

Choosing a Husband

By ELINOR MARSH

Miss Virginia Ashurst was known to possess a fortune producing \$20,000 a year. Naturally she had no end of suitors, and she was quite sure that all of them wished to marry her money as well as herself and without her money would not think of marrying herself.

She resolved to submit a series of questions to each one of the half dozen men who had proposed to her. These questions were to be propounded anonymously, the men not knowing from whom they came. This was the form of her interrogatories:

"First.—State what you consider the claims of a wife on her husband.

"Second.—Do you hold that the husband or the wife should be at the head of the household?

"Third.—What is the object of your life?

"Fourth.—Do you believe in the present system of education used in schools and colleges?

"Fifth.—Should the mother's or the father's views be paramount in the training of children?

"Sixth.—Should the wife be permitted to receive the attention of men other than her husband?

"Seventh.—Should the husband be permitted to pay attention to other women than his wife?

"Eighth.—What are your views as to the use by a husband of money belonging to a wife?"

Miss Ashurst hoped in the replies to these questions, selected with some care, to form an opinion of the inner selves of those who replied to them. Had she asked them herself of her suitors she knew that she could not depend on the sincerity of the answers. She surely had an advantage in not being known.

She was somewhat disconcerted to find that all her suitors were applicants for the hand of this wealthy unknown. The replies were all evidently well considered and satisfactory to her, some especially so in certain numbers, some in others, but altogether they made up a fair average. Yet there was no one that showed in every number just what she wanted. Besides, she was miffed that every one of the men who had tried to make her believe he loved her and would be miserable without her was ready to marry another girl with a fortune. She resolved to send her list of questions to another half dozen of her men acquaintances.

She received replies in every case. Five of these replies were acceptable, some of them being carefully worded and showing that the writer was a thoughtful, well balanced person, while one treated her examination paper with contempt. This person was Bob Clendenin, a young fellow whom Virginia might have considered as one she would like for a husband had he not been a sort of free lance, apparently oblivious to the seriousness of life. His reply to the number as to the claims of a wife on her husband was that the fewer claims she had the less likely she would be disappointed. He averred decidedly that the husband should be head of the house. His object in life was to get through it with the least bother. He pronounced the present system of education "rotten to the core." The father's views as to the training of children should be paramount, but they never would be. No father could ever compete with the mother in winning the affection of the children. Consequently they would always be influenced by her instead of him. As to a wife or husband being permitted to pay attention to other men or women, either might do so ad lib unless the other objected.

When it came to the last question, concerning the use of a wife's money by a husband, the reply was that he

was incompetent to answer it because he, being poor, would not on any account marry a rich wife, and he knew that such a condition would surely render the husband subservient to the wife, and he had no fancy for any such serfdom.

Miss Ashurst, who had started out with one idea, became captivated with another. She had intended to be guided as to the suitor she should accept by the good, hard sense indicated in the replies of the applicant. The man showing the most depth of thought and feeling in his replies would be favored. But she was much staggered by Mr. Clendenin's examination paper, especially by his reply to her last question, in which he declared that he would not be tied to any rich woman. What staggered her was a desire that sprang up in her breast to make him eat his words.

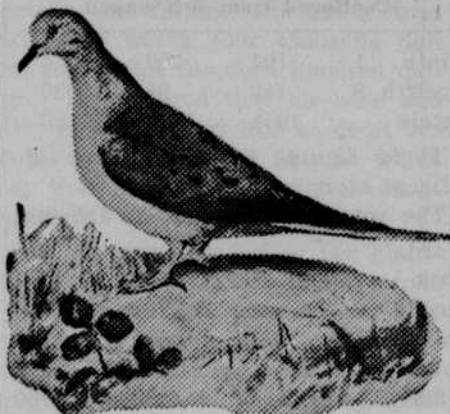
And so it was that this human attribute which is in both men and women came up to interfere with Miss Ashurst's very sound and practical way of choosing a husband. She resolved to win—if she could—the man who would likely give her the most trouble, for, with his views concerning a poor man married to a rich wife, constant friction was to be expected.

As to how Miss Ashurst won a husband despite his objections to marrying money and how it all turned out after their marriage there is no room here. Mr. Clendenin meant what he said in objecting to be tied to a wife's fortune, and Miss Ashurst, after all, was obliged to call in the little god to get him. After getting him she found him an excellent manager for her estate and paid no attention to it herself.

A tactful man can pull a stinger from a bee without getting stung.—G. H. Lorimer.

MOURNING DOVE

(Zenaidura macroura)



Length, twelve inches. The dark spot on the side of the neck distinguishes this bird from all other native doves and pigeons except the white-winged dove. The latter has the upper third of wing white.

Range: Breeds throughout the United States and in Mexico, Guatemala, and southern Canada; winters from the central United States to Panama.

Habits and economic status: The food of the mourning dove is practically all vegetable matter (over 99 per cent), principally seeds of plants, including grain. Wheat, oats, rye, corn, barley, and buckwheat were found in 150 out of 237 stomachs, and constituted 32 per cent of the food. Three-fourths of this was waste grain picked up after harvest. The principal and almost constant diet is weed seeds, which are eaten throughout the year and constitute 64 per cent of the entire food. In one stomach were found 7,500 seeds of yellow wood sorrel, in another 6,400 seeds of barn grass or foxtail, and in a third 2,600 seeds of slender paspalum, 4,820 of orange hawk-weed, 950 of hoary vervain, 120 of Carolina cranesbill, 50 of yellow wood sorrel, 620 of panic grass, and 40 of various other weeds. None of these is useful, and most of them are troublesome weeds. The dove does not eat insects or other animal food. It should be protected in every possible way.

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