The Marriage Problem

By HENDRIK VAN LOON

Author of "The Story of the Bible," "The Story of Mankind," etc.

Marriage Will Cease to Last "Until Death," but Will Be Dissolved by the "Death of Love"

EXHAUSTIVE researches through the Mesopotamian brickyards have incontrovertibly shown that the question, "What will become of marriage a hundred years hence?" was first discussed in the "Babylonian Bugle" during the seventh year of the reign of King Chedorlaomer.

The paper in question offered 18 Hittite slave-girls for the most reasonable answer and his majesty (whom you will remember as a distinguished contemporary of Abraham) was to be the judge. The answer unfortunately was lost when Alexander the Great used that particular issue of the famous news-sheet to build himself a new banqueting hall in the ruined palace of Nebuchadnezzar.

So much for ancient history.

As for the future, of course, I don't know anything definite, but I am quite certain that this same question will be one of the main issues discussed by the "Interastral Radio Tabloid" for the year 2035.

For the problem has two enormous and distinct advantages from the point of view of the average publisher.

In the first place, everybody is interested in it.

In the second place, it is quite impossible to reach a definite conclusion.

Wherefore, Caesar has just as much chance to guess right (or wrong) as Caesar's lowest stable boy. That makes for a happy democracy of feeling and that in turn is a great spur to an increased circulation.

In fairness to the reader I ought to offer this little preamble. Then, having established a suitable alibi for the benefit of my great-great-grandchildren, I beg to state that in my own opinion marriage a hundred years hence will be very much like marriage today or like marriage ten thousand years ago.

I do not mean to say that there are no individual cases of men and women who are perfectly happy alone, but the average man needs the companionship of some one of the other sex quite as much as the average woman needs the companionship of her male enemy.

The modern school of red-blooded, square-jawed he-citizen has erected an imaginary cave-man who went about with a ferocious pair of biceps, who stole himself a wife from his neighbor's lair, who dragged her by main force to his own roost and kept her there in a state of miserable bondage until the end of her days "against her will."

But there is no reason to suppose that paleolithic woman was at heart different from her sister of the present intermediery-glacial period. Like most primitive creatures she was a slave to fashion and tradition and knew all the tricks of the "how-dare-you-sir?" invocation.

What those earliest ancestors thought of the institution of marriage, that, alas! we do not know.

Curiously enough it was the capitalistic system, that poplar bogeyman of all our evils, which at last set woman free from her Bedouin-inherited bondage. As long as marriage was the only career which could assure the average woman a modicum of economic security, she was forced to accept her male companion at his own valuation. The moment typewriters became cheap she could snap her fingers at her liege-lord and bid him remove his belongings from her apartment.

And that little fact, so it seems to me, will be the basis for the development of marriage during the next hundred years.

I do not believe that the biological nature of either man or woman will suffer any great changes.

There will be much less "obeying" and "honoring" and much more "cherishing."

Marriage (as my excellent friend Rabbi Brown points out in his matrimonial formula) will cease to last until "death," but it will be dissolved by the "death of love." That is to say, people will continue to live together as long as they love each other and not a day longer.

Of course, a statement like this is apt to provide unbounded fury on the part of those who believe in the Oriental doctrine of female submission. And they wave their hands and loudly shout, "This wretch believes in unlimited divorce!"

But that is exactly what (in my opinion) will not happen. Just because divorce will be so much easier a hundred years hence, people will have much less recourse to the courts than today.

When both parties know that they must do their best to gain and retain the affection and the respect of their companion or else he (or she) will be able to get out of the mutual contract without committing perjury (the unavoidable part of our present divorce code) they will both try much harder than ever before to make a success of their common venture.

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CONGRATULATIONS NOT IN ORDER

A salesman who had been traveling on a certain railroad for a number of years was complaining about the trains always being late when, to his surprise, the train came on time.

He immediately went to the conductor and said: 'Here's a cigar. I want to congratulate you. I've traveled on this road for 15 years and this is the first time I ever caught a train on time.'

'Keep the cigar,' said the conductor; 'this is yesterday's train.'

VISITORS TO AND FROM GALENA

Mr. James Hopper, of Skanteles, N. Y., Mrs. Tudor Tiedeman, and Mr. and Mrs. John Hopper, of Newburg, N. Y., Mr. and Mrs. Leif Eareckson, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McLaren, Mrs. Horace Smith and daughter, Miss Margaret Smith, of Baltimore, Md., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hopper, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shornerd, of Washington, D. C., were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cruickshank and attended the wedding of the latters daughter, Miss Alice Cruickshank.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ottey, of Philadelphia, Pa., spent last Sunday with her niece, Mrs. Heston Coxe.

Miss Mattie Whitaker, of Chestertown, Md., spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. Ernest Hicks.

Misses Hazel Bolton, Virginia Spry, Katherine Powell, Margaret Robinson, Tillie Logan, members of Senior Class 1936, attended a Student Conference at Salisbury State Teachers College.

Dr. and Mrs. William Redding, of Washington, D. C., spent the past week end with his uncle, Mr. Harry Redding.

The members of the Wilmington District of Preachers Association, were entertaned last Monday by the Galena M. E. Church, a sumptious dinner was served by the Ladies Aid of the Church.

Mrs. James Mulford spent the week end with her daughter, Mrs. Burgess Schrieber, in Chestertown, Md.

Mrs. William Towler spent a few days last week with her aunt, Mrs. James Cochran in Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. Katherine Hyland spent a few days last week with Mrs. Samuel Caldwell in Chestertown, Md.

Mr. Elwood Towler spent the past week end with relatives and friends, in Wilmngton, Del., Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Emory Camp and family visited friends in Smyrna, Del., last Sunday.

The Epworth League met at the home of Mr. Julian and Helen Davis, last Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Carson Greenwood, of Still Pond, Md., visited Mrs. James Scolton last Monday.

Mrs. Harry Todd returned to her home last Monday after spending the winter months at the home of her sister, Miss Jennie Parr.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Starr visited her daughter, Mrs. Hershel Calloway in Chestertown, Md., last Sunday.

Mrs. William Money, of near Still Pond, Md., spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. William Petticord.

Mr. and Mrs. George Carroll and family, of Wilmington, Del., Mr. and Mrs. Willard Carroll and family, of Mr. Victor Stradley, of Easton, Md., spent last Sunday with Mrs. George Johnston.

Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Vansant spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Warren Vansant in Greensboro, Md.

Miss Mary McCauley, of Philadelphia, Pa., is spending awhile with her mother, Mrs. Eva McCauley who is on the sick list.

Rev. Sidney Blair, of Princeton, New Jersey, will speak at 'West Minister Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon, May 3rd at 3.15 p. m.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Walsh, of Wilmington, Del., spent last Sunday with her parents at Club Cottage in Georgetown, Md.

Little Kay Heighe Ahern, entertained a number of her friends on Thursday afternoon in honor of her fifth birthday.

Mr. Alfred Walsh, of Wilmington, D el., spent the week end with relatives and friends in town.

Williams—Cruikshank

Miss Alice Griffith Cruikshank, daughter, of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Cruikshank, of near Galena, Maryland, and Mr. Marvin Van Dyke Williams, son of County Commissioner and Mrs. George T. Williams, of near Worton, Maryland, were married on Saturday, April 25, 1936, at 6 o'clock at the rectory of St. Dennis' Church at Galena. Rev. Charles Conway, of Chestertown, officiated. About thirty near relatives and close friends were present at the ceremony. Miss Lucy Walke Cruikshank, sister of the bride was maid of honor, Mr. Browne Rowe, of Sudlersville, was best man. The bride wore her mothers wedding dress and shoes, with tulle veil and carried shower boquet. The bridesmaid's dress was of pale pink chiffon. She carried snapdragons in darker shades of pink. The bride is an alumni of Washington College, Chestertown, class of 1935. The groom attended the same college and is now engaged in business in Chestertown.

Immediately after the ceremony a wedding supper was served at the home of the bride to about fifty relatives and close friends. A reception followed for more than a hundred guests. During the evening the bride and groom left for a motor trip. The bride wore a blue checked suit with dark blue top coat.

SOCIAL ITEMS AT MILLINGTON

Mrs. Ella Abele, Mrs. Frank Carpenter, Mrs. George Carpenter and son, George, Jr., of Philadelphia, and Mr. Roy Carpenter, of Newark, N. J., spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John E. Woodall. Jack Manning accompanied them home.

Mrs. Eva W. Marvel is spending some time with relatives in Wilmington and Philadelphia.

Mss Betty Ann Vansant is visiting her grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. George B. Jones.

Mrs. William Ford and Mrs. William Adams, of Marcus Hook spent Sunday with relatives in Millington.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Jones on Sunday visited their daughter and son in law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin in Wilmington, their little grand daughter, Barbara Ann, who has been visiting her grand parents for several weeks returned to Wilmington with them. Mr. Jones said he had rather part with his new automobile than to part with Barbara Ann after such a pleasant visit.

Jack Manning has accepted a position with Mr. Roy Carpenter in Newark, N. J.

Mrs. Burton Green and two children, of Crumpton, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Lee.

Miss Mollie Higman returned home on Sunday after a couple of weeks visit mith friends in Wilmington.

Miss Evelyn Jones s at home again after a few weeks visit with relatives in Camden, N. J..

Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Ford Phillip, of Wilmington, were guests of their sister, Miss Marie Vansant on Sunday and Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dennie and son, Charles, Jr., spent Sunday with her mother, Mrs. Mary King.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Passwater and son, Stanley, Jr, of Wilmington were visitors over the week end of her sister and brother in law, Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Robinson.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gleaves, of Philadelphia, were Sunday visitors of Mrs. Norman Higman and Miss Mollie Higman accompanied them home for a weeks visit.

Mr. Cassius Crockett visited his sister in Laurel, Del., on Sunday.

Mrs. Lambert D. Bowers and daughter, Margaret, attended a memorial service in honor of the formers grandfather, Stephen Ellis, at St. Marks P. E. Chapel, Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, Sunday afternoon, the first service looking toward the organization of this church was held at hs home January 13th, 1857. The Chapel was consecrated May 28, 1858.

Mrs. Priscilla Kieppel and daughter, Miss Pearl and Mr. Conwell Dodd, of Georgetown, Del., visited the formers daughter and son in law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bell over the week end.

Mrs. George J. Smith is on the sick list, we hope for her speedy recovery.

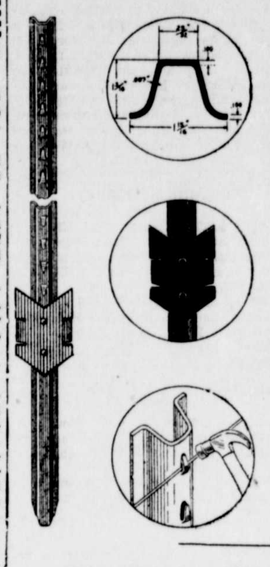
Miss Florence Gale, of Baltimore, spent a few hours at her home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Leo Gale on Sunday last.

Mr. Wilmer Johnson and Harold Bell, of Denton, Md., were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bell.

Quite a number of persons from Millington attended the meeting of the W. C. T. U. in Betterton on Thursday.

Miss Margaret Stansfield, of Reisterstown, Md., was the week end guest of Miss Betty Jones.

AMERICAN FENCING and POSTS



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