

sible hostilities, powerfully affect the imagination and darken the future. The lad does his best to show a smiling face, for the sake of those he is leaving, and he recognizes that this outgoing is inevitable, but there would be something wrong with him if his heart did not sink and his eyes were not dashed with tears at the turn of the road. These emigrations are very trying for those that go and those who stay, but both live to appreciate their purpose. Within a few years, and perhaps not without a few bitter experiences, the raw, unformed lad changes into a man, with a sense of responsibility, with serious views of life, with a knowledge of affairs, with brave plans of service. It had been a cruel kindness to save him from this experience; it is a happy condition of things after all that sends us forth from the best of Edens on our "wander year."

Another momentous change, and one whose effect on character is greatly overlooked, is marriage. It will ever remain a chief mystery of human experience, that at the sight of a face and the sound of a voice that yesterday were strange, or rather at the vision of a soul, and the sense of an established harmony, a whole life will be turned upside down. A new-born passion, joyful, masterful, inspiring, seizes the nature, and in a day has eclipsed the affections of youth, and erased the plans of early manhood as if they had never been made, so that one could leave father and mother, and could change his country and his calling. No words can appraise the suddenness and sway of love, before which prudence and selfishness yield and vanish. It is natural that literature should give a solitary place to love among the motives of life: it is amazing that ordinary people never seem to take love at its full value. Surely there can be no doubt that, excluding cer-

tain profound religious experiences given to few, love is the most irresistible force in the story of the individual, and marriage the most dominant event. For two human beings to enter into this unreserved and irrevocable relationship with its committal of body and soul, of joy and peace, of all life's labour and ideals, into one another's hands, is a supreme act of trust and a last risk. A divine instinct calls us, and is justified in the end. Some lives may be broken in this flight, or done to death in black chasms of suffering and shame, but for most marriage becomes a perfect discipline of character. Thoughtful and serious people come nearer still to the heart of things, and see the veil lifted from the mysteries of being. Careless and frivolous people are solemnised by an immense responsibility and are deepened by an unselfish passion. No experience will teach the lesson of sacrifice so successfully, none invest it with such charm. The laws of life have many exceptions, and some choice souls have come into their full estate in solitude; but for most this daring experiment has been the crown of life.

The third change is more prosaic, and yet in its way very trying and very influential, and it is shifting one's home. After one has lived for some time in the same place, he acquires a feeling of permanence. He has grown into his house till it fits him like a shell; he has completed a circle of friends who among them afford all he needs; he has fitted the routine of the day to particular hours, to a certain road, to various expedients; he has a pew in church, where alone he can enjoy a sermon; he has found a piece of work that is suited to his powers. Here he has lived, here he expects to live, and here he expects to die. In fact, he is in a nest, and one sees him every year snuggling