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## CHOOSING A LIFE PARTNER

The Young Man's Most Serious Problem, With Some Suggestions That Will Aid in Its Right Solution

HOW shall a young man go about it to choose his life-partner? In the first place, it must be made more or less a matter of business. That is, it must be approached with just as cool a head as one might bring to the consideration of any other important question. Rash conclusions have cost many a man his peace of mind for life. If ever a man needed a cool head it is now when he is face to face with this grave subject. Nor is it easy always to be calm and steady in a time like this. The fires burn brightly in the heart; there is a lack of definite experience; the advice of friends often seems arbitrary and one-sided: there is a disposition to say, "This is my business; I can attend to it myself!" But this is one place where to be wilful may be to invite lifelong trouble. Far better keep steady and listen carefully to those who have been this way and know the dangers of a mistake better than we do. And if such advice is given honestly and earnestly, be sure to receive it, not as an attempt to dictate your course of action, but rather as a kind and loving thing on the part of a real friend. If you do not appreciate this very fully now, the time will surely come when you will.

But choosing a wife is more than a business matter. And here is where we need to be most careful lest we be swept off our feet by a passing emotion. If the young man can quietly take himself in hand just now and say to himself, "What is really the truth about this matter? Am I rushing into this thing blindly or am I bringing to it my very best judgment?" he will do well.

It is a grand thing to distinguish an abiding love from a temporary wave of respect or admiration. Until one has settled in his own mind just where he stands in this respect, it is the part of wisdom to hold still and wait until the mind is ready to act clearly and without mistake. Just be still and ask that the heart may be guided right.

Now in that last sentence does it not seem as if we have found the secret of the whole matter? It is not weak and unmanly to seek the very highest leading in this the most serious matter we ever will be called upon to decide. It is strong, it is noble, it is manly to try to act entirely in accord with the very highest good, not simply for self but for the one whose love is sought. In very deed and in very truth, let your mating be done in Heaven. Then there will be peace and joy and sure success.

It is wise to give due regard to the matter of the health of the dear one; we may not forget to think of her qualifications in all the little ways that relate to the making and the keeping of the home; disposition, temperament, ability to deal with all the many problems that will come with home life on the farm—all these are well worth thinking of; but after all the great, the crucial question is, "Do I love her with all my heart? And does she love me just as truly as I do her?"

Then, every honest young man will ask himself this question: "Am I as worthy of my loved one as she is of me?"

Young men, let's be worthy! Let's get rid of these poor weak, unmanly traits of character, so far as we possibly can, before we propose to take upon us this the most sacred obligation of life. And then, let's not expect too much of the one we love—nor of ourselves! Life is not lived all in a day. It is a steady climb for us all and we are to make it hand in hand—Wife and I—helping, cheering each other, tugging at every load side by side and loving each other faithfully through sunshine and through shadow!

E. L. VINCENT.

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