

Mixed Marriage Has Sad Possibilities.

"There is nothing, perhaps, so likely to lead to an unhappy marriage as a difference in religions between the contracting parties. Other differences are usually allowed for, or, if not allowed for, they may, at least, be understood by both husband and wife. But in the majority of cases where there is the fundamental difference of creed, the best-intentioned people are very often not able to understand the attitude of their partners. Religious doctrines that have been ingrained in men and women from their childhood are not likely to be given up without a struggle; and it is the failure of people to understand how sacred these doctrines are, either because these people have had no religious training themselves, or because they have been taught to despise such doctrines, that leads to much of the matrimonial strife in society.

"In spite of the experience of the past which is written large so that he who runs may read; in spite of the warnings given by pastors and teachers to prevent marital disasters, it still seems almost an impossibility to make young people believe that their case is not different, that they are not the one exception in the hundred. The pre-nuptial days are so pleasant that these people try to convince themselves that all the years to follow must be the same. In a recent number of Harper's an anonymous writer, who confesses that she is unable to understand her husband's religion, gives an insight into her adroit method of insinuating doubt into the children's belief. From her article, entitled, "Who Gets The Children?" we quote the following:

"What good would it do, for instance, for me to storm against my daughter's learning the catechism? If I calmly let her learn the words - which probably don't mean much to her at present, anyway, - I show her that I don't fear words, and now and then I do get a chance to drop a question in her mind as to whether these words are to be taken as the final expression of truth. With both my son Paul and my daughter Esther I have had such opportunities, when we have been alone and in the mood for exchanging confidences, to lead them to a questioning, thinking attitude, simply because I have never objected to rote learning of the catechism, but, instead, have heard the lessons time after time.

"When a teaching especially offensive to me has come up, I have said, 'Father believes this, and so do many other people. You should respect their opinion, because we shall never discover what is true without hearing, with a kind of reverence, what others believe. But mother doesn't agree with this.' After explaining why I reject the doctrine, I can easily make the only request I shall ever make of my child in this respect, 'Please think the matter over, and sometime you may decide for yourself whether you agree with your father, with me, or with neither of us.'

"This mother probably signed promise that she would not interfere with having the children brought up in the religion of the father, and it may be with the best of intentions that she pursues a course which seems to us like an attempt to undermine that religion in the minds of her children. It may be all due to her failure to understand things, but the impending evils are none the less disastrous regardless of what may be the cause." --- The Ave Maria.

To bring this home to Notre Dame, we take the liberty of citing one local example of the harm done by such arrangements. As the Easter season drew to a close last year, the students who had failed to make their Easter Duty were called for personal interviews. In one hall it was found that of the eleven recalcitrants, nine were the product of mixed marriage in which there was active conflict on religion between the parents.

PRAYERS: Deceased - a relative of Paul McAvoy; three friends of students. Sick - two relatives and three friends of students. Four special intentions.