

THE MARRIAGE VOWS

The Ease with Which They Are Broken Is Deplored.

Timely Discourse of Dr. Talmage on the Marital Relations—Uniform Divorce Laws Are Needed.

[Copyright, 1899, by Louis Klopsch.] Washington, Sept. 17.

Dr. Talmage in this discourse discusses a question of national importance, which is confessedly as difficult as it is urgent.

That there are hundreds and thousands of infelicitous homes in America no one will doubt.

There are thousands of skeletons in the hallway and a skeleton in all the apartments. "Unhappily married" are two words descriptive of many a homestead.

Some say that for the alleviation of all these domestic disorders of which we hear every day a good prescription is a divorce.

Rigorous divorce law will also hinder women from the fatal mistake of marrying men to reform them. If a young man, by 25 years of age or 30 years of age, have the habit of strong drink fixed on him, he is as certainly bound for a drunkard's grave as that a train starting out from the Grand Central depot at eight o'clock to-morrow morning is bound for Albany.

Another influence that has warred upon the marriage relation has been polygamy in Utah.

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Another influence that has warred against the marriage relation in this country has been a pestilential literature, with its millions of sheets every week choked with stories of domestic wrongs and infidelities and massacres and outrages.

The congress of the United States needs to move for a change of the national constitution and then to appoint a committee—not made up of single gentlemen, but of men of families, and their families in Washington—who shall prepare a good, honest, righteous, comprehensive, uniform law that will control everything from Sandy Hook to the Golden Gate.

More difficult divorce will put an estoppel to a great extent upon marriage as a financial speculation. There are men who go into the relation just as they go into Wall street to purchase shares.

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Another influence that has warred upon the marriage relation has been polygamy in Utah. That is a stereotyped caricature of the marriage relation and has poisoned the whole land.

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wreck of 10,000 homes, by the holocaust of 10,000 sacrifices—men and women, by the hearthstone of the family, which is the corner-stone of the state, and in the name of that God who hath set up the family institution and who hath made the breaking of the marital oath the most appalling of all perjuries.

Let me say to all young people, before you give your heart and hand in holy alliance, use all caution. Inquire outside as to habits, explore the disposition, scrutinize the taste, question the ancestry and find out the ambitions.

Ask the counsel of father and mother in this most important step of your life. They are good advisers. They are the best friends you ever had. They made more sacrifices for you than anyone else ever did, and they will do more to-day for your happiness than any other people.

A Singer That Has Begone the Inspiration of Poets of Every Age.

Here comes a singer, indeed, who has neither equal nor second. If its song is unknown to any who read this, I would say, wait until you hear music solemn and yet jubilant as ever came from a bird.

In the "Farm Ballads" our American poet puts into the lips of a repentant husband, after a life of married perturbation, these suggestive words:

And let me say to those of you who are in happy married union, avoid first quarrels; have no unexplained correspondence with former admirers; cultivate no suspicions.

Fellow citizens as well as fellow Christians, let us have a divine rage against anything that wars on the marriage state. Blessed institution!

Then he departed, and before he was out of earshot a shout went up that must have reminded him of Waterloo.

It can be said with perfect safety that the collarette in its numerous different forms has come to stay. There was some doubt as to whether it would take well at first, especially in high-grade goods, but it is now a well-known fact that they will be largely used this fall.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Rats are unknown in the town of Deblols, Me. Ten per cent. of the caged canary birds drift into consumption, and they communicate the disease to those who keep them.

A "Filipino" means a person of pure Spanish extraction, born in the Philippines; and a Mestizo is one of mixed blood; and the descendants of the Aborigines are known as "Indians."

Tramps who wander into Oakland, Me., are forced to take seats in what is called a "Baker primitive chair." It is a sort of modernized stocks, and one experience is considered enough by even a half-witted tramp.

Deep curiosity was aroused by a Wisconsin paper when it announced a lecture on "The Beneficial Effect of Filtration on the Public Health."

The measles caused the death of an old resident at Chapman, Kan., at the age of 84. A local paper, in announcing the death, touchingly remarked: "We would hate like the mischief to live three-quarters of a century and then be carried off by a baby disease."

Since July 12 merchant vessels have been named by their owners after Admiral Dewey, six after Admiral Sampson, two after Admiral Schley, one for Ensign Worth Bagley and one for "Bob" Evans, two for Gen. Joe Wheeler and one for Fitzhugh Lee.

A hungry traveler, a stranger in Red Bank, N. J., entered a restaurant in that town and ordered ham and eggs, as that seemed to be the only available dish. After he had waited half an hour, starting impatiently at the verdigris-covered bottles in the custer, he summoned the proprietor, whom he questioned regarding the delay.

The Nightingale.

These notes of thine, they thrill and pierce, Translucent harmony and fierce, Express other of thy beauties. Keats' famous ode has in it less of the nightingale, but yet his epithet, "full-throated ease," hits that carelessness of utterance, that unpredicatableness joined with a supreme finish, which places it above and beyond all bird artists.

Surveying a field of battle the duke of Wellington could detect almost at a glance the weak points in the disposition of the forces, and when the weakness was on his own side he promptly and resolutely caused it to be made strong.

With the merry nightingale That crowds and hurries and precipitates With fast thick warbles his delicious notes.

Indeed, I do not know how the fable of the melancholy nightingale has crept into the minds of men; not only is the song exultant, but every movement of the bird is full of nerve and joyousness.

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Gratitude is a debt that the average man is least likely to pay, but when there is a grudge to be settled he chafes while waiting for the first opportunity.

Philosophical research and political theorizing can never get beyond the fact that the community, state or country is most prosperous that has the happiest freiesides.

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