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## Introduction

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individual life-history, like an enthusiasm or a religion, in most of which it has played no little part; and it is a spring of conduct which has prompted much of both the heroism and the hard work of the world. The "self-interest" of which the political economist has made so much has yet not received justice from him. It is deeply, instinctively, other-interest. It is first mate-desire, then wife-interest, then family-interest; and his "keen business competition" is fundamentally akin to that of birds foraging to take home worms for their chicks.

While in the first instance a matter of individual biology and psychology, the love of the sexes is, like the parental love which follows upon it, a race-preserving impulse, and in subtle ways it saturates social life. Civilised men and women do not wear their hearts on their sleeves, and there may be an eruptive volcano of passion hidden beneath this lady's veil of snow, that quiet gentlemanly mask and glove of ice; but the denial one occasionally hears of any interest in the primary attraction of one sex for the other