

**HAPPY MARRIAGES.**  
Value of the Spirit of Compromise in Wedded Life.

If marriage meant the wedding of a saint and an angel there would be no problems to solve, no perfections to attain, no progress to make. This may be why there are no marriages in heaven.

On earth it is different. Husband and wife are strongly human. No matter how lovingly united or how sweet their accord, they never have the same temperaments, tendencies or tastes.

Their needs are different, their manner of looking at things is not identical and in varying ways their individualities assert themselves. At any critical moment if both express at the same time a desire to defer to the other's taste the result is foredoomed—happiness. This makes matrimony not merely union, but unison and unity.

The spirit of compromise does not mean a continuous performance in the way of self surrender and self sacrifice; it does not mean ceasing to be a voice and becoming an echo; it does not imply or justify the loss of individuality. It means simply the instinctive recognition of the best way out of a difficulty, the quickest tacking to avoid a collision, the kindly view of tolerance in the presence of weakness and errors of another, the courage to meet an explanation half way, the generosity to be first to apologize for a discord, the largeness of mind that does not fear a sacrifice of dignity in surrendering in the interests of the highest harmony of the two rather than the personal vanity.—Dellwater.

**ALWAYS CHEERFUL.**  
Even When He Lost Both Feet He Could Find Consolation.

Brown's cheerfulness was a source of wonder and admiration to his friends, according to the Ladies' Home Journal. Either his religion or his philosophy taught him to accept everything as a wise dispensation. But then he had a large share of worldly goods, his friends argued, and nothing but adversity would shake his faith.

Therefore when a promising crop was washed away by a flood the neighbors were much astonished to hear him say: "It's all for the best. I was blessed with an overabundance last year."

In the winter his house was burned to the ground. To his neighbors' solicitations he calmly responded, "The house never suited us anyway, so it is all for the best."

Other calamities befell Brown, but still he refused to be disheartened.

The climax came when he was in a railroad accident. Both feet were so badly crushed that amputation was necessary.

Sympathetic friends gathered from all quarters. They dreaded to hear the lamentations they were sure would greet them, for even Brown could hardly be expected to pass this lightly by.

"Guess you are pretty well discouraged, aren't you, with both feet cut off?" ventured some one. "Do you think this is all for the best?"

But Brown nodded his head, smiling wanly, and said:

"They were always cold anyway!"

**Unprofitable Adam.**

There is occasion for much beating about the bush for answers to many questions put by wise theologians to timid people, but one set of men found their match in the old Scotchman under examination for admission to church fellowship.

"What are the decrees of God?" she was solemnly asked.

"Indeed, I trow, he kens that best himself!"

"What kind of a man was Adam?"

"Ou, just like ither fouk!" was the quick reply.

The questioner insisted on a more definite answer. "Weel," said she, "he was just like Jeems Madden, ye ken."

"How so?"

"Weel, aneboddy got anything by him, and mony lost."

**Curios.**

Mr. Chow has a passion for curios, but was not able to distinguish a genuine article from a spurious one. One day a dealer came to him wishing to sell the lacquer bowl of Emperor Shun (B. C. 2255), the rod with which the Duke of Chow (about B. C. 1122) flogged Pak Kam, and the mat on which Confucius sat (B. C. 551). Mr. Chow sold all his worldly possessions and purchased them. Holding the bowl in his left hand, clutching the rod in his right hand and carrying the mat upon his back, he went around begging for a copper coin of King Woo (B. C. 1122).—From the Chinese.

**Naturally.**

Two men met at the gate of the cemetery, and each with excessive politeness bowed to the other to pass in before him. After a few minutes of this, when neither would give way, the younger of the two smiled and said:

"You are the elder of the two, so naturally you ought to go first."—Source.

**Run and Unrun.**

"When I first went to housekeeping I tried to run everything. I ended with running nothing."

"Absolutely nothing?"

"Well, perhaps the gamut of the emotions now and then."—New York World.

**His Position.**

Peckem—My wife referred to me as the head of the family today. Meeker—How did that happen? Peckem—She was talking to a man who called to collect a bill.—Chicago News.

Many a man finds out too late that he cannot hide anything from his own conscience.—Pitney.

**Conclusive Evidence.**

(Original.)

Warren Murdock, one of the best amateur photographers in New York, had been taking some views in Central park. He was leaving the park when he was accosted by a woman respectfully dressed, to all appearances a lady.

"I'll trouble you for a hundred dollars," she said.

"A hundred dollars! My dear lady, why should I give you a hundred dollars?"

"To save yourself from the consequences of having annoyed me."

"I annoy you? I never saw you before."

"You have been following me ever since I entered the park. Do you see that policeman over there by the obelisk? It is an easy matter for me to call him, have you arrested and taken to the station. There I shall state that you have been annoying me in the park. If you cannot get bail you will spend the night in a cell. The information of your despicable conduct will be read tomorrow morning by every New Yorker who takes a newspaper. Your wife, if you have one, will never be quite sure whether you are guilty or innocent. Even if you are acquitted on trial you will ever afterward suffer an unpleasant notoriety. Some will believe you innocent, but the majority will believe you guilty. Will it not be worth a hundred dollars to you to avoid all this?"

Murdock was so stunned by this proposition, so convinced of its truth, that for a few minutes he made no reply, staring at the woman in wonder at her effrontery.

"How will you prove your case?"

"I don't need to prove it. It's the notoriety I am relying on. Even if I could prove it you would suffer no punishment except a small fine. Proved or not, your name will be published as one charged with a contemptible crime and you will never live down the smirch."

"Do you expect people you spring your game on to carry so much about them?"

"Not usually. The matter may be kept from the public by the accused giving a fictitious name. The money may be paid at any time before the trial, and I go to the police and confess myself as having been mistaken. Then they will release you. But you look like a man who would not go about without being well supplied with money."

Murdock saw by this that the woman considered a bird in the hand worth two in the bush. He happened to have plenty to meet the present necessity.

"Suppose we compromise," he said. "I'll give you \$50."

The woman gave him a scrutinizing glance.

"If the matter is settled here between us now," he continued, "it will be better for us both. You run no risk. I don't have to go to the police station."

"Very well. I'll take \$50."

Murdock pulled out his pocketbook and counted five of the bills. The woman held out her hand.

"The policeman is looking this way," said Murdock. "It may be he knows you as an old offender and is watching you. If he sees me give you money he'll arrest you for practicing your game, and I'll have to go with you to testify against you. In that case I won't be much better off than if I refuse to pay you anything. Now, suppose I go and drop the money at the foot of that tree yonder and you go and pick it up."

The woman looked suspicious, but after some thought, seeing no way by which her victim could trick her, she consented. Murdock rolled the bills, holding them in his fist, walked to the foot of the tree and dropped them. Then he sauntered away. The woman advanced, keeping one eye on Murdock, the other on the bills, half hidden in the grass. She had nothing to fear unless he might have dropped something of no value in place of the bills, but in that case there was the policeman, and she had only to call him to carry out her threat. Seizing the bills, her face took on an avaricious look as she saw that they were really bank bills. The only remaining question was where there five of them. And this is the most important feature of this story. She counted them, and while she was counting them she heard a click.

Starting, she turned to look at Murdock, expecting to see a revolver leveled at her. She saw him looking up from his kodak, which he had swung in front of him and turned in her direction.

"Police!" he cried at the top of his voice.

The policeman heard and came toward him.

"Arrest that woman!"

"What for?" asked the cop.

"She has \$50 on her person just given her by me for blackmail. Take her to the station and watch her to see that she doesn't get rid of the bills."

"You come along," said the policeman. "I don't make arrests without holding the witness."

"All right," said Murdock. "I'll go with you with pleasure."

At the station the accuser gave a bond for his appearance at the examination of the woman the next morning, then went home to develop the plates he had taken during his sojourn in the park. The next day he went to court, was sworn as a witness and told his story. When called upon for evidence to substantiate his charge he drew a photograph, which he handed to the judge. It was a picture of the prisoner counting the bills he had dropped for her.

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