

University of Notre Dame

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"If Possible, Keep Your Head."



HE first rule given in the suggested preparation for marriage is so thoroughly the most important that it contains all the rest. While marriage should be an affair of the mind, it is often merely an affair of the heart; while sound reason should dictate the choice of a life partner, the emotions have a tendency to dethrone reason.

"Love is blind." Perhaps it is just as well. There would not be many marriages if this were not so.

"There's no fool like an old fool." A senior can be just as much a child as a freshman when it comes to the girl question. Puppy love is more dangerous at eighty than at eight.

"Beauty may not be more than skin-deep, but its mighty handy for a girl that ain't got no brains." This wise crack of Abe Martin's should be tacked up on your wall; better still, write it on your girl's picture, where you'll read it oftener. If her beauty intoxicates you, take a good look at her grandmother; that may give you delirium tremens. The fascinating beauty of this generation is quite likely to have a crow's feet or a tripe chin in another generation. True beauty lies in the soul, and as long as there are men with good sense a woman with a beautiful soul will not have to worry provided her features are not positively repulsive.

Let reason check up on your emotions. The emotions are God-given gifts, and they give impulses to many of the good things of life, but God never intended that they should stand superior to reason. The mitigating circumstance frequently alleged in defense of psychopathic criminals is that they have no emotions. The domination of the emotions over reason is just as bad on the other side. And while emotion generally gives the first impulse to love, it must be checked by reason, because divorce courts are full of the fruits of unchecked emotions.

Instinct suffices for the mating of animals, because theirs is not a spiritual union. On the subjective side, the most important quest in marriage is the happiness produced by the harmonious blending of spiritual qualities. Have your golden wedding in mind when you pick a wife. Will she be the kind of grandmother the kids will like to romp with, or will her precocious beauty fade so disastrously that you will be afraid to have her picture in the paper on your fiftieth anniversary?

And old practical philosopher who has contracted three happy marriages, said recently: "The trouble with young folks nowadays is that when they think about marriage the only thing they have in mind is the one thing they shouldn't have in mind at all; it takes care of itself." (It might be added that the two step-mothers he has brought into his home have made ideal substitutes for the mothers called home by God.)

Unless you are going into vaudeville you will want more than a dancing partner for a wife.

Many a girl nowadays would make a good cocktail-mixer, but that will be a liability instead of an asset unless the Eighteenth Amendment is repealed and she can get a good job as a bartender. If possible keep your head.

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"I reckon one reason why marriages lasted better in old days was because a bride didn't look like a stranger after she washed her face."—Aunt Het.

"Nations die of softening of the brain, which, for a long time, passes for softening of the heart."

"Love is a recent discovery, and requires a new law. Easy divorce is the vulgar solution. The true solution is some undiscovered security for true marriage."—Coventry Pamore.