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The Marriage Vow

WIFE AS HOME FINANCIER

BY JAMES H. CANFIELD, A. M., LL. D.
 (Ex-President Ohio State University.)

The relations of husband and wife are marked by certain business characteristics as well as by sentiment and emotion. Precisely as the church has a business side to it, a secular side, which should be very carefully distinguished from its religious side—so there are or ought to be these definite business relations between two married people.

This is not the place in which to discuss the pros and cons of a woman's ability to fulfill her part in the marriage contract. It will be sufficient to say that 30 years' experience and observation satisfy the writer that women are or under proper conditions become just as careful and just as accurate and just as wise in matters of expenditure as men are.

There may come a time when both may be able to command the services of expert assistants who will relieve them of the personal care of details and give them leisure for recreation or more congenial undertakings; but until that time comes each must be faithful to his or her trust.

A wife who for any reason treats her bounden duty in a left-handed manner, neglects it or postpones it till tomorrow, what should be done today, or sets it aside that she may do that which is more enjoyable, is simply disloyal to her husband and family; precisely as he would be disloyal if he were guilty of similar action in regard to his calling.

The best plan advanced for determining these relations is for each party to make a plain, systematic business statement of his or her entire concerns, at the close of each month.

Certain expenditures, easily determined, should be charged to family expense. This charge will cover rent, taxes, fuel, lights, water, service, food, household equipment, fire and life and accident insurance, clothing, etc., for children as long as these are a charge upon the family, amounts paid for books and magazines and the daily press, and recreation and traveling expenses in which both participate.

These matters being cared for, that which remains of receipts or profits ought to be systematically and regularly divided between the two. In the case of a man with a salary, this division may very properly be half to each, since the man has no special demands upon his purse for maintaining his position.

In the case of a business man, this division may perhaps be two-thirds to the husband and one-third to the wife—since there are some necessary personal expenses which a man must meet in connection with his business.

It will be better, however, to charge this against the business (or, in case of a salary, against family expense), before the division is made.

It has been said frequently that this is entirely impracticable in the case of an extensive business, and nothing is lost by admitting that there may be cases to which this general rule does not apply.

But with far the vast majority of laborers, wage-earners, salaried men and men conducting ordinary business in the ordinary way, this scheme is entirely feasible and practical. It has stood the test of years of practice in more than one family.

The division having been made, each may again advise the other, if advice is sought, as to deposit or investment or use, but neither should offer unsought advice.

Children may be brought into this "partnership" and may be taught business habits by making them serve as accountants for this "firm" (after they are old enough to do such work), and by letting them know all the details of this "business."

To this may be added a small "interest" in the "business," from which the child will clothe himself or provide for miscellaneous personal expenditures or even begin a savings account. Where there is more than one child each may be so taught by giving each this work and this interest, say from the age of 15 to 18.

It is especially desirable that daughters be trained in these business habits, because they will scarcely get them elsewhere, while sons may receive equally good training after they reach the business world.

Making such modifications in this general scheme as may be necessary or seem desirable, in individual cases, it will be found entirely feasible.

Its result will surely be lessened friction, a more correct appreciation on the part of each of the difficulties which each must encounter in the care for his or her part of these matters of mutual interest, and with clearer understanding there will always come less misunderstanding—a consummation most devoutly to be wished.

(Copyright, by Joseph B. Bowles.)

WIFEHOOD WAGES SELDOM JUST

BY JOSEPH M. WEBER.

(Theatrical Manager and Author.)

The question, "Shall a wife have a separate allowance of her own?" must invariably be answered by a man, by each woman's husband. His is the last voice, the final word on the subject (not a too common event in married life) and all theories pro and con must vanish before his simple "yes" or "no."

So an opinion on that all-important theme will perhaps be more authoritative coming from a man (a husband, too, of course) than from a woman. It is perhaps the only subject connected with marriage on which woman's testimony is not far more valuable than is "mere man's."

And—as a "mere man"—as a husband—as a father—as a person of average common sense (I hope) and honesty, I say most unhesitatingly: "Every wife should have her own pocket money."

And, I may add, if she is a good wife, she earns her allowance, no matter how large it may be. For the average housekeeper and homemaker does the work that comes under the head of "skilled labor" of the most skillful kind and keeps it up daily for a term of hours that would cause her expulsion from any labor union under the sun. For a man to expect to get such service and to pay for it merely by food, lodging and clothes, is reminiscent of the famous exchange column item:

FOR EXCHANGE.—ONE CANCELED 2-cent stamp, in perfectly good condition, for a diamond thimble, a 24-foot catboat or a corner lot.

Men don't realize what an unheard-of good bargain a really good wife is. For the same amount of work (not done half as well) any paid housekeeper would expect board and lodging and at least \$30 a month. Why grudge your wife the same sum?

A girl of my acquaintance was married a few months ago. On the return from the honeymoon she had the ensuing little business talk with her husband:

"By the way, dear," she began, "you know I'm to keep the house in order, manage the servants, plan the meals, entertain your guests, keep your clothes in good condition and do a few hundred more tasks of the same trifling order. What do I get out of all this?"

The surprised benedict began to mumble fond nothings concerning a life-long devotion, the love of a good man, etc. But she cut him short.

"For all that," she said, "I make full return in kind. But what do I get for being your housekeeper and general supervisor?"

"You get a good home," he retorted, a little nettled, "and I will see you have as good clothes as any woman you know, and—"

Whereat, being at heart a sane man, he began to see light. And since then they are happy; she proving to be a model housekeeper and far more than earning the handsome allowance he gives her.

For women are not like men in this matter of asking for money. If a man is broke he seldom has any vast hesitation in "touching" his best friend for the wherewithal to tide over the difficulty. The flush of shame does not mount to his brow to any extent as he breathes the plea:

"Say, old chap, can you lend me \$10 till Saturday?"

But with women it is different. They hate to ask their husbands for money. At least the best of them do. They don't seem to realize that the husband's vow, "With all my wordy goods I thee endow," makes his money as much theirs as his.

I once knew a man whose wife lived on board-and-clothes wages. He was suddenly called out of town and left her \$100 with which to manage the house in his absence. In joy at having such an enormous sum to handle, she rushed out and spent 20 cents—yes, 20 whole cents—on chocolates. The husband returned unexpectedly the same night and demanded the money he had left with her. Shamefacedly and trembling she handed \$99.80, and faltered out the terrible truth as to the missing 20 cents.

"Just like a woman!" sneered her lord and master. "The best of them can't be trusted to handle cash."

When a man dies and leaves his fortune to his wife, small wonder she so often squanders it. Had she handled it more freely in its collector's lifetime she would dispense it more wisely after his death.

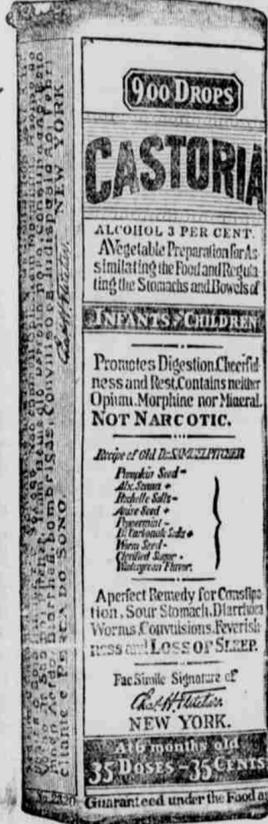
From the bottom of my heart I feel a deep pity for the average married woman. She earns her money as nobly and as completely as does any day laborer. She keeps a man's house, rears his children, makes his life happy. And for this she receives no pecuniary compensation beyond an inadequate amount of money, too often ungraciously given. Surely a high price to pay for the privilege of writing "Mrs." before her name!

An allowance—a liberal allowance—ungrudgingly bestowed—is the solution to more domestic difficulties than this world dreams of.

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Physicians Recommend Castoria

CASTORIA has met with pronounced favor on the part of physicians, pharmaceutical societies and medical authorities. It is used by physicians with results most gratifying. The extended use of Castoria is unquestionably the result of three facts: **First**—The indisputable evidence that it is harmless; **Second**—That it not only allays stomach pains and quiets the nerves, but assimilates the food; **Third**—It is an agreeable and perfect substitute for Castor Oil. It is absolutely safe. It does not contain any Opium, Morphine, or other narcotic and does not stupefy. It is unlike Soothing Syrups, Bateman's Drops, Godfrey's Cordial, etc. This is a good deal for a Medical Journal to say. Our duty, however, is to expose danger and record the means of advancing health. The day for poisoning innocent children through greed or ignorance ought to end. To our knowledge, Castoria—a remedy which produces composure and health, by regulating the system—not by stupefying it—and our readers are entitled to the information.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*



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Letters from Prominent Physicians addressed to Chas. H. Fletcher.

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 Dr. R. J. Hamlen, of Detroit, Mich., says: "I prescribe your Castoria extensively, as I have never found anything to equal it for children's troubles. I am aware that there are imitations in the field, but I always see that my patients get Fletcher's."
 Dr. Wm. J. McCann, of Omaha, Neb., says: "As the father of thirteen children I certainly know something about your great medicine, and aside from my own family experience I have in my years of practice found Castoria a popular and efficient remedy in almost every home."
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 Dr. R. M. Ward, of Kansas City, Mo., says: "Physicians generally do not prescribe proprietary preparations, but in the case of Castoria my experience, like that of many other physicians, has taught me to make an exception. I prescribe your Castoria in my practice because I have found it to be a thoroughly reliable remedy for children's complaints. Any physician who has raised a family, as I have, will join me in heartiest recommendation of Castoria."

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By Automobile Up Mount Rainier.
 United States Engineer Eugene Ricksecker celebrated Independence Day by throwing open the government road in the Mount Rainier National park. Vehicles and horsemen now have an excellent thoroughfare from tidewater to Narada falls, near snow line in Paradise valley. Mr. Ricksecker says that autos and wagons can now make the trip with comfort. The maximum grade on the road is four per cent. Nearly a score of automobiles, all loaded, went to the mountain.

A Sign of It.
 "The airship manufacturer over the way must be making money."
 "Why?"
 "I notice he and his family are flying very high."

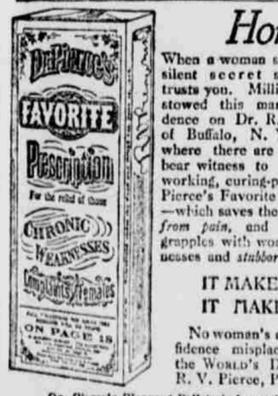
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 "Am using ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE, and can truly say I would not have been without it so long, had I known the relief it would give my aching feet. I think it a rare good thing for anyone having sore or tired feet.—Mrs. Matilda Holtzner, Providence, R. I." Sold by all Druggists, etc. Ask to-day.

When a girl orders flowers sent home it's a sign that she expects the neighbors to think some man sent them.

Smokers also like Lewis' Single Binder clear for its purity. It is never doped,—only tobacco in its natural state.

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IT MAKES SICK WOMEN WELL.
 No woman's appeal was ever misdirected or her confidence misplaced when she wrote for advice, to the **World's Dispensary Medical Association, Dr. R. V. Pierce, President, Buffalo, N. Y.**
 Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets induce mild natural bowel movement once a day.

