

Choice Reading

The Worth of a True Wife

The man that asks no love is a monster. The man who expects none is a child of despair. There may be hearts so frozen by selfishness, or ossified by pride and egoism, or paralyzed by disappointment, as to be indifferent to affection.

To meet this craving of man, woman is adapted. She is not ambitious of wealth or fame. She shrinks from great changes and great perils. She is not fitted for the struggles of the forum, the conflict of arms or the labor of the field.

The treasure of a wife's affections, like the grace of God, is given, not bought. It can sweep down forests, raise cities, build roads, and deem houses. It can bribe troops or noisy praise. It can collect legions of flatterers, and inspire awe and fear.

In the true wife, the husband finds not affection only, but companionship—a companionship with which no other can compare. The family relation gives retirement without solitude, and society without the rough intrusion of the world.

Not in the matter of personal comfort, in the thousand things which combine to shed happiness on man's pathway through life, is the wife a less precious gift of God.

heart of her husband doth safely trust in her." It is difficult to find a friend who is so deeply interested in our welfare as to take the trouble to study our perplexities—so conversant with us and our affairs as to understand our wants and dangers—so morally brave as to venture to tell us an unwelcome truth—so perfectly disinterested as to assure us that no selfishness prompts his advice—and so persevering as to repeat it until we are convinced of its benefit.

And there is something in the ready, instinctive impressions of an intelligent wife which no husband should ever despise. She does not pause to collect facts, weigh arguments, and draw inferences. Her impressive nature which renders her indisposed slowly to reason, is furnished with an instinctive perception of right which is better than logic.

It is wonderful how often in nicely balanced cases, when we appeal to the judgment of a wife, she instantly decides for, and how often she is right. Pilate was embarrassed in the struggle between his sense of justice and his desire for popularity; but his wife said at once, "Have thou nothing to do with that just man." Had he heeded her counsel, Pilate's hands would not have been stained with the blood of the Son of God.

But we are happy to believe that such cases are few. As a general fact the principle of justice, economy and thrift is strong in the heart of a woman. Her home destiny qualifies her for a minute regard to the details of domestic economy, and her love for her husband and regard for the welfare of her children dispose her to use wisely and well the earnings entrusted to her control.

Let the husband who is thus blessed appreciate the gift of God. "A prudent wife is from the Lord," and the gift is worthy of the Giver. "Her price is far above rubies," and we are told in the word of God, "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her."

A quaint writer observes that at seventeen, with reference to her beau, a woman inquires which is he? At twenty-five, the world having produced its effect, what has he? But at thirty, in despair, where is he? Is it true, ladies?

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REV. J. HENDRICK, Principal.

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