

The Kind of Husband I SHOULD CHOOSE FOR MY DAUGHTER.

A Christian Every Day in the Year.

BY MRS. FRANCIS E. CLARK.

Is it not a difficult question to ask of one who is spending the greater part of her time in training up future husbands for other people's daughters?

As a preliminary step I sent word to half a dozen college girls of my acquaintance, to know what kind of husbands they would choose, and with one voice they assured me that they did not want any husbands. That put a summary stop to my investigations in that direction, and quite took my breath away. But I do not believe a word of it. I next appealed to my own mother to see what kind of a husband she would have chosen for me.

'My sister,' she said, 'was once asked, "if you were required to choose between a christian man, with a quick, bad temper, and a man who made no pretensions to religion, but who was equal in intelligence, position and culture to the other, and whose disposition was known to be amiable, which would you choose?" Not a fair question, you say. So thought my sister; but when pressed for answer she replied: "I would marry neither of them unless I loved him beyond everybody else in the world. In that case I think I should want to help the christian to overcome his hot temper. If I were to choose the pleasant, winsome, irreligious man, I should, by violating my own religious convictions and training, show him so inconsistent a christian character myself, that I could hardly hope to draw him to my Saviour, and I should very likely lose my own warmth and zeal in christian duty." Shall I decide then that, first of all, my daughter's choice should be, or mine for her, a truly christian man, one whose life and talents and property, if he has any, are consecrated to his Master. He must not be morose or quick tempered or selfish. He must be well educated, warm hearted, sympathetic, and amiable. He should honor his Master by a cheerful face.'

Certainly then the man I would choose for my daughter (if I were so fortunate as to have a daughter), must first of all be a christian, and he must not be one of the kind of whom a little boy said, 'Yes, he is a christian, but he is not working at it much.' Nor must he be like that woman to whom her little daughter said, 'Mamma, I found your religion in your trunk,' meaning her church letter. The man I would choose must be an earnest christian the kind of a man who would be 'working at it,' and the kind of a man who would not 'keep his religion in his trunk.' If he moved to another town he would be the kind of a man who would be likely to take a letter to that church, and for the time he lived there, would throw in his lot with that church, and help to carry its burdens. If he traveled, he would carry his religion with him.

Shall he be rich? No, I think I would rather not. I think I would choose to have him acquire the strength that comes from 'enduring hardness,' rather than meet the temptations that come with riches. Shall he then be poor? No, I do not think I choose that, for I want them to have at least one luxury, the luxury of giving, and it is so little that a very poor man can give, even if he gives a tenth, I think I would pray Agur's prayer for him: 'Give him neither poverty nor riches.'

Shall he be handsome? Why yes, if I can choose he shall be 'of a beautiful countenance and goodly to look to,' and tall; but remember that does not come first. I have chosen first of all that he shall be an earnest christian, and if he is that, the good looks will not hurt him, and he will certainly be more pleasing, and will have so much the more power to influence others.

What shall his business be? Well, if I were to choose it for him, I think I would rather he would be a missionary or a minister, that his whole life might be spent in helping other lives, like the parson in Jean Ingelow's poem, 'so anxious not to go to heaven alone.' But since he is to be an earnest christian man, I think I would rather he would choose his own calling, feeling sure that he would help other lives whatever his daily work may be.

Let There Be Spiritual Sympathy.

BY THE COUNTESS SCHIMMELMANN.

What kind of a husband shall I choose for my daughter? I would advise that both mother and daughter put this matter into the hands of God and let him choose for you; then and only then will your daughter's happiness be secured. If we carefully study our bible, we will see that in the beginning of humanity God very positively and specially took the marriages into his own hand. I believe that it has as-

surely been God's will all along, that no marriages should be formed except by such special orders from God. Our own choosing at the very best is short-sighted and limited and we cannot overcome two difficulties; the one is that a human being, and especially a man who goes out wooing, can disguise his character; and the second is, that characters actually do change under the influence of circumstances. You might, for example, choose a quiet, soft-minded husband for your daughter, and ten years later, after a wearying, troublesome life, find that he possesses an irritable nature; or in the character of an energetic, active young man good luck and the accumulation of wealth may destroy these qualities, and he turns out an apathetic, lazy and wholly good-for-nothing fellow.

Now if a mother is perfectly sure that in the case of her daughter it is God's will that she should be married, she has not only the right, but it is her duty so far to care for the things of this world as to prevent her daughter from getting the wrong husband. The mother's duty should be rather limited to prevent wrong, than extended to choose for her daughter.

How are we then to behave? First; live near to God and bring your daughter near to him; be led by him very specially in this matter. If you feel that she should marry, do not think of any but a christian husband. Yet not he that speaks best of christianity, neither he who knows most of it, nor he that does most of it, will give you as good a guaranty of happiness for your daughter as the one whose character and daily life are witnesses of his christianity.

A Gentleman At Heart and an Assured Income.

BY MARION HARLAND.

First, he must be a gentleman in every sense that abused word implies. For it is abused as much as the justly-ridiculed term, 'lady.' The educated man who is faultlessly dressed and whose manners are in harmony with his attire, is in the crime de la crime of modern society, yclept 'a gentleman,' although his principles may be faulty as his bearing is correct, and his secret life as reprehensible as his manners are admirable. Therefore, I say, I would have our girl's husband a gentleman in the inward and spiritual life as fully as in the outward and visible sign. She, as a refined woman, can never be happy with

him under any other circumstances.

He must, also, have tastes that are, to a certain extent, congenial to those of her whom he would make his wife. There must be a harmony of interest that will create a true marriage of minds, as well as of hearts. She, to whom books are an essential to happiness and to whom great literature is an ever-delightful field through which she has always wandered, and in which she hopes to roam at will all her days, will find herself sadly ennuied by a life-companion whose only literature is his daily newspaper, and who is conscious of no difference between the children of Thackeray's brain and the hysterical creations of the author of the latest and most lurid of dime novels. There are few more pitiable objects than an intellectual woman linked for life to a man who cannot appreciate her aspirations, and to whom the talk of books and matters literary is as an unknown tongue.

A very important requisite in the husband that our girl would marry is his ability to support her in comfort. Perhaps she may not have all the luxuries to which she was accustomed in her father's house, but no man has a moral right to take a tenderly reared girl from a drawing-room and place her in his kitchen.

Last, but by no means least, our daughter's husband must have the same religious faith as herself. I do not mean by this that he and she must, of necessity, belong to the same religious denomination, but that they must both belong to the great Church Universal, that their hope for that which is to come must be the same. This is the great essential to the true happiness our daughter would gain. When the storms of life dash upon her and her beloved, she must feel that of a surety they are both upheld by the Everlasting Arms.

Health, Unselfishness and Education.

BY HARRIET PRESCOTT STOFFORD.

The only way in which with safety to all concerned a mother can help her daughter in the choice of a husband is when—having studied from the birth the nature and needs of her daughter, and having confessed to herself that marriage is the best and happiest state—she looks about her for one whose qualities are those that shall ensure the welfare and happiness of her child; and then quietly and discreetly, and without putting her purpose in evidence,

brings the two together, conscious that propinquity is as potent as any other factor. Every mother has not only a right but a duty in relation to a child's marriage. You often hear a man of very moderate desert say that he requires in a wife virtue, birth, breeding, beauty, good-nature, education, money and other superlative gifts; so why shall a mother be less demanding in behalf of her daughter? It will then go without saying that this husband of a sweet and innocent and carefully reared girl shall be a satisfactory specimen of the race, manly, brave, and good to look upon. That means that he will have good health; and having good health he will have good nature, and good nature is very necessary to household happiness. If he loves his neighbor as himself, he meets the chief requirement for the happiness of wife and family; for then he is unselfish. The unselfish man is a natural christian. Thus, on the whole, unselfishness is the first positive quality that I should require. For with unselfishness there will be that generosity which not only gives with an open hand, but which so regards the feelings and wishes of others as to make ill temper and dark moods impossible. With unselfishness there will be self-restraint and sobriety and honesty and fidelity. With unselfishness, again, will be purity—the safeguard of home. In addition to this unselfishness, which is at the root of most, if not all of the virtues, I should like intellect in this supposititious husband of a daughter. I would like, moreover, that he should have education. But there is an education of circumstances which surpasses that of books, that makes mere knowledge of disputable facts and technicalities seem small and trivial; and if he has that we will not miss the education of the university, desirable as that may be.

Now, dear reader, I must confess to you a secret—very probably an open secret if you have gone with me thus far. I must confess to you my dreadful poverty. I have no daughter for this matchless man.

Should Respect His Wife's Mother.

BY MARIETTA HOLLEY (AUNT SAMANTHA).

It seems to me that the first quality a mother would desire in the man who was to marry her daughter is goodness; since wealth takes wings, and knowledge casts a rather cold light on the hearthstone when shining there alone. But the man who will be good to his wife in sunshine and shade in youth and age, is the one likeliest to make her happy.

She would demand good habits in the one who vowed to comfort and protect her

daughter, lest the protector should change into a danger, the comforter into a disgrace. She would like to have him a man who would sometimes give a kindly thought to the woman who toiled early and late to make the sweet wife he loves and admires what she is. And who patiently stepped down and out of the heart and life where she had reigned supreme, leaving him first and dearest. And she would greatly prefer that he should refrain from making the mother-in-law joke. But if she be a sensible woman she will not insist upon this, but quietly efface herself as much as possible, remembering that this has been the mother's lot since first the sons of God looked upon the daughters of men and saw that they were exceedingly and wonderfully fair.

And if she can bring herself to love the intruder, as so many have, and receive a loyal affection in return, why so much the better, the inevitable then becomes endurable. He should have courage, for there will be many lions to pass on the wedded journey and he will be weighed down by the burden of love, the care of one dearer than himself, for this the mother imperatively demands that he must love her daughter, she must be to him the one woman in the world, for love's torch is the brightest light upon earth to light the wedded pair.

He must have patience in abundance, as he will marry a woman, and not a saint. And, above all, he should be a christian, so he will know where to get help and comfort and joy, and discern through the deepest shadows the Great Light that gilds his road, and can help her onward and upward.

He should be industrious, and have enough of this world's goods to ensure his wife's comfort and prevent her hearing the baying of the wolf at her door, but not rich necessarily, as the woman who marries for riches alone confronts the dire possibility of the riches flying away and nothing but the man remaining when all that made him attractive and worthy of affection is gone.

He should be passably good looking, since it would be pleasanter to look across the coffee urn three hundred mornings in a year and behold a comely visage. He must have good sense, but not be too brilliant, as a meteor would not give so good satisfaction for household needs as a more mellow and steadier light.

Polite, Patient, Considerate and Loving.

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

If I had a daughter in the sweet bloom of her years, when a husband might loom up on the horizon, far would it be from me to choose for her in a matter of such personal importance. Yet I might give advice, and I hope I would do it tactfully, for much pre-matrimonial counsel defeats its own ends, confirms hesitation, and absolutely sends girls and men the opposite way from which the counsellor warned them.

Only on a solid foundation of true love and real respect can she or can he hope to build an edifice which will last. They must choose for themselves.

I would like to see my daughter marry a man whose mother had early trained him in unselfishness at home. I would prefer a man who had as a boy lived with sisters, two older, and three younger perhaps, and waited on them all, and who had been their escort, companion and friend.

The most charming man in the whole world is the man who appreciates a woman's need of small courtesies, who never in any circumstances finds fault or interferes in what is beyond his province, who keeps to his own side of the line in home management, and does not prowl around where he is not wanted. A polite, considerate, patient gentleman makes an ideal everyday sort of a husband.

If my daughter is wise she will not pin her faith to a man who has no reference for God, nor belief in the Heavenly Father. A man who has no definite religious principles, no convictions, who is disposed to ignore the claims of the church and of the Saviour, may be otherwise amiable, but she will not have ballast enough for the crises of life. A profane or intemperate man should be avoided by the girl who is asked to put herself in the keeping of another. A man should be of knightly purity and stainless honor when he seeks the hand of a pure maiden.

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