

that the ideal marriage is one in which both the man and wife can each "enjoy the luxury of looking up to the other, and can have alternately the pleasure of leading and being led in the path of development," and such marriages would undoubtedly be the result of the emancipation of women. Lastly, comes the happiness of those to whom this freedom is to be granted; happiness both for the woman who is married—for she would then be a party to the ideal union,—and for the unmarried woman also, as her scope of activities would no longer be limited to teaching and tea-drinking, but she would be able to undertake that work for which she felt herself to be best fitted when the privilege of home-making was denied to her. On the whole, Mills' pamphlet is not only one of the first, but even to-day, it is one of the most important treatments of a question still before the public and still of vital interest. As he says, the chief difficulty of a matter of this kind is not the actual proof of the thesis, however logical, obvious or practical it may be, but rather is it the tremendous mass of public opinion which must be moved, and nothing contributed more to the movement of general thought in this case than Mill's own pamphlet. This is clearly seen by the following legislative changes in the status of women which followed shortly after the publication of his work. In 1886 an act was passed called the Married Women (maintenance in case of desertion) Act, and under this, a wife whose husband had deserted her could make him contribute towards her own maintenance and that of his deserted children. In 1895 the Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Act ameliorated the condition of the deserted or abused wife by providing that she might apply for an order:

- (1) Not to have to live with her husband.
- (2) To have legal custody of the children until they reached 16 years of age.
- (3) To force her husband to provide a fixed sum of money for her use, either directly to her, or indirectly through an officer of the court.

In 1884 the Matrimonial Causes Act put an end to the punishment by imprisonment of the husband or wife who refused to obey the decree of the Court for