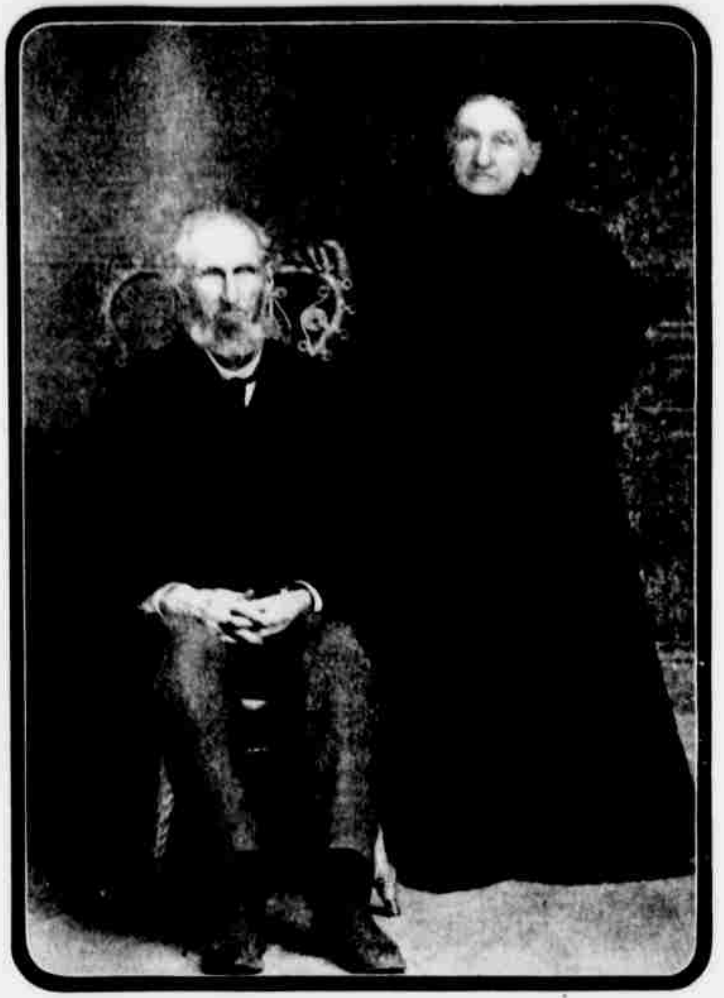


Three Marriages

that Did Not Fail



MR. AND MRS. JOHN L. ROBINSON OF SIBLEY, Ia.—THEY HAVE BEEN MARRIED SEVENTY-TWO YEARS.

Clement C. Cole married Fidelity A. Myers January 1, 1840, at Way Bridge, Va. Mr. Cole was born in Charlotte, Va., September 27, 1813. Mrs. Cole was born at Malone, N. Y., July 19, 1821, and was brought up in Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Cole have been members of the Methodist Episcopal church for over half a century. At the age of 20 Mr. Cole began the carpenter trade, which he followed most of the time since. They reside at Sibley, Ia.

John L. Robinson married Sara Fisher Palmer in Maine in December, 1829. Mr. Robinson is 93; Mrs. Robinson is 91. They reside at Sibley, Ia., with their daughter, Mrs. Allie Robinson Brooks, wife of C. M. Brooks, county attorney of Osceola county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have for many years been members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Robinson was a member of the Maine legislature and served in the civil war in General Grant's army before Petersburg; was a member of the First Maine heavy artillery and was wounded before Petersburg in June, 1864.

Henry T. Beebe was born April 29, 1821, in the town of Guilderland, N. Y. He married Jane A. Messick August 14, 1841, and went to Chicago in March, 1855, where he carried on a carpentering and contractor business until 1882, when he came to Omaha and retired from active business. He now lives at 2411 Caldwell street. Mrs. Jane Beebe was born August 24, 1825, at Guilderland, N. Y.

MR. AND MRS. CLEMENT C. COLE OF SIBLEY, Ia.—THEY HAVE BEEN MARRIED SIXTY-ONE YEARS.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY T. BEEBE OF OMAHA—THEY HAVE BEEN MARRIED SIXTY YEARS.

Has Man Any Wrongs Due to Woman

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I HAVE had nearly sixty-five years experience of living in other people's homes. In my eighteenth year I began the profession of teaching school, which was continued uninterruptedly for over twelve years, and during nearly all of this time I boarded in private families. When I was about 30 I became greatly interested in the temperance question and soon afterward in that of anti-slavery, with the result that, in a little while, I resolved to abandon teaching and devote my efforts toward settling these problems. After a two-years' struggle with the former I became convinced that women always would be helpless to effect any permanent temperance reform without the ballot and I laid aside active work in that line in order to aid in securing their enfranchisement. I remained in the anti-slavery movement, however, until emancipation was secured in 1863, and I am still laboring to obtain the suffrage for women, as I have done without ceasing for half a century. This much of an introduction has seemed necessary in order to show my authority for speaking on the subject of "Man's Wrongs." There never were two as unpopular reforms as the abolition of slavery and the enfranchisement of women, and therefore those who championed both of them were indeed social outcasts, with scarcely a place to lay their heads. There was no money in the advocacy of either. Wendell Phillips, who, even in those days of comparatively small payment, could get \$100 for an address, was obliged to lecture on anti-slavery for nothing as long as such lectures were needed. All the speakers and workers in this cause were compelled practically to donate their services. In that of woman suffrage the conditions were still more stringent, for, while in every neighborhood there were some families who were strong "abolitionists" and would take care of those who went about the country to arouse public sentiment, there were many communities where woman suffrage had not a friend and where hardly one family would offer food or shelter to the very few courageous individuals who dared attempt to educate the public mind on this question.

Some Personal Experiences.

As these speakers were without funds they were obliged to accept whatever hospitality could be secured and never to go to a hotel except in case of dire necessity. I should not like to enter into the harrowing details of many of my own personal experiences in homes where conditions were far from favorable. On one occasion, when I fancied myself nicely situated to spend Sunday, I learned the husband was so violently opposed to my being under his roof that I hurriedly gathered up my belongings and departed late Saturday night. At other times I found the husband was so strongly in favor of the doctrines I espoused that he had invited me to the home in direct opposition to the wishes of the wife. There were not many phases of human nature which I did not encounter in those early days. As the years rolled on, and the question of woman suffrage grew in public favor, some of its lecturers reached the dignity of being paid for their services, but

when I was financially able to go to a hotel I was not permitted to do so, because then there were so many friends who offered entertainment, and it was considered an advantage to "the cause" for me to accept private hospitality and meet people in a social way. Traveling almost constantly for more than fifty years, I have sojourned for a short or long period with thousands of families in all parts of the country and have had such opportunities for the study of domestic conditions, as, it may be said without exaggeration, have been afforded to few, if any other, women. The question has been often asked if this is the reason I never married. It may be one of them, but while I have witnessed a great deal of sorrow in married life I have seen also a vast amount of peace and happiness, especially in later years, since the position of women has been so much improved.

Man His Own Defender.

As my entire life for the past half century has been devoted to redressing the wrongs of women, it has been generally assumed that I did not believe men suffered any wrongs. Such is not the case, but, as man always has had things pretty much his own way and has been in a position where it was very easy to take care of himself, I never have felt that, in his defense, he needed the help of myself or any other woman. From the beginning it was he who made the laws which govern the marriage relation and he made them all in his own favor. If they were not enforced he had only himself to blame, as the entire executive power was in his hands. He possessed, moreover, the absolute autocracy which lies in holding the pocketbook, for he held not only his own, but also his wife's. He was not kept in subjection by the threat of being deprived of his children, for he had been very careful to vest their sole custody and control in himself. He furthermore had used his unlimited authority to frame such divorce laws as would hold the wife in check, secure almost unlimited freedom for himself and leave her practically no redress. As the crowning act of sovereignty he reserved for himself alone all opportunity for that most necessary adjunct of development—the higher education—and, in addition, he appropriated the money-making occupations of the world. Under such circumstances it is quite natural that "man's wrongs" should not have consumed a very large part of my time or effort.

Man Alone Responsible.

During the last forty years there has been a gradual evolution in the status of woman, legal, educational, industrial, and social, and, in exactly the same ratio her wrongs have decreased. Does this necessarily imply that man's wrongs have increased? Woman herself would not wish to purchase her rights at such a price. She does not enjoy a privilege today which man has not granted to her and which he could not take away if he so desired for men still constitute the legislative, executive and virtually the whole government power. Women simply have accepted the rights bestowed upon them and if men are wronged thereby they must hold themselves responsible. The law which allows a wife to retain her own property

does not deprive the husband of his and he still has the immense advantage of owning all they accumulate together, so he suffers no wrong in this respect. In an old-time of the states he continues to hold the sole guardianship of the children and in those nine states it equally with the mother. The divorce laws, framed by man alone, do not perpetrate a wrong against himself when they permit a woman only the same causes for the separation which are allowed to a man. The opening of the great universities of the country to women has not deprived one man of the exact chance for an education which he possessed before this was done.

Effect of Female Competition.

Thus far, it must be admitted, the rights which have been obtained for women have not resulted in wrongs for men, and in one direction only can there be any foundation for an opposite claim, viz: the entrance of women into industrial competition. This is a vast and many-sided question. If the advent of nearly 4,000,000 women into wage-earning occupations had displaced arbitrarily that number of men and left them permanently out of work, this would, indeed, be a grievous wrong and without adequate compensation. Vast numbers of these toilers, however, are engaged in industries peculiarly adapted to women, which men would not care to follow, and the quarter of a century during which women have been entering this domain has developed hundreds of additional vocations for men through invention, exploration, utilization of electricity, opening of new territory and countless other avenues of employment. It must also be borne in mind that every one of these 4,000,000 women is relieving some man of the burden of her support. She is also, as a general thing, maintaining others besides herself, and all would become wholly dependent upon men if women were withdrawn from the wage-earning field and relegated to comparative idleness within the home. If women have inflicted wrongs upon men by accepting lower wages, it has been from necessity, not choice, and men, with their long experience, their powerful organizations and their great political influence, must seek the remedy not in attempting to drive out these new workers, but in finding a way to assimilate and utilize them. They must follow the methods adopted by the nation in dealing with the aliens who come to our shores—accept them, naturalize them, train them in citizenship and convert them into an element of strength.

Advantage with the Men.

In considering the general aspect of this question "Men's Wrongs" I am unable to see that in the state at large they suffer any, except such as are the portion of all humanity in the present complex processes of our development. In struggling against these men have always an immense advantage, because they have a voice in the government and can control those who make and execute the laws. Without this power they would be helpless indeed—as weak and defenseless as women—and because they are invested with this authority their wrongs do not command so keen a

sympathy as those suffered by the feminine half of humanity. Doubtless, in requesting my views on this subject, it was intended that they should apply to the domestic grievances of men, but my long experience in public life compels me involuntarily to take the broader outlook first. Is it not strange that when we speak of domestic wrongs we think only of those connected with husbands and wives—not with any other members of the household? All those cruel laws which so long disgraced our statute books applied only to the married—never to single women. Why has it always been deemed necessary thus to hedge about, restrict and degrade marriage, which should be the highest, holiest, most reciprocal and respected of all the relations of life?

No Longer an Autocrat.

I cannot go so far as those who declare that the beginning of the new century sees the wrongs of women entirely swept away, but when memory reverts to the early part of the one which has just passed into time, I can note such a lessening of these wrongs as the world seldom has beheld with any other class of people in the same length of time. Has this been accompanied by an increase in the wrongs of men? I think not. One might ask whether the emancipation of the slaves did not wrong the masters. In a sense it did, but it only took away from them an authority which they never rightfully possessed and only deprived them of property which they held in defiance of the moral law. It produced a chaos of conditions which are not yet fully adjusted, but which at last will be settled to the immeasurable advantage of both. Man is not the domestic autocrat he used to be and it is probable that in the revolt against his supreme authority the women of the household do not in all cases pay him the respect due to husband and father. In some instances man is looked upon very much as a machine for the manufacture of money and women do not recognize any obligation even to take good care of the machine. My heart has ached many a time over the wretched housekeeping which many men are compelled to endure, and especially over the poor cooking. When by industry and frugality a man is able to secure a home and provide the food, he is grievously wronged by the woman who cannot properly administer the home affairs and transmute the raw materials into beautiful, palatable dishes; and this is equally true in regard to the woman who is ignorant of or indifferent to the principles of economy and thrift.

Some Tragedies of Life.

In this day of reaction against the narrow and isolated life of the past it is possible that many women neglect home duties for the teas, matinees, receptions, the clubs, the conventions, the endless recreations and activities which so suddenly have opened out before them and that men do not always find the women of their families waiting to greet them with the regulation smile when they return from the cares of the day and the distractions of the night. One of the terrible tragedies of life is when the father discovers that the woman whom he selected to be the

mother of his children is utterly unfitted for this great responsibility. It must be a heart-breaking experience for that husband who has made a name and a place in the world to realize that the wife is wholly unappreciative of all except the social position which they may secure for her. To the man of scholarly and refined habits there must be the bitterness of death in the daily companionship of one who has no taste for intellectual pursuits or persons and whose mind and heart are alike shallow. The husband whose wife repudiates domestic duties and insists on living in hotel or boarding house, or is so restless that she is satisfied nowhere, has a right to feel that he has been cheated in marriage; nor is life any sweeter to him who must listen to a daily recital of gossip, fault-finding and the miserable small talk which form the entire repertoire of many women.

Yes, men have their wrongs in domestic life and the list might be extended to cover many more than the above enumerations. Human nature is still very imperfect and we are a long way yet from the ideal marriage. The present is a period of readjustment in the relations of men and women and this is especially true in regard to those of the family. The tendency in every direction toward the granting of more rights should be accompanied by an earnest effort to lessen all wrongs. The recognition by men of the wrongs of women has led to the innumerable changes for the better which have taken place during the last half century. Women should not allow themselves to be outdone in justice or generosity, but as far as lies in their power should mitigate or eradicate the wrongs of men and be especially careful not to add to them. It is a singular fact, however, that there is almost no complaint on the part of men themselves. Is it that in so short a space of time they have become intimidated? Or is it that they consider their case beyond relief and prefer to endure in silence? Or can it be that these alleged trials and tribulations are purely imaginary and that in reality there are no such things as "man's wrongs"? SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Essay on People

A 6-year-old Chicago schoolgirl submitted the following composition on "People": "People are composed of girls and boys; also men and women. Boys are no good till they grow up and get married. Men who don't get married are no good, either. Girls are young women who will be ladies when they graduate. Woman was made after man, and my Uncle Bob says she has been after him ever since. The Lord looked disappointed after he had made Adam, and he said to himself, 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.' So he tried again and made Eve; then he was satisfied. Boys are an awful bother; they want everything they see except soap. If I had my way half the boys in the world would be girls and the other half dolls. My ma is a woman and my pa is a man. A woman is a grown-up girl with children. My pa is such a nice man that I guess he must have been a girl when he was a little boy. That's all I know about people at the present writing."