The Marriage Problem

By FRANK SWINNERTON

Author of "Coquette," "Nocturne," "Young Felix," "The Elder Sister," etc.

Marriage Will Become Once Again Dignified

MARRIAGE of the future—what an attractive subject for speculation! Will marriage continue even to survive as an institution? Will it be mangled, as the modern habit is to mangle it? These are two of the first problems to be settled.

First of all, can marriage be looked upon as a probable feature of life fifty or a hundred years hence? My answer is "Yes."

I think that marriage will continue, simply because without marriage in some form society must become chaotic. Indeed, we may see in a generation or so a definite reaction against the present fashionable impatience of family ties. Those who contract and dissolve marriages as they would contract and dissolve liasions will be despised as antisocial. They will be ridiculed as old-fashioned. And while shocked protest pleases such libertarians, who like to think of themselves as rebels, ridicule will kill them.

As the world grows older its inhabitants will think more and more of society and of their duty to society. This will be a natural development from that fear of "what people will think" which is nowadays being ostentatiously flouted; but it will not be dictated by fear.

It will be controlled by idealism, and, in the last resort, by self-interest. Men and women will begin to realize that selfishness and the disregard of others do not pay.

The selfish person may at all times tyrannize and indulge every impulse at the expense of others, but in the end the selfish person is without friends. Only by making concessions to those among whom we live can we be happy and give happiness to others, and the human institution which most strikingly combines selfishness with sacrifice is marriage.

As one who is happily married, I know that married life is the best thing the world can offer. The sense of being linked with another human being in common happiness and understanding, common work and play, is unsurpassed. It exalts the individual. So far from marriage being a stultification, as its feminist opponents say, or a reduction of two beings to one as the sentimentalists claim, it gives each partner the strength and endurance of two. It fortifies the individual as nothing else can do.

But marriage is only possible if there is wisdom and simplicity upon both sides. There is no room in happy marriage for that bluebird of modern youth—sophistication. Sophistication, the racking of nerves and bodies in the pursuit of pleasure, must go. The young of this age are still infatuated with it; but the young of the next age will be impatient of it. More serious and more humorous than their predecessors, they will see sophistication as waste. They will not be seeking escape from life and responsibility, as is the present generation; but will demand the right to shoulder both.

Hence I look for a revival in real marriage, as I look for a simplification of life. I look also for the reawakening in educated men and women of the spirit of uncolored and sober sacrifice.

In uneducated men and women that spirit has never been lost in the craze for distraction. All the restless egotism which leads modern educated women, for instance, to assert rights and to refuse any diminution of their own self-importance, will be modified as those rights are freely admitted.

It will come to be realized that marriage involves obligations as well as claims, and that all who marry accept permanently certain essential duties. They will not regard marriage as slavery; the doctrine of service will be to them—as it is to me—the noblest of all personal and social doctrines.

Service is incompatible with selfishness. It is only service at all if it is wholly disinterested. Therefore it is in place here to remark that the husbands of the future will not get this service for nothing. It will be given freely; but it will be repaid by service not less loyal and generous. The husbands will have to recognize the absolute equality and independence of women.

And as a first step to this recognition the husband (in my view) will have to realise that the wife is the most important person in the home. (Just as the wife will have to realize that the husband is the most important person in the home; for sacrifice cuts both ways.) Moreover, husbands and wives will in this future time marry for character, and not for physical charm (though character does not exclude physical charm), for a home, for fun, or for the want of something better to do. Marriage will thus become once again dignified.

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Two Pastors at Church in Century

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DR. JULIAN T. POWER

Chestertown, Maryland

OPTOMETRIST

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

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NEWS ITEMS IN AND AROUND GALENA

Mr. Price Stradley spent several days last week with his uncle, Mr. Harvey Stradley in Sunbury, Pa.

Mr. Warren Gillespie has accepted a position in Millville,, Del., High School.

Little Nelson Bakeoven returned home last Saturday after spending several days with his grand-mother, Mrs. Harris in Elkton, Md.

Mrs. William Godwin spent a few days last week with relatives in Wilmington, Del.

Mrs. Annie Moore celebrated her 81st birthday at her home last Wednesday.

Mr. Donald Burkey and Jerry Slack, of Readng, Pa., and Mr. and Mrs. Clark Colgain were week end visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Johnston.

Miss Marian Colgain returned with them after having spent the past week with her cousn Pauline Johnston.

Miss Pauline Johnston and Warren Johnston, Jr., are home from Dr. Jones Hospital where they had their tensils removed.

Mrs. Harry W. Pinder and daughter, Miss Louise and Mr. Francis Gibson, of Chestertown spent a few days last week with relatives and friends in Cape May and Atlantic City, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Pinder, Jr., and her father, Mr. Fred Mench, of Cape May, N. J., spent Sunday with the formers parents, Mr . and Mrs. Harry W. Pinder, near town.

Mrs. James Scotton returned home on last Sunday after spending a few days with her daughter, Mrs. Smith in Salisbury, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Burgess Schreber and daughter, Anne, of Chestertown, Md., spent last Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Mulford.

Mr. and Mrs. George Nicholson and son returend home last Saturday after spending several days with his sister, Mrs. George Sampell in Cumberland, Md.

Mrs. Edward Jones and son, Mr. Arthur Jones and family, of Philadelphia, Pa., spent last Thursday with the formers sisters, Mrs. William Petticord, Miss Annie Hayes.

Mr. and Mrs. John Martin and Miss Turner, of Philadelphia, Pa., were Saturday guests of Mrs. Maggie Martin, near town.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard McCauley, of Washington, D. C., are spending this week with his aunt, Mrs. Linda Walls.

Mrs. Arnold Stewart, of Mt. Rainer, Md., is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Frank Cohee in Fredericktown, Md.

Miss Margaret Gale, Miss Crawford, of Baltimore, Md., are ivsiting the formers grandmother, Mrs. Lula Gale.

Mr. and Mrs .P. K. Horsey spent last Sunday wth friends in Atlantic City, N. J.

Miss Alice Irving Crawford entered Union Memorial Hospital last Tuesday for training.

Miss Elizabeth Dill entered Beacom Business College last Tuesday in Wilmington, Del.

Mss Betty Walls, of Wilmington, Del., visited her grand mother Mrs. Walls near town.

Miss Dorothy Mitchel, of Salisbury, Md., was a guest of Miss Carrie Dempsey, Miss Dempsey returned with her last Friday.

Mrs. Jerome McCauley and daughters, of Baltimroe, Md., visited friends and relatives in town last Sunday.

Mr. Irving Vansant and son, John, of Wilmington, Del., visited Mr. and Mrs., L. D. Vansant last Sunday.

Miss Lucille Parr returned home on Sunday after spending the past month with her aunt, Mrs. Harry Todd.

Mrs. Eva McCauley returned to her home last Wednesday after being in St. Frances Hospital for several weeks she is improved in health.

The Ladeis Ad Society met in the M. E. Chapel last Tuesday evening.

Mr. Micheal Murns and daughter, Miss Marie and Mr. William Sheen, of Baltimore, Md., visited Mr. and Mrs. James Mulford. Mrs. Burns returned with them after a months visit.

Hood: I saw you in church last Sunday morning.

Gear: Yes, I had a bad knock in my engine. What was the matter with your car?—Boston Transcript.

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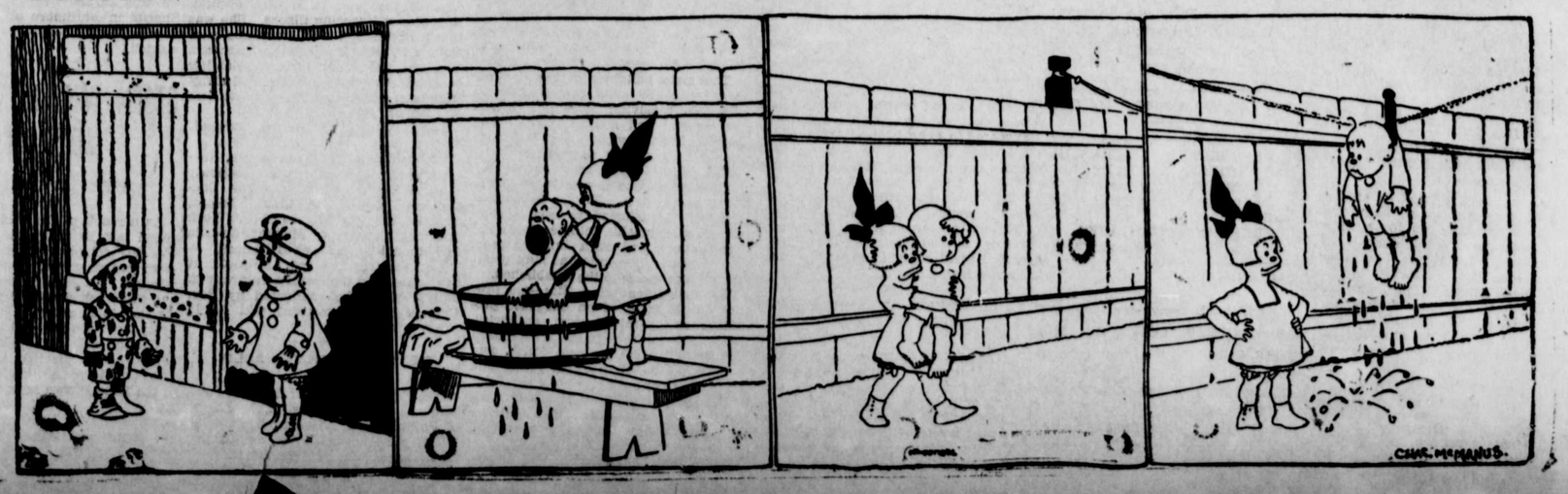
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