

hand, there is a great deal of truth in the saying that a man never settles down to work till he gets married;—ranges himself, as the French say. Lady Hardwicke often humorously laid claim (as she had good right to do) to so much of the merit of Lord Hardwicke's being a good Chancellor, in that his thoughts and attention were never taken from the business of the court by the private concerns of his family, the care of which, the management of his money matters, the settling all accounts with stewards and others, and above all, the education of his children, had been wholly her department and concern, without any interposition of his, further than implicit acquiescence and entire approbation.

If marriage, too, brings responsibility, it furnishes a new incentive. John Scott would never have become Lord Eldon, unless he had run away with "his Newcastle beauty," Miss Surtees. "I have married rashly," he writes; but it is my determination to work hard for the woman I love." This was the right spirit; and work hard he did, getting up at four o'clock to read law, and wrapping his head in wet towels. Yet these laborious days in Cursitor street, when he slipped out at night to Fleet market to get six penny worth of sprats for supper, were among the happiest in his life. His labors were lightened by the constant companionship of his amiable and beautiful wife, who accustomed herself to his hours, and would sit up with him silently watching his studies. "There is nothing," he afterwards said, "does a young lawyer so much good as to be half-starved." When Erskine made his brilliant début in *Rex v. Baillie*, he was asked how he had courage to stand up so boldly against Lord Mansfield. He answered that he thought his little children were plucking his robe, and that he heard them saying, "Now, father, is the time to get us bread." Marriage, too, had a good deal to do with the success of Lord Truro, not to speak of improving the then over-convivial habits of the circuit bar. When Wilde (Lord Truro) joined the Western Circuit, he was an invalid, and travelled with his wife. He rarely dined at the circuit mess, and devoted the entire evening to his briefs. This compelled a corresponding alteration of habits in others; and a popular leader, afterwards a distinguished judge, is reported to have said to him, "I'll tell you what it is, Wilde, you have spoiled the circuit. Before you joined us we lived like gentlemen, sat late at our wine, left our briefs to take care of themselves, and came into