The Marriage Problem

By ALICE M. WILLIAMSON

Coauthor of "The Lightning Conductor," "What Happened in Egypt," "The Night of the Wedding," etc.

Marriage Is Leading Toward "a Union With a Partition"

JUDGING from what has happened in the past, 100 years doesn't give marriage enough time to change sensationally. Our great-grandmothers (those of us who possess anything so distinguished) can remember what marriage was like a hundred years ago; unless they married too young. But probably they did; for there is one important change which a century or less has made: A girl was an old maid at twenty-one in our grandmothers' day. Of course, even then there was a difference between the naughty little wife and the good little wife, a difference which will exist while woman is woman and man is man.

But what I'm hoping for marriage a hundred—or even fifty—years from now is that the coming changes may make it easier, pleasanter for Little Wife and Big Husband to keep on being what is called "good." And what I mean by being "good" is being in love.

Nowadays, when you are married, it is very hard to keep on being good because of the difficulty in keeping the state of love.

Affection and love are different, aren't they? I ask this question of all married men and women; not, of course, because others don't know. They can merely theorize. And people who merely theorize about the most important things in life are bores!

A hundred years ago a good little wife at thirty had several children or else thought herself (and was thought by her husband) a total loss. Also, she had put on a tiny cap, as a kind of virtuous sign that she didn't even wish to attract men.

Nowadays the naughty little wife does all sorts of things! A waste of space to specify them.

Women aren't always faithful; but nature, and their hearts, have meant them to be more faithful than men—worse luck! But a man—I ask my sister women of the middle classes of the world how can they expect their husbands to go on being "in love" with them as things are in married homes of average prosperity?

If you are a man, you may continue through years to feel a deep affection and respect for your wife, even though you share the same small bedroom and walk the floor at night with a yelling baby. You may be bored, but you don't cease to be fond of the poor woman because she chats to you continually about the servants or lack of them, or about the children's ailments.

To console yourself, you say (be you man or woman, for, of course, wife is bored stiff a thousand times, too!), "If I hadn't married and had children, I should be all alone in the world. No one would want me, or care for me, in my old age!"

That is a selfish and unromantic consolation to achieve.

Now I'm going to tell you something of what I mean.

The future home which I speak of is that of moderate means. "This nest of love," as the French would say, might be arranged in two adjoining apartments; but my ideal picture shows me two houses, a pair joined together, yet having a dignified separateness, like that of the husband and wife who live in them.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith, let's call our couple. He has his business and outside interests. She has her interests too, but her business is at home, caring for the children, and making her private part of the home perfect for her husband and for herself. His half is, in a fashion, bachelor quarters; and as the Smiths have separate as well as mutual friends, he can get all the bachelor fun—the poker parties, etc.—that he wants on his side of the partition.

There will be a door leading from one house to the other on each floor, but Mrs. Smith's house will be her own, as Mr. Smith's is his. The yelling of the babies will be her affair, and nurse's affair. That is, or will be, the woman's business, not the man's, except in genuine illness. She will want her husband to see the children at their best, and to see her at hers.

She will invite him to dine with her en tete-a-tete and won't be offended if he has made another engagement.

As the Smiths will never need to meet when they are cross and their nerves "frazzled," they will keep for one another the charm of early love-making days. There will be the decent distance between individuals, yet they will be close, one to the other, in their dear and double home.

This picture may not seem at first glance important as a change. And yet I think it is.

Suppress dullness, sameness, staleness, everlasting "duty obligations," and, in a nutshell, you may find the perfect marriage a hundred years from now.

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NEWS ITEMS IN AND AROUND GALENA

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson Cole and family, of Chevy Chase, Md., are guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wilson in Georgetown, Md.

Little Lewis Cruikshank returned home last week after visiting his sister, Mrs. Marvin Williams, near Worton, Md.

Mrs. George Coffin, of Miami, Fla., Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clark, of Dover, Del., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnston, of Sassafras, Md., were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Warner Johnston, near town.

Mr. and Mrs. Casper Copper and little son, of Ingleside, Md., were guest of her parents, several days last week.

Mrs. William Freeman is visiting friends and relatives at Tilghman's Island, Md.

Misses Clara Virginia and Betty Ann Jarvis are visiting their grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Boyles, attended the funeral of their brother in law, Mr. Custis Price iif Warwick, Md., last Friday.

Mrs. Walter Hadley spent last Sunday as guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ivanhoe Willis who have a cottage at Kentmore Park, Md.

Mrs. Jesse E. Ireland left on Saturday to spend a few weeks with relatives in Charlottsville, Va.

Mrs. William Fowler returned home on Saturday after being a patient in Dr. Jones Hospital much improved.

Miss Mary McCauley, of Philadelphia, Pa., spent the week end with her mother, Mrs. Eva McCauley.

Little Mary Balseoven is spending a few weeks with her grandparents, near Elkton, Md.

Mr. Edward Harris, of Philadelphia, Pa., is the guest of his parents, near town.

Mrs. Nettie Watson, of Chesapeake City, is visiting her mother, Mrs. J. W. Blount.

Dr. George R. Jones is a patient in the Homeopathic Hospital Wilmington, Del.

Misses Geneiveve Cochran, Margaret Crawford, Kitty Cochran spent several days last week in Atlantic City, N. J.

Mrs. James Scotton, Miss Selma Scotton, Mrs. Warren Gillespie, Mrs. Richard Redding attended the funeral of Mrs. Frank White in Rising Sun, Md., last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Reynolds and little daughter, Rachel, of near Wilmington, Del., spent last Sunday with her uncle, Mr. George Johnston.

Mrs. Lina King and son, Hanson, of Warwick, Md., visited Mrs. Ella Caldwell last Sunday.

Mrs. Burgess Schrieber and little daughter, Anne, of Chestertown, Md., returned home last Sunday after spending several days with her parents, Mr and Mrs. James Mulford.

Mr. and Mrs. George Carroll and family, of Dover, Del., spent the past week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Johnston.

Mr. and Mrs. Frances Summers and little son, of Mt. Rainser, Md., and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Stewart spent last Sunday with the latters sister, Mrs. Frank Cohee in Fredericktown, Md.. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart remained for a visit.

Mrs. Richard Driscoll and little son, left on Tuesday to join her husband who is stationed in New London, Conn.

Miss Kitty Hyland a student nurse in Union Memorial Hospital, Baltimore, Md., Miss Bernice Horsey, of Wilmington, General, Miss Blandie Fogwell, of Homeopathic Hospital all student nurses are on a months vacation at the home of their parents.

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Boyd is quite ill at this writing.

Miss Pauline Johnston is spending this week at Crystal Beach, where her uncle, Mr. Clark Colgain and family have a cottage there.

Miss Ethelie Prettyman and Miss Mary Jane Martin, of Baltimore, Md., were week end guests of the formers mother, Mrs. Ida Prettyman.

Mrs. Frank White, wife of Rev. Frank White, of Rising Sun, Md., died at her home last Friday after a short illness,. Mr. White having served as pastor of the M. E. Church here about seventeen years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Williams, of Worton,, Md., visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cruickshank., over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hewitt and family, of Wilmington, Del., are occupying their cottage, near Georgetown, Md., Mrs. Hewitt will be remembered as Miss India Jervis formerly of Georgetown, Md.

Little Nancy Cochran is visiting her uncle,. Mr. Bernard Cochran in Philadelphia, Pa.

Miss Josephine McClearn, of Baltimore, Md., spent a few days last week with Peg McCauley in Georgetown, Md., the latter returned with Miss McClearn for a visit last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry McGonigal and daughter, Betty, of Camden, N. J., spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. George Jones, Jr., other guests on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bolan and daughter, Doris, of Dover Del.

WORTON

All those who are enterested in cleaning the Old Union Grave Yard please be present Tuesday, July 28th at 9 a. m. Lunch and ice tea will be served at 12 noon.

Mrs. Howard Carter and daughter, Betty and little grand son, Ted Carter, of Syracuse, N. Y., are the guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Rash.

Mr. and Mrs. George Burk and Mr. Burk's mother, of Miami, Florida, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Lester M. Carter.

Mr. Lawrence Lee,, of Wilmington, was the week end guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Lee.

Miss Jane Wolf, of Baltimore, is spending her vacation at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Marion Rash and family.

Mrs. S. J. Lee,, Mrs. John Duyer, Mrs. H. S. Rasin and Helen Christopher visited Mr. and Mrs. Julian Crew Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Clayville spent last week with their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Draper, of Chestertown.

Catherine Mulford, of Chestertown, is the guest o her grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Chairs.

Mrs. R. A. Loud entertained her sisters, Mrs. W. S. Gardner, of Baltimore, Mrs. W. B. Usilton, of Chestertown, and Mrs. Joseph Watson, of Fairlee, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. George Williams and little son, George IV, and the latters parents, Mr. and Mrs. Foote, of Baltimore, visited Mr. and Mrs. George Williams last week end.

Mrs. James Koherman, of Baltimore, who spent last week with Miss Anna Williams with her husband are spending this week with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Porter.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wallis, of Middletown, visited relatives and friends here Sunday.

Mr. Donald Isaacs, of Baltimore, was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Rash last week end.

Bridget, the maid, approached her mistress.

'Oi would loike a week's holiday, Ma'am,' she said. 'Oi wants to be married.'

Her mistress gave her a week's holiday, a white dress, a veil, and a cake.

At the end of the week Bridget returned. 'O ma'am,' she said in answer to her mistress's questions, 'Oi was the most lovely bride. My dress was perfect, my veil lovely, and everybody said the cake was splendid.'

'Well, Bridget, this sounds delightful,' said her mistress. 'I do hope you've got a good husband.'

Bridget's tone changed to one of indignation.

'Now, ma'am an' what d'ye think? The spalppeen never turned up.'—Tatler.

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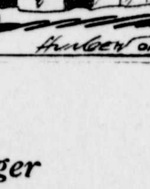
When death visits a home, the first concern is to perform the last service to the loved one in a becoming manner. What ever is done must express all the reverance and affection that is felt at such a time. But in addition to this a further responsibilty rests upon the funeral director. It is his privilege and duty to lessen as far as lies with in his power, the burdens laid upon those who remain. By countless little acts of thoughtfulness he can make the way easier for them.

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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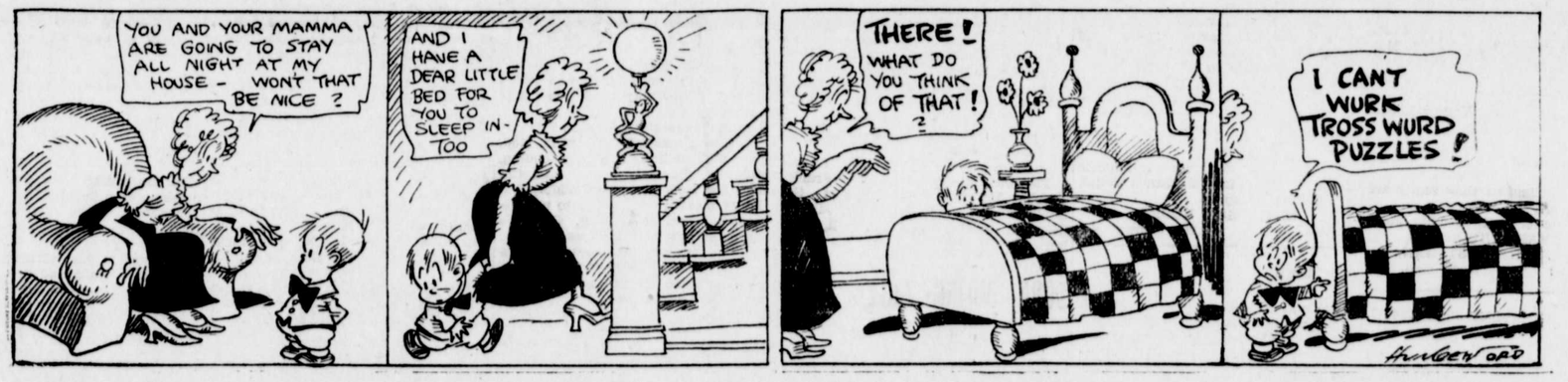
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