear the sobs of the broken heart of a mother as well as of a wife. The great dramatist wrote, "Oh, sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child!" Many a mother has learned this by bitter experience, through her husband's conduct. The love that the child naturally feels for the mother withers and dies under the poison that comes from witnessing the father's contempt for the mother. Little likely is a child to reverence the mother after hearing the blame and vituperation hurled at her by her husband. If a brutal father systematically continues to find fault with his wife, if he neglects her and ridicules her and sneers at her, he sets an example which his children are only too prone to follow. His estimate of their mother, often coarsely and bluntly expressed, is likely to become theirs, and their natural affection for her turns to indifference and ingratitude. Oh, my friends, who are husbands and fathers, you know how sanctifying and purifying is the influence that has come to you from the mother's

er's graves. Your love and reverence for your mother has kept you in many an hour of temptation. Let your children have the same beneficent influence. Never by look or thought or word weaken the influence your wife may have over your children. When you are untrue to your wives, you are untrue to your children.

But there is still another and a more far reaching reason why men should love their wives, "even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it." Not only is the home, but the community and the nation, built upon the cornerstone of the love which a husband should bear to his wife. I am not stating this fact too emphatically. I will go further and say the salvation of the world itself is dependent upon that purified love. What does the Bible say, "God setteth the solitary in families." The unit of society is not the man who casts as a vote the white slip of paper into the ballot box. It is the man and the woman joined together at the marriage altar as one.

Why was the first settlement at Jamestown, Va., a failure and the first settlement at Plymouth Rock a success? Were the old pilgrim fathers any braver men than the Virginia planters? Was not John Smith of as heroic mold as Miles Standish? The reason for the failure of the Jamestown colony was due to the fact that those southern colonizers did not bring their wives along with them, while the Plymouth fathers stuck to Plymouth Rock because they were anchored there by the Plymouth mothers. Why do men herding together as a class degenerate morally, mentally and physically? Because they lack the moral and spiritual leaven which comes from a noble wife's love. Therefore, brethren, if as men you would be true to your country, true to your city, true to your children, true to yourself and true to your Christ you will be true to your wives. Husbands, hear ye not the far-reaching commandment, "Love your wives?"

How shall we love our wives? By giving them a few silly compliments? Oh, no! Not that. A wife is quick to detect insincerity in such inanities. But you can show her your respect and deference. You can prove to her by your pleasure in her society, by the little attentions that when you were a lover came naturally to you and by your preference for her over younger women that your heart is still in her keeping. The little presents, the consideration of her tastes and the desire to give her pleasure which used to characterize your treatment of her would delight her better now than ever before and would bring to her weary face the glad smile of tender affection. Husbands, love your wives. We should love them in making them one with us in all our thoughts and hopes and joys. We should love them so that the brightest hope of our love would be to lighten their burdens and to always have them by our sides. We should love and continue to love them even as Christ loves the church, when, in the canticles, we read his beautiful blessing upon it: "As the lily among the thorns, so is my love among the daughters. As the apple tree among the trees of the woods, so is my beloved." O husband, do you love your wife as Christ loves his church bride.

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She was a very rich woman and had married for love. He was the same struggling lawyer as when she had first met him. And he strenuously objected to her decision to apply for a divorce. "You haven't the slightest grounds," he cried. "I may not have the grounds," she replied, "but I have the money." So she let the matter drop for a few days, cudgeling her brain to find an easier way. Her cudgeling was rewarded by an inspiration. She went to her husband and said: "I shall get my divorce in spite of you. And, furthermore, you will aid me." "Never," protested the man. "Listen, I shall engage you as my counsel, and you can't jeopardize your reputation by losing your case—your first, I believe, of its kind." Dazed astonishment for the husband. "I shall decline your case, madam. Your plan is preposterous," he said. "You won't decline it," said the would-be divorcee, "with \$50,000 at the end of it—if you win!" "I—I—I accept," he murmured. She got her divorce. Bachelors, husbands, attend a bit! Wifely woman you'll never outwit! —Chicago Inter-Ocean.

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