

Steps to the Altar

By Rev. G. E. Falling

WHY DATE?

In the first place, dating affords a fine opportunity for the cultivation of social courtesies and manners. Home training can do much in the formation of good habits of social etiquette, but social experience is necessary to develop grace and poise in the company of the opposite sex. Little courtesies and fine attentions make dating an exhilarating and elevating experience. Specifically, I mean such courtesies as (1) being friendly and alert to other persons while dating, (2) being familiar with the manner of introductions (3) the consulting of the tastes and desires of the one being accompanied, and (4) the art of deferential words and actions.

Whether one marries or not, members of the opposite sex will be met frequently on business or social occasions. This experience extends through life. To acquire ease and propriety of manner, and a self-control that makes one equal to the occasion, social graces should be gained comparatively early.

Dating, furthermore, offers opportunity for the increase of innocent social joys. Just as Father and Mother take more pleasure in a trip if the children are along to enjoy it, so a young man or woman derives more enjoyment from a game or concert or party, if another shares the joy with them.

Again, dating is preliminary to love-making or courtship, and therefore a desirable experience for those who hope some day to be happily married. Often in the mid-teens or late-teens there might well come times of casual, friendly dating that does not have to consider at all the urgency of love and marriage. The feeling of "urgency" has spoiled many a date by pre-conditioning one or the other to a seriousness of attitude that spoils the fun of the date, and that also hinders normal evaluations of the other person.

It seems to me that one of the strongest reasons for dating grows out of the need to discover which friends are worthy of your respect and confidence. A few people, it is true, have landed on the continent of marital bliss by one grand effort, prompted by "love-at-first-sight." But the chances of so doing are slight. When alone with a member of the opposite sex, one has pretty good opportunity to sum up his (her) character and to discover what motives are dominant in that life. And if one date is disappointing, one should scarcely proceed to evaluate in like manner all members of that sex. For there are worthy persons of high purposes and motives. Seek them out. Use dating as a means to this end. Refuse to be "stuck" with one girl or fellow simply because you have been seen out once in her (his) company.

By dating, a person may well discover what true love is. Love must be based upon true respect for and admiration of another person. Likewise, love must desire the highest good of another person. True love, therefore, is unselfish. Now the person that dates for a thrill and refuses to be satisfied with less than high emotional experiences will never find love. It must be remembered that love is based quite as much upon will and intelligence as upon emotion. A person must not depend too much upon initial attraction or admiration. He must know a person if he is to love that person. And even though he is attracted to a person, his heart must not admit that it is love until his mind, under God's guidance, gives the go-ahead signal.

Keep dating casual at first. Refuse to be rushed. Maintain your social and moral equilibrium. But don't be afraid to date!

WILL YOU HELP US COMPLETE THE CHILDREN'S TABERNACLE?

Last summer a new building was erected at Beulah Camp to provide accommodations for the growing Daily Vacation Bible School work. This new Tabernacle is a real asset to our Camp Grounds and it meets an urgent need. There is still considerable work to be done on the building and we are in need of financial help. Last year a number of our Sunday Schools took a special offering for this project on Children's Day. We are asking if churches and Sunday Schools will kindly assist us again this year. May we ask that a special offering be taken on June 12th., or 19th? Thank you.

Please send contributions to Rev. Jack Stevens, Bethany Bible College, Yarmouth, N. S.

THANKS FROM THE MISSION BOARD

The Foreign Mission Board wishes to express sincere thanks and appreciation to our pastor and people for a wonderful response to appeals issued in March and April. Sufficient money was received in March to make salary payments to missionaries in full, and the Easter offering, augmented by other gifts, brought us "out of the red", making all special monies immediately available for the purposes originally designated. This was what we hoped and prayed for, and without doubt, the call to prayer preceding the request for financial aid is the secret of the success of the effort.

May God bless all who co-operated in prayer and giving to meet the emergency. Please keep praying. It is our desire and purpose to guard against deficit financing.

On behalf of the Foreign Mission Board,
B. C. Cochrane, President,
S. E. Cameron, Treasurer.

LONDONDERRY, N. S.

Christian regards from Londonderry!

This is our first letter to the Highway. Since having felt the call to come to Londonderry, about a year ago, we have had many occasions of blessings. From the very beginning we have been made to feel at home by the people and community. There have been many new experiences, yet we can say, it has been the best year of our lives.

While the community is small in regards to other places, the saying, "Little is much if God is in it," has been realized. Because of the fruitfulness and labours of the former pastor, Rev. Lawrence Corey, it has made it easy to labour with the people.

The people of the church are few in number, but we believe them to be some of God's best. Through their sacrifice and help the church has been completely re-decorated inside. It has been re-wired, a new ceiling put on, re-painted, and floor sanded and varnished.

We have just completed some Revival Services, April 19-May 1, with Rev. Kenneth Jewett. While Bro. Jewett laboured under a physical handicap, yet his ministry proved to be very timely and effective. God answered the prayers of His people; six of the young people were saved, others received new assurance and strength, and many hands were raised for prayer. Together we say, Praise Him! Praise Him!

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