The Marriage Problem

By VALENTINE WILLIAMS

Author of "The Man With the Club Foot," "Island Gold," etc.

Wives Will Become Equal to and Independent of Their Husbands

BECAUSE I hold that the trend of the modern world is toward a higher standard of morality, I believe that marriage, perhaps fifty, more certainly a hundred years hence, will be an infinitely looser tie than it is today, but saner and much more precise in its definition of responsibilities.

Talk of divorce, or of easier divorce, immediately brings the religious authorities to their feet in protest. That is as it should be. The Christian religion, always striving upward, made of marriage a sacrament not only to elevate above the purely physical the solemn act of begetting children, but also to secure the proper realization of the responsibilities deriving from this act.

In a world in which women, morally and economically, occupied a definitely dependent role, marriage was their only shield against social ostracism and misery, the sole safeguard for the children against neglect and abandonment, the mainstay of the idea of the family as a cell in the organism of the state. On material, quite apart from religious, grounds the churches are quite right to hold inalterably to the present institution of marriage until the respective responsibilities of man and woman in the relationship of the sexes are more precisely defined.

As an institution marriage was primarily devised in the interest of the children. The state of a hundred years hence, I am firmly convinced, will have assumed the free education of every child on sane and homogeneous lines. Early marriage will be encouraged by government subsidy; the mating of diseased individuals will be made a felony punishable by loss of civil rights as part of the penalty; criminal lunatics, morons and the like will be sterilized, and, the soil being clear for the production of healthy progeny, a bounty will be paid on the birth of every child.

Marriage has never been a bar against immorality, but in the world of tomorrow the state will insure that the sins of the father (and mother) are not visited upon the children.

With the pulling down of class barriers mankind is becoming increasingly intolerant of restrictions. For this reason, among others, I have expressed the view that marriage is inevitably destined to become a looser tie. But all responsible statesmen recognize that the home is the basis of national stability, and governments of the future, while forced, as I think, to ease the fetters of matrimony, will meet the tendency to take excessive advantage of easier divorce by remedying the economic abuses which, in our Twentieth century, lead to the break-up of so many homes.

By 2000 A. D. socialistic ideas of taxation, already now on the march, will prevent the accumulation of great private fortunes. There will be a leveling down of wealth all around which will enable governments more efficaciously to secure the economic independence of the married woman.

I believe that the wife of 2000 A. D. will be legally recognized as the equal and independent partner of her husband. She will be entitled to draw a proper housekeeping allowance, based on a fixed percentage of her husband's means, this percentage being proportionately augmented with the arrival of each baby.

Women who are wage-earners themselves will be compelled to contribute, but on a lower scale. Marriage will be a partnership which either party can apply to the courts to have dissolved, as in business, if the other partner fails to comply with his obligations.

This arrangement will cover not only the case of the husband who stints his wife of money in the interest of his private pleasures, but also the case of the type of modern woman who marries for a good time and neglects her children and her home as well as her husband.

In the case of divorce, or dissolution of the partnership, the state, which will be the trustee of all children, the citizens of tomorrow, will see that the children concerned, legitimate or illegitimate, are properly provided for, according to the disposable means. Thus the man who, to marry, abandons an illegitimate family, will no longer get off with a derisory payment dragged out of him, after much expense and publicity, through the courts. Alimony dodgers will be heavily punished, and I fancy that the childless wife, often no doubt unjustly, will get no alimony at all.

To sum up, easier divorce, hedged about with such sanctions as I have outlined, is the direction in which we are progressing.

But I do not believe that easier divorce will mean more divorces. Today men and women are tearing down the veils which false modesty has drawn across the simple truths of the propagation of life, and their descendants, a hundred years hence, will enter upon the state of matrimony less heedlessly but with open eyes, to the greater endurance of the marriage tie and the increased happiness of the human race.

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THE CAT CAME BACK

'My wife told me to take the old cat off somewhere and lose it. So I put him in a basket and tramped out into the country about eight miles.'

'Well, did you lose the cast?'

'Lose it? If I hadn't followed it I'd never got back home.'

FORWARD

Seaman: 'Jones sounds like a football player at every meal, doesn't he?'

Ditto: 'Why so'

Seaman: 'He's always yelling pass.'

NEWS ITEMS IN AND AROUND GALENA

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Cohee and children, of Washington, D. C., Mr. and Mrs. James Hicks and son, of Newark, Del., were Sunday guests of the formers parents, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Cohee in Fredericktown, Md.

Mrs. James Scotton and daughters, Mrs. Harry Smith, Miss Selma Scotton, Little Harry Smith, Jr., spent last Thursday with the formers sister, Mrs. Harry Birnie in Baltimore, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Cochran, Jr., of Wilmington, Del., spent part of last Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Cochran.

Miss Ethelie Prettyman, of Baltimore, Md., visited her mother, Mrs. Ida Prettyman over the past week end.

Mr. James Ryan and Miss Bliss Jarman attended 'National Democratic Convention,' held in Philadelphia, Pa., last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Casper Copper and son, Billy, of Ingleside, spent the past week end with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Freeman, of Philaedlphia, Pa., were week end visitors of his sister, Mrs. Raymond Tapper.

Mrs. Kay Ahern spent last Friday and Saturday in Baltimore, Md., and Waynesboro, Pa., her daughter, Kay, remained in Waynesboro, Pa., to visit her aunt, Mrs. Terry Mitchell.

Mrs. William Towler is a patient in Dr. Jones Hospital, Wilmington, Del., at this writing she is much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Herchel Callawoy, of Chestertown, Md., were Sunday guests of her mother, Mrs. W. L. Starr.

Mr. and Mrs. John Falcon, of Springdale, Pa., Mrs. Perry, and Mr. and Mrs. Cancelliere, of Pittsburg, Pa., are guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Godwin.

Capt. Richard Driscoll, of New London, Conn., is visiting his family here for a few days.

Mr. William McLearn, of Baltimore, Md., is visiting at the home of Mrs. Alice Crawford.

Mrs. Arthur Levy and son, Charles, of New York City, N. Y., are spending the summer months at their home, Old Field Point Farm, near Galena.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Blount and grandson, Brooks Watson moved in the Welch Home on Main St., last Monday.

Mrs. E. A. Scott is visiting Mrs. Eloise Ash in Elkton, Md.

Miss Ruth Ellis and friends, of Baltimore, Md., visited her friend, Miss Elizabeth Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Jones, Jr., spent last Sunday with friends in Smyrna, Del., her mother, Mrs. Laura Burris returned with them after a weeks visit with her daughter, Mrs. Jones.

Mrs. Lula Gale is spending awhile with her daughter, Mrs. Samuel Caldwell, near Chesapeake City, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Newnam and little daughter, Jean, of Pedericktown, New Jersey, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Newnam.

Miss Genevieve Cochran and Mr. Alfred Walsh spent last Sunday with relatives and friends in Cambridge, Md.

Mrs. Harry W. Pinder and daughter, Louise, and Mr. Frances Gibson, of Chestertown, Md., spent last Tuesday with her son and daughter in law, Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Pinder, Jr., in Cape May, N. J.

Mr. William Powell and family, of near Sassafras, moved in the "Hadley House" last Monday. Mr. Powell will take charge of the Gulf Filling Station and Mr. Burton Edwards moved into the Senney Repair Shop.

Misses Lucy Morgan and friend, Isabelle, Wood, of Byrn Mar, Pa., visited the formers aunt, Mrs. J. E. Ireland last week.

Mrs. Carl Mack and childrn, Allen, Louise and Carl, of Wilmington, Del., visited her mother, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones, near town.

Mr. and Mrs. George C. Johnston returned home on Sunday after visiting their daughter, Mrs. George Carroll in Dover, Del.

Mr. Howard Darlington, of West Chester, Pa., is the guest of his cousin, Dr. Earle Gilfillan.

Miss Mary Louise Jarrell returned to her home in Hockessin, Del., after a weeks visit with her cousins, Pearle and Josephine Fogwell, near town.

Mrs. Annie Moore returned home last Saturday after visiting her brother, Mr. Nat Vanhorn, in Townshend, Del.

KENNEDYVILLE

Ethel Groves was given a surprise birthday party on Friday afternoon, fifteen little friends attended all enjoyed a pleasant afternoon of games. Ice cream and cake were served.

Mrs. Rachiel Hill and Mrs. Mollie Archibald and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Garey spent Monday in Wilmington, Del.

Miss Sophie Miller spent Sunday with Mrs. Emery Bonwill and family.

Miss Sue Johnston, of Washington, D. C., is spending a part of this week with her sister, Mrs. James Weer.

Julian Hill was taken to Chestertown hospital on Monday and operated on for appendicitis he is getting along very nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hessner entertained Rev. Ferguson on Sunday evening.

Service in Grace Presbyterian Church Sunday evening at 8 p. m.

Mr. and Mrs. James Lusby and Mrs. George Sutton and Mrs. James Lusby, Sr., went to Ocean City on Sunday. Mrs. Sutton and Mrs. Lusby, Sr., remained to attend the meeting of the Maryland and Delaware Episcopalian Bible School Association.

The Ladies Aid Society met at the M. P. Parsonage on Friday evening a reception was given Rev. Baucher and family. Mr. Joseph McHenry made the address of welcome. Rev. Baucher and wife responded.

Mrs. Hurd, of Stewartston, visited Mrs. Bessie Cane a part of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. William Anthony spent the week end at Rehoboth.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnston, of Galena, visited his sister, Mrs. James Weer on Sunday evening.

The cannery closed on Saturday after a very successful season of canning asparagus. The employees all enjoyed the treat of ice cream and cake.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cliff were delighted on Sunday when their grand daughter, Nancy Jean Webb and pretty little baby, Ada Jean and Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Hedley and Mary Oliff of Chester visited them.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Myers and Mr. Haggerty spent Sunday in Philadelphia.

Miss Bernice Scotten spent the week end at Ocean City.

Mrs. Anna Urie is visiting her parents this week, Mr. and Mrs. George Rasin.

Mrs. Anna Caldwell is spending sometime with her daughter, Mrs. Dempsey and family.

Dr. and Mrs. Urie, of Richardson, Park, spent Sunday with relatives here

Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Ford left for Wilmington, Saturday afternoon, where they will make their home. Their sale was well attended Saturday.

Mrs. Mollie Archibald returned home from Chestertown on Saturday.

Mrs. George French, of Chestertown, visited the Misses Scottens last week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hurlock and Mrs. Rachel Hill spent Sunday with Mrs. Ada Hitch at Queenstown.

Mr. and Mrs. Lin Redmile, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Redmile and Miss Toultney spent Thursday in Wilmington. Miss Toultney left for her home in Boston on Friday.

READING CHARACTER

Did you know that the fantastic figures people make on scraps of paper reveal their true character? Read what an expert psychologist has to say about this interesting subject in the July 5 issue of the American Weekly, the big magazine which comes regularly with the BALTIMORE AMERICAN.

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FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN

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We consider this part of our work as important as any other. Our highest aim is to have our patrons look upon us as trusted friends, ready and anxious to render sympathetic assistance to those who remain behind.

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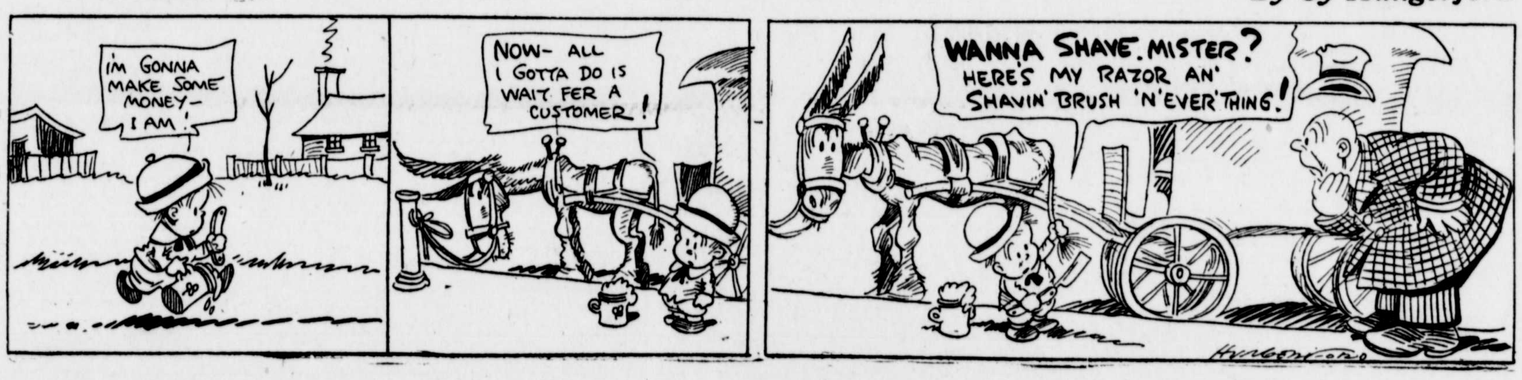
By Cy Hungerford



"MICKY" AND HIS GANG

By Sam Iger

DOROTHY DARNIT

By Charles McManus