

My Marriage Problems

Adapted from the New Phase of "REVELATIONS OF A WIFE"

The Way Mrs. Cosgrove Delighted Madge.

Mrs. Cosgrove looked at me, bewildered in every line of her face, when I asked her for the loan of one of her discarded old-fashioned long skirts. Then I saw amused comprehension dawn in her shrewd eyes, knew that she had a pretty clear inkling of my little scheme, and knew also that she would make no comment which would betray her knowledge.

"Of course you can have any one of them you like," she said heartily. "But, with a dubious intonation, 'you know they'll wrap around you three times, don't you?'"

I laughed at her perplexed expression. Mrs. Cosgrove is a goodish way past the half-century mark, and Dicky's parlance 'carries' weight for age. But she was exaggerating her own size, as, I have noticed, do all stout women who have finally given up vanity on the subject. I wonder sometimes if it is not a kind of armor which they put on, flinging out a jest at their own expense to ward off the only too ready jokes of their families and friends.

"A Find." "You forget the modern waistline," I said. "Your skirt probably will just fit."

"Yes, no doubt you'll have to let out the band," she retorted dryly, and the next moment she had taken down from a spare closet a skirt which I seized eagerly, for it spelled in every line exactly the effect I wished. Black, rather full, and bearing in every stitch the mark of an unskilled country dressmaker, I visualized myself in it with a mental chuckle.

"This is perfect!" I cried enthusiastically. "May I have this one?"

"Of course. And, it doesn't in the least matter if you tear it or spoil it. I think I shall cut that skirt up for rug rags. There are other better skirts here if you would rather have them. That was the first to my hand."

"No, indeed." I clutched the old-fashioned garment tenaciously. "You'd have to get a platoon of state troopers to get this away from me now. But tell me, haven't you a jacket somewhere of the same vintage as this?"

She turned to the closet and took down a coat such as I had not seen for 20 years. I guessed that it was at least that old, and I took it from her hands with lively gratitude, for I saw in it the successful fruition of my mischievous little prank against Dicky.

"This ought to fit you pretty well," Mrs. Cosgrove said. "I was more your size 20 years ago. Slip it on." I did so, found that it was, indeed, a fair fit, and with a laughing expression of thanks to Mrs. Cosgrove I wrapped the clothing in a compact paper-covered package, slipped back to my bungalow and gained my bedroom without Dicky seeing me.

Jack and Jill

"Oh, what a stupid novel." And Jill chuckled the offending book on the sofa beside her. "Most of 'em are, these days," said Jack, sympathetically. "I never read 'em any more."

"And it's too cold to go over to the movies tonight," she complained. "Well, for goodness' sake, honey, don't propose that we go calling on any of the neighbors, because I wouldn't change my slippers for a million dollars."

"Well, it's too early to go to bed. It's only a few minutes after 8." Jack puffed contentedly on his new Christmas pipe.

"Let's play." "Oh I'm sick of cards," Jill groaned. "Besides, Jack, you don't know how to play. You are always making mistakes when we play cards."

"Oh, all right." He lapsed into a brown study and seemed content. "Where's that checker set Aunt Eva Nichols sent us for Christmas?" she demanded suddenly.

"Oh, I don't know. Out in the kitchen, maybe." "A checker set out in the kitchen," said Jill scornfully. "That's nonsense, I'm sure it's in the front room." And she went to investigate this presentment which proved correct for she returned with the board and counters.

"Come on here, old fellow, and play me a game of checkers." He sighed and they rested the board on his knees. He nodded in agreement. "I can't put my mind on games," he admitted.

She wiped out his first three men in four moves. "Oh, come, come, wake up," she said impatiently. "You know you can do better than that."

He tried to make a counter attack, but lost another man in the operation and Jill smiled. "This is a clever game," she said calmly, "provided one has a keen mind to see the moves far enough ahead."

Jill's next four moves won four more men and gave her two more kings, as well. "Mercy, but you are a spid checker player, dear," she said sweetly. Jack grunted.

Then suddenly something happened. Jill never did quite make it out, although Jack's only king made the rounds slowly and with maddening methodical positiveness. That terrible lonely king of his just wiped out six counters while Jill looked on in amazed surprise.

And the final swirl of Jack's king cleaned the board of all her counters—kings and commoners alike—while four of Jack's odious black men remained on the board.

When I had caught my breath and had enjoyed a quiet little anticipatory laugh, I gathered up Junior's night things and went over to Lillian's bungalow, where he was to sleep for the night, and where he had gone with Marion directly after supper.

"Climb on Your Shelf." Marion greeted me rapturously from a big old chair, in the depths of which she and Junior shared a large illustrated alphabet book, one which my son's adoring grandmother had given him, and which he prized highly.

"Oh, Auntie Madge!" she cried. "Junior can say almost all of his alphabet. Tell mother, Junior. Get down now and stand up."

My small lad slipped from his seat, put his hands behind him, and straightened himself to his full baby height.

"A. B. T. D. E. F. D." he intoned proudly, when Marion interrupted anxiously.

"He can't say C and G," she explained apologetically, so he calls them 'T' and 'D.' But he knows them. Go on, Junior."

Junior went on, finished the alphabet in triumph, and then, as if hypnotized by his own achievement, began at 'A' and went through the whole thing again, this time at a gallop. As he finished the 'Z,' Marion, with an anxious school-ma'am air which convulsed her mother and me, said authoritatively:

"That will do, Junior." But Junior had tasted applause and would not be squelched. A third time he began his rattling list, and was highly indignant when I swept him up from the floor and stopped the recital with a lug and numerous kisses.

"Dooner doin' read bid book," he announced proudly, and Marion looked up an answering pride in her winsome face.

"He's so smart, Auntie Madge," she said, "that I think it's a shame not to improve the time with him. You don't mind if I teach him, do you? It'll be awfully good practice for me, too."

Lillian grinned appreciatively at me, for she knew my pedagogical theories as to the proper sequence of topics in child training.

"The younger generation," she murmured mischievously. "You must be served. Better get ready to climb on your self, lady."

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Business--God's Creation

By JACK LEE

"When God created the world he also created business. He knew that business would be just as necessary for its success as man. Therefore He made rules which, while governing man, also governed business, and, while man, through the centuries, has ignored many of the laws of God in private and business life, the laws still stand, as He made them, and meant them to be, a panacea for all ills."

This was the answer Gipsy Smith, the great evangelist, gave me when I asked him if it were possible for a man to be religious and succeed in business.

He looked at me with a sort of pitying expression in his brown eyes and as though remembering my youth, the pity left his face and interest took its place. I, with the same youthful brashness, asked him another question which he perhaps thought uncalled for, but which he answered.

"Is it possible for a man to be honest in his religion, carry out his religious teachings in all his business dealings with his fellow business men and become rich?" I asked.

"Absolutely," the Gipsy said. "The only way a man can succeed in any business is to stand by his religious teachings, which call for a square deal to every man and honesty above all."

"It is just as easy for a business man to be honest as it is for wheat to grow honestly, for millers to grind it honestly and for salesmen to sell it honestly."

"The great trouble is that men do not want to make just a little or even a fair profit—they want to make a lot, and there they transgress the words of Jesus, who also was a business man and understood business principles."

"Jesus said, 'Do ye as ye would be done by.' The best things I know in the Bible to guide a business man on a straight career, and a successful one, is the sermon on the mount and the Ten Commandments. If all the business men just for 24 hours would take these precepts and follow them closely they would think the millennium had come."

"They would get such results and feel so good over real honest treatment that they would never go back to the old practices, but would continue with the new."

"Because of His knowledge of business Jesus taught men not only to live righteously in their private lives, but to do the same in business. The cleansing of the temple, when He drove out the grafting money changers, was a good example of what He thought of honesty in business."

I know there are some good hard-headed, commonsensical business men who will say after reading this: "That sounds all very pretty from an evangelist who knows nothing of business, who talks so prettily of theory. If he practiced the golden rule one day in my store I'd be ruined."

Gipsy Smith may be an evangelist, but he has had dealings with business men on five continents in his 35 years as an evangelist, and for good, sound business reasoning he can attract the attention of any business man worthy the name.

But, granting that the evangelist is not engaged in a commercial business, here's what a man who has his fingers on the pulse of the business world of America says. And when he speaks "Big Business" listens.

"The greatest need of the hour is religion," Roger W. Babson, nationally known writer on business affairs, declared recently.

When a man who is actively engaged in business, who watches it from all angles and all corners of the nation and who is able to make a diagnosis and prescribe what medicine is needed to keep it healthy, the local business man is bound to take his word as worthy of consideration, and not passive consideration at that.

In his recent book, "Making Good in Business," Mr. Babson says: "There are many men in business who lack moral and spiritual development. Temporarily some of them make good, but over a long period no man will ultimately succeed who lacks religion."

To substantiate his statement that there is a need of religion Mr. Babson has devoted several pages in his book to this discussion. For instance, in a chapter headed "Constructive Aids" he has given over a portion of the chapter to the discussion of "Spiritual Development."

As already indicated, the most important of these preliminary qualifications is spiritual development. The basis of permanent success is a well-grounded spiritual development. Such a development is far more important than the physical, mental, industrial or recreational. Moreover, I say this purely as a business man and statistician. This aid is far more essential for individual success or making good in business than any other above enumerated. Thirty per cent of our prominent business men of America are sons of ministers and farmers. It (an investigation previously mentioned) showed that success comes to those who have been reared in a family where religion and hard work made up the program.

"Spiritual development is especially necessary as a foundation to the two I's, Integrity and Inspiration. Integrity is the Ten Commandments boiled down into one word, while Inspiration is that faith which comes only to those who are imbued with a desire to serve. Integrity is the keynote of the Old Testament, while Inspiration is the keynote of the New Testament and is that feature which differentiates Christianity from other religions."

And then he clinches this splendid argument a few paragraphs on with this statement: "Business enterprises and civilization are the products of religion."

Here we have the ideas on the same subject of two men widely separated in life. Their ideas coincide and agree. Gipsy Smith, the man of God, and Roger W. Babson, the man of the world of business, who has not made Business his god, but still clings to his spiritual guide.

Gipsy Smith is not the only man of God who will declare the possibilities of success to an honest business man. Any minister will take the same stand. Roger W. Babson is not the only man of the world of business who will take a similar stand. Any business man honest with himself will take the same stand. He will declare without reservations that it is absolutely possible to practice the teachings of Christ and be successful in business. Omaha business men, why not all give Christ a chance in your business?

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