

# Unconscious Neglect of Others!

## One of the Mistakes Into Which Most of Us Fall

BY I. C. MORRIS.

An even balance is desirable in the relations of domestic life, and the comforts of all the household should receive due consideration. The parents owe duties to the children, as well the children to the parents, and husband owes duties to the wife as well the wife to the husband, and one should not overlook nor neglect the other. But it sometimes happens that one does neglect the other, and it happens in a manner that may not be perceptible, and that is far from being intentional whatever.

It is very easy for a young married man to fall into this mistake, and to become so taken up with recreation and sports, and other such things, as to be unconsciously neglecting the partner of his life. He may not intend to do this, but all the same he does it. The conditions of life are such, especially in the city, as tends to this, and unless one is careful it is an easy matter to become so absorbed in one's self, that unconsciously the interests of the other are forgotten. Not intentionally we again say, but as a result of thoughtlessness and the hurried manner in which we carry out the programme of life.

The average man is away from home all day providing for the wants of his family; while he is thus engaged the wife or mother is equally busy at home. Her duties are manifold and her cares none too light at times. The home circle, while not so wide as that of the regular calls of life, affords to the true woman a world of opportunity in which she can exercise herself in all good work. The home is the corner stone of the State; and the best guardian that the home has, is the gentle mother, or the tender wife, and confiding children. With these in view it is not easy for men to go far astray. But it is in the multiplicity of the home duties and family worries that the wife or mother is apt to be neglected, and her share of the recreation forgotten. It comes about that she ceases to look for her share of what is within her reach, and what is her equal right. At home all day herself she expects that her husband will keep her company at least two or three evenings of the week, but he does

not, and the reason of this is that he has so many clubs, and meetings, to attend, that he has to hurry off to them immediately he has finished his evening meal. And then there are so many games in addition to the clubs, that even should a spare evening offer, it cannot be devoted to the fire-side, or to those who sit by it. As an illustration of this the following little dialogue may be cited without offence to anybody.

"Hello, Charlie! Where now in such a hurry?"

"Why, going to the football match of course."

"Oh, I see, and that is where all those people are going."

"Yes, all going to see the match."

"But have you had your tea; we are only going to ours now?"

"Yes, of course I had my tea. Do you think I would be foolish enough to go and see a football match without my tea?"

"Well, no, I don't think you would. But how did you manage to get home from your work and partake of your tea, and dress yourself, and be here at the head of Line Street so soon. It is not much more than half-past six, or a quarter to seven yet?"

"Oh, it is no trouble to do that if you try."

"Well, where did you work today?"

"Down at Sir Robert Thorburn's."

"Did you knock off before six?"

"No. We made full time, but we were clear of the vessel by a few minutes past six, and we walked home quickly."

"You live near Patrick Street, don't you?"

"Yes. Quite near there. It did not take us long to get home you know."

"I see not. I suppose you happened to strike a street car just in good time, and that enabled you to be so far until midnight."

"Well, then, it must have been fully a quarter past six when you got home."

"About that."

"You didn't stay long. Why you had scarcely time to see your wife or to have a chat with her."

"Oh, no. That never came into my

mind. I just took my tea in a hurry and got ready and came right off again."

At that rate then you couldn't have been more than twenty or twenty-five minutes in the house altogether."

"That's all."

"But why didn't you bring your wife with you. She would certainly enjoy the match; and I am sure that you would also enjoy it much better if she were with you?"

"Bring my wife! Why that never entered my mind at all."

"You were in such a hurry, and you were so keen on seeing the match, that you completely overlooked her, and now she is at home by herself, and you off here after being away all day. I know it is not neglect, but it looks very much like it. When you were single you couldn't keep away from her, and you took her with you, but now that you happen to be a few years married, you have fallen into an opposite groove."

"Oh, but its different now. You see we are married."

"But it should not be so very different. This is a lovely evening, and she is just as capable of accompanying you to the game now, as she was then, especially as you have not any children."

"Well, now, to tell the truth I never thought of asking her to come. I was so full of the game, and was in such a hurry to get there in time to see the whole of it, that I tore away off, and if I am not quick now I will be late for this evening's match."

"Well, I am sorry for having delayed you, but I think at the rate you do things you will be over to the field in time to see the game started."

With this we parted, and at the rate we resumed our journey the match would be half over by the time we reached home, but we were alright as we could see the game from our back window, as of course 'twould never do to miss the game. But we do not claim to be one whit better than Charlie. He hid himself off to see the match, which would be over at eight o'clock; but we had a special meeting which would delay us until mid-night.

# Early Settlement in St. John's, N.F.L.D.

Paper Read Before the Newfoundland Historical Society by W. G. Gosling, Esq.

By settlement I do not mean the occupancy of St. John's as a fishing station, but as a permanent habitation for people all the year round. It is my belief, founded upon the recorded visits to St. John's of Rut, Jacques Cartier, Roberval, Parkhurst and Sir Humphrey Gilbert, that St. John's was the most frequented of all the harbors of Newfoundland, from the day of its discovery throughout the sixteenth century. But I do not believe that any people took up their permanent abode in this harbor until about the year 1622.

I also believe that there were no European settlers in any part of Newfoundland prior to the settlement of John Guy at Cuper's Cove in 1610. The reasons for my belief are documentary, and can all be verified. I take it that the statements of eye-witnesses are the best of evidence, and are of more value than any amount of theory. While I shall produce ample documentary contemporary evidence for my belief, I wish to state that nowhere have I seen any documentary contemporary statements to prove that St. John's, or any part of Newfoundland, was inhabited by Europeans prior to 1610. So far as I am aware, nothing has been cited by the supporters of this theory, except Sabine's "History of American Fisheries," which was by no means contemporary, but was published in 1853. The statement quoted is as follows: "Some forty or fifty houses for the accommodation of fishermen were built at Newfoundland as early as 1522." No authority is quoted and no reason given; as evidence, it is of no more value than, for instance, would be my unsupported statement to the contrary. But let us assume that it is worthy of examination. First: it may mean, simply, that fishermen had built huts for their accommodation during the summer season, which, of course, was done at a very early period; but there is nothing in the statement to indicate that fishermen were living in them all the year round. Second: every statement about the New World at that date has been most carefully searched out by men who have devoted years to that branch of study, and, as far as I am aware, nowhere can be found any support for Sabine's statement. Harris, in "Découverte de Terre Neuve," has gathered together everything relating to Newfoundland at that period; but I cannot find in it any thing regarding this matter. I feel sure that, if there had been any such information, he would have produced it. Third: a statement such as Sabine's should mean that some voyager in 1522 had written a letter, or published a book, giving the information. But there is no voyager known, nor any letter extant, nor any book published, of that date. English literature is extraordinarily bare of any references to the New World at this period. The first publication giving any detailed information was Eden's translations of Sebastian Munster, in 1553, and of Peter Martyr, in 1555. Fourth: in 1522, Newfoundland, New Land, Terra Nova, or the like, was the generic name for all the seaboard—Labrador, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, etc., down to Florida. Then our Newfoundland was not known to be an island, and was generally not distinguished from the rest of the continent. The specific name generally given to it was either Bacalaos or Corterialis. If, therefore, the statement could be found, it would simply mean that somewhere on the American seaboard forty houses had been built.

I am convinced, however, that the statement in Sabine is simply a misprint, and that for 1522 we should read 1622, when it would be critically correct. Having disposed of the only authority, if it can be called such, so far quoted for the early settlement of Newfoundland, I will proceed to give my reasons for a contrary belief.

To deal with those of a negative nature: The voyagers to Newfoundland who have left records of their visits are Rut, in 1527; Cartier, in 1534, 1536 and 1542; Roberval, in 1542; Parkhurst, 1578; and Gilbert, 1583. Neither of these says one word about any European inhabitants. A circumstance so full of novelty to the English and French nations would have been heralded abroad, had it been possible to do so. The earlier voyagers were, however, satisfied to record the result of their explorations, and the later ones to give reasons why colonization was possible and should be attempted.

The argument has been advanced that, because Cartier visited so many harbors which bore the names they still hold, they must have been peopled by Europeans. But when it is reflected that he visited Chateau and Blanc Sablon, as well as St. John's and Catalina, and no one contends that they were inhabited in 1534, the argument is seen to be valueless. It is only necessary to add, by way of refutation, that Cape Race has appeared on maps steadily since 1503, and probably was not inhabited until a lighthouse was built there, and that Cape Chidley was named by Davis in 1584, and is not yet settled. Newfoundland and Labrador were yearly visited by numbers of French, English and Portuguese fishermen from a very early time, and many harbors were known by name, but none were inhabited by Europeans.

Hakluyt, "of the travelling mind and pen," eagerly supported Sir Humphrey Gilbert in his endeavors to interest England in colonization. He wrote to Anthony Parkhurst, and made inquiries about Newfoundland with a view to its settlement, as will be seen from Parkhurst's reply commending him for the interest shown. Parkhurst wrote a lengthy reply, and, declaring that it had been his custom to search the harbors, creeks and havens, proceeded to describe the country in glowing terms. He told of the acknowledged supremacy of the English fishermen—of the fertility of the soil, and of the wealth of fish, flesh and fowl. He recommended that Chateau and Belle Isle, of all places, should be occupied by the English; "we will then be lords of the whole fishing in small time," he says. He reported finding copper and iron in St. John's, and "in ye island of iron"; doubtless, Bell Island. He enumerated the foreign fishing vessels in Newfoundland waters, but not one word does he tell us of any people living in the country. Gladly would he have encouraged Hakluyt with the news had he been able to do so.

These authorities are negative. They do not directly state that Newfoundland was not inhabited by Europeans; but, on the other hand, they do not state that it was, which we can be sure they would have done had it been the case. As a matter of fact, Rut does say that "there were no inhabitants and no people in these parts," but, as he appears to be speaking of the northernmost part of the island, it is not of much value as evidence.

I now come to direct statements to the contrary. Sir Humphrey Gilbert's most comprehensive patent was circumscribed only in one way: He was authorized to take and occupy any country "not actually possessed by any Christian power or people." He took possession of Newfoundland, in the harbor of St. John's, without anyone to say him nay, and proceeded to give grants of the foreshore to the English merchants fishing there. Haies, the historian of his voyage, describes the entertainments they received from all the masters of the vessels assembled in the harbor, and declared that "it seemed more acceptable and of greater contentation by how much the same was unexpected in that desolate corner of the world, where at other times of the year wild beasts and birds have only the fruition of all those countries, which now seemed a place very populous and much frequented."

We have here a direct statement that St. John's was only occupied during the fishing season. Strangely enough, the latter part of the sentence has been taken to prove that St. John's was inhabited—that the wild beasts and birds were the only occupants during the winter season is left out.

Haies, in several pages of argument, declares his reasons for believing that Newfoundland was fit for habitation. He compares the climate to that of Russia, where people could live comfortably, and mentions the experience of fishermen arriving late upon the coast—even in November and December—to the effect that it was no colder then than England.

If there had been any European inhabitants all the year round, the mere statement of the fact would have proved his case up to the hilt. But, instead, he continues to state that the country was uninhabited. The fact that the merchants invited Sir Humphrey to visit their "garden" has been urged as an argument indicating settlers; but the context quite disproves it—for when they arrived there, "nothing appeared more than Nature itself without art, who confusedly brought forth roses abundantly, wild but odoriferous, and to sense very comfortable." Who does not know at this day Nature's gardens in the neighbourhood of St. John's?

Further on Haies says: "The grasse and herbe doth fat sheepe in very short space, proved by English merchants who have carried sheep there for fresh victual, and had them raised exceeding fat in less than three weeks." Peason, which our countrymen have sown in the time of May, have come up fair and been gathered in the beginning of August, of which our General had a present, acceptable for the rareness, being the first fruit coming up by art and industry in that desolate and inhabited country." Again he says: "We could not observe the hundredth part of the creatures in those uninhabited lands." He upbraids those who prefer "very miserably to live and die within this realm of England, pestered with inhabitants, than to adventure as becometh men to obtain an habitation in those remote lands."

Haies does not refer in the remotest degree to houses or stores. Two days after Sir Humphrey arrived he had his tent set up on shore, in which he probably slept during his stay in the harbor. This would have been unnecessary had there been any houses fit for his occupancy. The weekly Admirals' feasts were, of course, held on board their ships. The learned Parminius also wrote to his late "bed-fellow at Oxford," Richard Hakluyt, as follows: "The manner of the country and the people remain now to be spoken of. But what shall I say, my good Hakluyt, when I see nothing but a very wilderness?"

Haies did his best to urge forward the planting of colonies, to which his late General, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, had devoted his life. Christopher Carlisle, Sir George Peckham and Hakluyt wrote long discourses urging the planting of colonies, and also produced evidence to the effect that Newfoundland was most suitable for the purpose. But the one irrefutable argument, that Newfoundland was already settled, is not so much as hinted at. As a matter of fact, at that time it was against the law for people to leave England and settle in foreign countries without special permission. After Gilbert's voyage and the defeat of the Armada, English fishermen went to Newfoundland in ever-increasing numbers, but not one statement is to be found of anyone settling there until 1610.

In 1609 John Guy and others presented a petition asking for permission to settle in a small part of Newfoundland not inhabited by any Christian person. It was referred to the Masters of Trinity House for their comments, and was duly approved. Consequently, in 1610 the charter was granted. It recites carefully the condition of things in Newfoundland. For fifty years and upwards English and European fishermen had frequented the coasts; therefore it was stipulated that they should not be interfered with. But "the countries adjoining said coasts remain so desolate of inhabitants that scarce one savage person hath in many years been seen in the most parts thereof, and well knowing that the same is very commodious to us and our dominions, and that by the law of nature and nations, we may possess ourselves and make grant thereof without doing wrong to any Power or State, considering they cannot justly pretend any sovereignty or right thereto, in respect the same is not possessed or inhabited by any Christian or any other whomsoever."

This careful statement of the circumstances under which Guy obtained his grant cannot be set aside.

Guy was instructed by his Associates to make choice of a place for settlement; but, they said, "The Bay of Conception we prefer before other places for the first attempt." Consequently, he directed himself to that bay, and chose Cuper's Cove for the first settlement. Guy, in his letter from Cuper's Cove, May 16th, 1611, makes boast of being the first to disprove, by his own expression, "the doubt that hath been made of the extremity of the winter season in these parts of Newfoundland, so that not only men inhabit here safely without any need of stoves, but navigation may be made to and from England to these parts at any time of the year." The fear of the winter, of the savages, and of the wild beasts, were all dispelled by his experience, so that "Many of our masters and seafaring men seeing our safety, and hearing what a mild winter we had . . . do begin to be in love with the country and to talk of coming to take land here to inhabit, falling at the reckoning as well of the commodities that they may make of bank fishing, as by the husbandry of the land, besides the ordinary fishing."

Further proof is hardly needed. If there had been any permanent inhabitants at St. John's, or anywhere else, the masters of vessels would not have needed Guy's experience to encourage them to settle. It may be argued that this was a mere boast on Guy's part, but the result proves the contrary—for whereas, prior to Guy no settlers are reported, within a few years after his venture many settlements are begun.

Guy soon had quite a little colony about him. He was careful to keep a journal of the wind and weather during the winter months, in order that there should be no question about his experience. On March 27, 1613, was born a lusty boy at Cuper's Cove, who was, no doubt, the old man pointed out to Abbé Boudoin in 1696. He had cattle, pigs, goats and fowls. Gardens were planted immediately, and were most successful. Mason tells us, 1618, that they laden carts with caplin, undoubtedly for manure, thus setting an example for Newfoundlanders ever since. In 1612 Guy went all round the north shore of Conception Bay into Trinity Bay, which he circumnavigated. His journal of the voyage has been published; but it will be noticed that either he suppresses the fact of there being other settlers in those parts, or they must have decamped and joined the Bethuths when they saw him coming.

Mason adds his quota of proof that Newfoundland was habitable, and writes to contradict those people who had maligned the country.

In addition to the evidence of Guy's Patent and his own statements, we have the whole force of Whitbourne's laboured argument urging the colonization of Newfoundland, and the direct statements of

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## Trapped in White Slavery.

St. John's Girl Strangely Missing After Reaching Boston.

Bride Biggs, 22, with yellow hair and blue eyes, left St. John's, N. F., on the 16th day of January to come to Boston.

She arrived at the North station in Boston at 9.30 on the evening of Jan. 20, and since then she has disappeared from the ken of all her relatives and friends.

**Friends Are Aroused.**  
Her friends in Boston are up in arms. Is the case of Bride Biggs, they ask, going to parallel the case of Miss Londregan of St. Mary's N.F., who was never seen again by any of her friends after she had descended from the train in the station in Boston? Or the case of Captain Brophy's sister, another Newfoundland girl, who disappeared from everyone's sight as soon as she had stepped from the train in Boston?

Bride Biggs lived in that part of St. Mary's, N.F., known as River Head. Her cousin, Marie Yetman, came to Boston five years ago found the city to her liking. Since she had kept in constant communication with Prude, it was not long before Bride, too, was seized with the desire to leave Newfoundland for the richer metropolis to the south.

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She communicated her desires to Miss Yetman, at 26 Hillside avenue, Everett, and since Miss Biggs was in need of money Miss Yetman agreed to send her the money necessary to pay for a ticket from St. Mary's to Boston.

Bride Biggs accepted this offer gladly, and after a few weeks of indecision settled upon Jan. 16 as the day upon which she would start for Boston.

**Left With Stranger.**

Miss Yetman was in constant communication with her up to the day she left. "Do not," wrote Miss Yetman to Miss Biggs, "talk with anyone on the train. Remember what happened to Miss Londregan and Captain Brophy's sister and be careful. If by any mistake I am not at the train to meet you, do not leave the station with a stranger."

"But," said Miss Yetman to a Post reporter yesterday afternoon, "she did leave the station with a stranger. She got in at 9.30 on the evening of Jan. 20, because she was on that train. But I was not able to meet her. I expected, of course, that she would get a policeman, or someone she could trust, to take her to my home, because she knew just where I lived. Letters had passed between us about once a week."

"But no word came from her that night or the next night or the next. Then I began to be worried. I at once telegraphed to St. Mary's, asking them whether she had come as she expected to. The answer came back directly that she had and asked if I had not seen her. Then, of course, I knew that there was something wrong. But what was there to do? No one had any kind of word from her at all."

**Letter From Cambridge.**

"Then, a few days ago, I got a letter from my sister, Mrs. John Maher, of St. Mary's. In this she said that she had just had a letter from Bride Biggs. Bride's letter, said my sister, was only a two-line note, saying

that on the train she had met a woman who had promised to get her work. It didn't say anything about the work, or where she was or how she felt. The letter was undated and had no address on it. It was postmarked Cambridge, Mass.

"Now, it is not at all like Bride to write a letter like that, nor is it natural for her to write to my sister instead of me."

"My own opinion, as well as that of all the other Newfoundland girls in Boston, is that she met a woman on the train who said that she would take her to my house, and that she took her to a house of her own and locked her up."

"I have just been to the police, but they say they can do nothing unless they have a perfect description of her, and of the clothes she was wearing when she arrived. I have sent back to St. Mary's for photographs and description."

"Bride was about five feet seven or eight inches tall. Her hands and feet were large. Her hair was light yellow; her eyes were blue, and her cheeks always had a good color."

"I know that girls are often taken to places in Boston and kept there against their wills. There was one Newfoundland girl, not so many years ago, who came down here to Boston after her brother had sent for her. But she disappeared from sight and was not heard from for two years. At the end of that time she was discovered here in a house, where she had been kept all that time without being allowed to see or write to anyone. And even then it was her brother who found her."—Boston Post, 22nd Feb., 1910.

TO-NIGHT

## Cigarettes

THEY WORK WHILE YOU SLEEP