

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR MARRIED LIFE

### CAUSES OF UNHAPPY MARRIAGES

We are now brought to the question—is it possible to make wedlock a perfect and holy state throughout its existence? We answer: it is not only possible to keep the fires of love burning to the end, but it is also possible to grow sweeter and more tender as the years advance.

The wheels of domestic life need education to make them run smoothly, quite as much as the wheels of society, and where this knowledge is used they neither rust nor wear out in the service of love. It is the little foxes that eat up the corn; the little annoyances and perplexities which, without knowledge how to handle them, render life often a burden; the little omissions and commissions prick and scourge us, and will keep us heart-sore unless we know the law.

Jealousy, too, that green-eyed monster, is ever creeping in. This is found in women more than in men. Men exhibit it to a degree, though their broad and busy lives prevent them from carrying it to the extent which mars the progress of women. All these faults and tendencies must be rooted out if both are to realize permanent happiness.

### EDUCATION AN IMPORTANT FACTOR

In speaking of education we have special reference to a well disciplined mind, to an acquaintance with domestic labor and a familiar knowledge of household matters and duties. Young men, with their eyes blinded by fancy, or accomplishments, which are generally laid aside and forgotten after marriage, frequently hurry on the wedding day, but find that they have but a made-up doll, a mere actor in the great drama of life. Young men also are frequently through ignorance as poorly qualified to discharge their duties in the domestic department; and when thus disqualified they are thereby incapable of adapting themselves so agreeably, or to appreciate the sensitive nature of a wife in her various moods.

To adapt one's self successfully to a companion is as much an art as anything else, and requires as much preparation, skill and judgment, and much more presence of mind, patience and common sense, than any other conditions of life.