

It is no trifling matter. You can never know its importance until perhaps you find yourself into a miserable fix for life and then you may try to extricate yourself into a miserable pit or prison (for I used to feel as though I were in prison and get yourself into a worse one or on the gallows !

I mean what I say, and I say it for your own good. May you profit by my experience, may you exercise judgement and discretion in a matter of so much moment. The way to avoid trouble is not to get in. Better far, not to marry at all than to do so to your sorrow. To those who are married my parting advice is to pray to God for grace to guard you against all manner of temptation. Love your wives if you can possibly do so and use them kindly (for good women are dear creatures, in fact angels, I was always an ardent admirer of all the graces and virtues that adorn the female character and without them would be no refinement, no good society) and affectionately if you can ; but both men and women have their proper spheres in this life and sometimes they get united and there is no harmony in the family circle ; if you *cannot* love your wives my advice to you is to separate, for you will either do one of two things ; viz : be tempted to commit a crime perhaps that was the most foreign to your mind before, and that may force you first into goal, then in the criminal box to be put on trial for your life and have the sentence of death passed on you and thence face the halter and die a violent ignominious death amid a congregated multitude and go to a premature grave, or, you will be compelled to live a life of torture and drag out a miserable existence. If I had my life to live over again I should do neither of these things ; if I could not love my companion, as I did not, I should go to some foreign clime and spend my days in solitude.

Oh ! take a warning I earnestly entreat you. It is very important for you to know the rock on which I split. Here I am deprived of my liberty and civil rights, (and oh ! how sweet would liberty taste to me now) my motives impugned ; my character gone ; my reputation which I had labored long and toiled hard (many a midnight) to acquire blasted ; my name an approbrium and myself set up as a public target at which the world directs its shafts of scorn contempt and ignominy ; my parents and brothers and sisters grieved, heart broken and disgraced ; nay more, my body confined within the walls of the dark, dreary and lonely prison, kept there by bars and iron gates, with an arched stone canopy over my head, deprived of the pure balmy air of Heaven to inhale into my lungs, nor allowed to behold the beauties of the noon day sun, nor to see the very grass laugh at the radiance of the noon day rays, nor to view all nature as she is putting on the garb of loveliness ; nor to enjoy the pleasures of the social circle, nor to taste the sweets of liberty, nor even allowed to attend public worship to hear the Gospel preached, but on the contrary have to look forward to nothing else but that ignominious and violent death on the 9th of June when I must go hence to be no more, when I must sever all those ties that bind me to my kindred relations, take a short glance at perhaps thousands who will