

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1901.

New Century Husbands

The education of a husband for the twentieth century should have been commenced in the eighteenth; indeed, there should have been some preliminary training for several centuries preceding that. With ninety nine boys out of a hundred it is the pride of their lives to imitate their fathers; the hundredth boy may have discrimination enough to look about for a better model. In the average family the boy gauges his treatment of his sisters by the manner in which the father treats the mother; and this attitude toward his sisters he is very apt to duplicate in that which he adopts toward his wife.

The women themselves in all of these cases may effect some modifications, but they represent the general practice of men. And then comes the cross inheritance from mothers, which influences in a vast degree the characteristics of sons, but even this carries with it the traits of the men in her family line. Every boy, therefore is a composite of a multitude of paternal and maternal ancestors, and a condensation of all their good and bad qualities forms the husband of the twentieth century.

The memory of man goeth not back to a time when girls were not trained for wives and mothers. Their first plaything is a doll and their second a set of dishes. They are coddling these dolls when the little boys are making life miserable for the cats and dogs of the neighborhood; or they are peacefully playing at keeping house when the boys are banging away with a bat or a shinny in blissful ignorance of future domestic duties. From childhood the girl is put through a course of training with direct reference to future wifehood.

The training of the boy is exactly the same as if there were no such relation as husbandhood. The girl is constantly admonished as to her duties when she has a home of her own. No such contingency is suggested to the boy. With the keen observation of youth the girl soon notices the dependent position of the mother, while the boy just as soon realizes the immense advantages of belonging to the sex of his father. The result of this unavoidably must be a sense of inferiority on the part of the girls, and of superiority on the part of the boys.

In olden times this distinction was accepted as the degree of an inscrutable Providence, and as the years went on, the girl became the submissive woman and the boy the assertive. This was inevitable so long as education, travel, business experience, knowledge of the world—all that tends to develop and strengthen men and fit them for the exercise of authority—were denied to women.

But when the first rift was made in the rigid conservatism which had dwarfed her powers, then began the protest and antagonism against that submission which for ages had been enacted. It will require several generations more to obliterate this antagonism, which exists to a greater or less degree in the business world, the professions, the schools, and even the home itself.

So long as women are continually challenged to prove their fitness, and can do this only by showing themselves superior instead of equal, and so long as opportunities are grudgingly allowed by men and the way impeded, just that long will this antagonistic spirit survive. If men would be just to women, the proverbial generosity and devotion of the latter would yield more than half the ground, but this is impossible where they are kept constantly on the defensive and fighting for life.

This is especially true in the home. The average wife is willing to concede to the husband the position as head of the family; it is her pleasure to consult him, to defer to him, to give him the most and the best of her life, but she demands that all this shall be a free will offering, and that he shall be worthy of it. She desires that this deference and devotion shall be reciprocal; that her place in the household shall take equal rank with his; that he shall repay faithfulness with fidelity, and affection with love.

There are husbands who are deserving of all the trust and honor reposed in them

and, with the cooperation of the wife, they illustrate the ideal family life. There are others who are utterly unworthy and yet they expect the same devoted service and allegiance simply because they bear the relation of husband, and it is against such that women rebel. How, then, shall men be educated so that they may bring happiness and not misery to themselves, their wives and their children?

It is said that boys receive the strongest impulses of their life at the mother's knee; but we see continual proof that may be entirely counteracted by the father's example. Therefore, the most valuable part of a boy's training for a husband lies in a daily object lesson from his mother's husband. Two anecdotes may illustrate the effect of the father's influence. A little girl said to her mother:

'I suppose I've got to be a cross old maid like Aunt Jane or marry a man like papa. This is a hard world for us women!'

'Another said, 'I shall never marry.'

'Why not?' her mother asked. 'I married.'

'Yes, I know; but you got papa, and there isn't another as nice a man in the world.'

Two views of matrimony founded on the personal observations of children! In the first case a little boy would have drawn the conclusion that it was the proper thing for husbands to be disagreeable, and he would have put his theories into practice some day. In the second, he would have reasoned with his childish philosophy, that it was a part of a husband's duty to be kind, patient and loving, and he would have endeavored to carry out these ideas in his own family when he should have one.

It is not sufficient, however, for the father simply to set an example. Some precepts should be taught at the father's knee as well as at the mother's. In a great many matters, even at an early age, a boy has more respect for the father than of the mother. When the latter teaches that he should be kind to all dumb animals (that he should not rob birds' nests, or tie tin cans to a dog's tail, or chase cows, his perverse moral instincts are apt to attribute these teachings to a sort of weakness on the part of women, and when the mother insists that his sisters must be treated with particular deference, the little embryo savage is prone to conclude that she loves them better than she does him. It is highly important that both father and mother should inculcate in sons, the lesson of gentleness, courtesy, fair dealing, generosity and helpfulness, for all these qualities are especially valuable in a husband.

As the boy grows older he should learn from both parents, but particularly from the father, the harmful effects of tobacco and intoxicating liquor, and here again the example of the father far outweighs the precepts of both. And upon the father also rests the most solemn obligations to impress upon the son the irestimable value of personal purity. It is the lack of this which wrecks more homes than all the other evils combined, and there is no one in the world who can influence the boy so strongly upon this point as the father.

While he may respect his mother's ideas he will feel in his heart that she does not understand a man's nature or a man's temptations, but he will regard the father's admonitions as the result of knowledge and experience. The responsibility of the father in training the boy to make a good man (and a good man makes a good husband) is far greater than that of the mother.

If the boy attends Sunday school, care should be taken that he forms his ideas of the relations of men to women from the teachings of Jesus rather than from those of St. Paul. If the latter are studied, it should be in the light of historical knowledge and intelligent criticism. No boy or young man should be allowed to believe that the rules laid down by St. Paul, nearly two thousand years ago, for the ignorant women of a heathen nation, are to be applied to the intelligent, cultured, self-controlled women of the present day.

The boy should be taught from childhood that he has no claim for superiority over girls; that if he have more physical strength, that is an additional reason why

he should protect them; and that if they have other disabilities, that is so much the stronger argument for making their way easy. He should honor his own sisters through his honorable treatment of every other boys sisters, and this rule should be carried into manhood. His conduct toward all women should be of the most exemplary character and this in a large measure because of its reflex action on himself.

The husband of the future should receive his education in schools and colleges which admit both sexes upon exactly the same terms. It is only in this way that he can get a just sense of the proportion of his own mental ability. Whether by inheritance or from hearing the statement so often made, the average boy starts out with the belief that a man has more brains than a woman, and, naturally, that a boy has more than a girl. If this mistaken idea is not corrected while he is young he is very apt to make life unpleasant for the woman with whom he comes in contact.

There is no corrective so efficient as co-education. It is only when the two are engaged in exactly the same work that the boy or the man will admit that the test is a fair one. In married life no husband believes that the management of the household—the children, the servants and all complex details—required as much brain power as does his business down street, so if this question of intellectual equality is to be definitely settled it must be in the classroom.

No man can take a four years course in a college where the two sexes recite together without having his theory of the superiority of a man's brain over a woman's effectively exploded. The result of this cannot fail to contribute to the harmony of marriage, which in modern life must consist of an equal partnership. So I would name education as important in the training of the twentieth century husband.

Boys should be brought up with the expectation of marrying. Fathers and mothers should speak and act always as if it were a matter of course that the sons were to marry, just as is assumed in the case of the daughters. They should be taught to accumulate and save money, because some day they will have a family to support. They should be urged to live correctly, in order that they may be worthy of a good wife, and may give an honored name to their child. They should be influenced to seek the society of the best women, because from these associates they are likely to select a companion for life. I recall two incidents in this connection among my own friends.

One woman collected all her jewels, and, calling her young son, she spread them out for him to admire. When he had taken them up one after another and expressed his admiration, she said:

'When I die I shall leave all of these to your wife, because I am sure she will be the only woman I ever could be happy to have wear them.' Always after that when she put them on she would say, 'You will think of me, won't you dear, when you see your wife wearing my jewels?' He told me that ever afterward in his acquaintance with young women, he would consider whether they were worthy to wear his mother's jewels.

The other woman had several sons, and from their boyhood she had talked to them against marriage. Her own marriage was an unhappy one but she had an intense jealousy of the women who should come between her and her sons.

I hate all my daughters in law in advance she often said. She would not bring desirable girls into her own home, and the same sons learned to conceal from her their calls at other homes. This led to the forming of undesirable acquaintances. They did not regard any woman as a possible wife, and it is not necessary to follow their careers to the inevitable results.

The education of the twentieth century husband is a comprehensive subject. It reaches back for generations; it embraces grandparents, parents and all the home surroundings. It is impossible to touch upon more than the barest outlines of such a question. But this we do know—that the husband of this and the centuries to come will have to be superior in many ways to the husbands who have preceded him. The demands of the twentieth century woman are far beyond those made by any other women in all the ages, and if the man is not equal to them she is in a position where she can decline to accept him. And after all is said on education of a husband, if the woman of the future will set an ideal standard to the man of the future will educate himself to reach it.

A MAN TO ENTERTAIN.

A Women Finds it More Difficult Than is Imagined.

From time immemorial women have enjoyed visiting. Our female ancestors did a good deal of visiting away back when the country was new, and there were no clubs nor sewing societies, nor lodges, nor guilds, to take up their spare moments. And they went in the morning, and stayed to dinner and supper, and carried their knitting or sewing, and their husbands ate picked up bites at noontime, and followed their wives to the neighbor's and made it up at supper.

And they all drank tea and talked, and talked and talked, and had a good time. The social instinct was just as strong as it is today.

Women enjoy visiting and they know just how to entertain each other. Your friend will be entertained by coming to your house and going up to your room, and locking over the stockings you bought at such a bargain—forty-nine cents marked down from half a dollar—and she will take heaps of comfort in teaching you the new stitch in Battenberg that she caught up while visiting her cousin in the city.

She will listen with interest while you tell her how your pet cat hid her kittens in the bureau drawers, and how cunning she looked, and how the baby acted when you put his first shoes on his feet, and how you laid the law down to that hired girl who was so impudent at first.

Oh, a woman will be entertained by almost anything when she is visiting. But when a man goes visiting, then pity the woman who has to entertain him.

A girl can entertain her lover very much to their mutual satisfaction, and it is hoped that a wife can entertain her husband; but when it comes to entertaining just an ordinary male acquaintance—that is quite another thing.

A man in the house is out of his element and consequently uneasy. He is too big for a parlor. He can't knit or sew, or make

tattoo, or offer to help wash the dishes, and he can't hold the cat or bathe the baby. So he fidgets. He puts his hands in his pockets, and then he takes them out again. He feels his moustache and looks anxiously at his finger nails. How he does wish he could make a bolt for life and get out somewhere. He wishes he had never been insane enough to come on this visit. He wishes Jones would get back from business and they could talk about stocks or politics, or anything except who is dead, and who has married, and who has got a baby, among the mutual friends of himself and his hostess.

What will she think of to talk about next? The man pities her, for he knows how hard it is for her and he rakes his brain for something to say which will help on the entertaining. Of course there is always the weather. It is always too hot or too cold or too wet or too dry; and when it rains nobody likes it, and when it doesn't rain everybody says such dreadful rain was never known before.

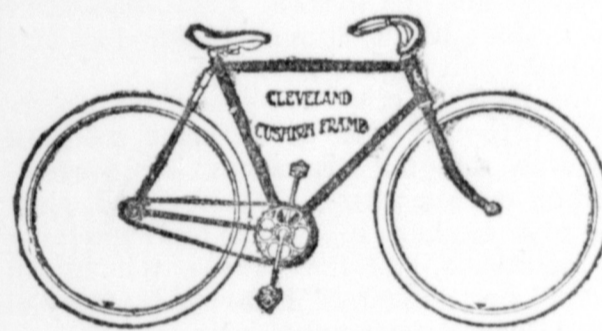
But even the weather can be worked out as a subject of conversation. And the interminable minutes go on and the hostess is thoroughly uncomfortable and the guest is in a cold sweat. Then all at once the clouds break, the sun shines, and the world is glorious!

Dinner is announced and the spell is broken, for where is the man living who is not entertained by the immediate prospect of dinner?

Matrimonial Misunderstanding.

I have known a fond couple to quarrel in the very honeymoon about cutting up a tart; nay, I could name two who after having had seven children, fell out parted over boiling a leg of mutton. It may seem strange to those who are not married when I tell you how the least trifles can strike a woman dumb for a week. But if you ever enter into this state you will find that the gentle sex as often express anger by an obstinate silence as by an ungovernable clamor.

Did It Ever Strike

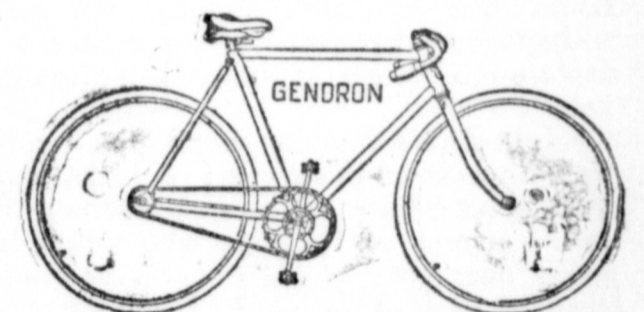


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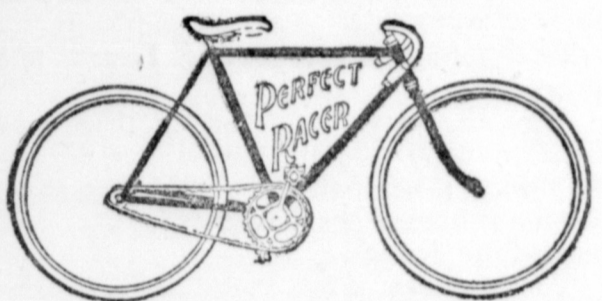
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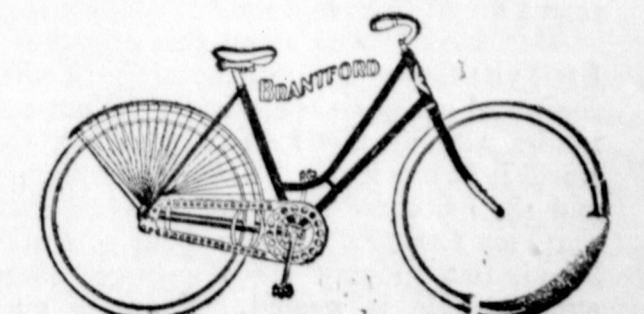
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