

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
February 9, 1934

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The Lady Says It Will.

The following extracts from a letter written by Anne C. E. Allison to a friend who was contemplating a divorce from her husband, and published in the Atlantic Monthly a short time ago, will be of interest to readers of the Bulletin.

The Case Stated. "You married Kenneth in the belief that you loved him, and your first four years with him, during which your two children were born, were sufficiently happy ones. Then you came again in contact with Eugene, who had loved you before your marriage. You have found that you love him a great deal more than you love Kenneth. Yet you thoroughly like and respect Kenneth. You really do enjoy being with him, but the glory of this love has passed away."

Sacrificial Love. "The law of sacrificial love is the most beautiful, the most vital, the deepest, the clearest thing that I have ever known. Without it every other power within us is but as sounding brass. But the only love you admit to be authoritative is the sexual love of man and woman. This is not the love that has filled the centuries with the miracles of renunciation turned into power. This is not the love that in losing itself for a day finds itself for all eternity."

Are You Willing To Be Cruel? "Even if you have not in you this quality of love, have you by any chance a rather refined unwillingness to inflict cruelty? Kenneth's family you forget. You hurt your own father and mother. And you impose upon Kenneth a suffering that, in view of his nature, would be intolerable save for his courage."

How About The Children? "But it is the children who call out to my pity. You must know that their surest chance of happiness lies in their being nurtured by the two who gave them life. Can you be so cruel as to cut away from them the props of a normal family life?"

My Own Experience. "My father and mother lived together for nearly fifty years, differing from each other in temperament, tastes, intellectual interests, religious beliefs, manners, preferences, and prejudices--in everything but character. But whatever adjustments they needed to make were made out of the hearing of their children. No echo reached us that was not one of harmony. A child nurtured in such a marriage has most of her victories won for her in advance."

Intellectual Compatibility. "You insist that you would starve intellectually with Kenneth. Yet if your intellectual store is so meagre that its replenishments are dependent upon one person, you are likely to starve anyway. Hundreds of able men who live with silly women, hundreds of culture-loving women who live with philistine men, would wonder what on earth you are fussing about."

When Sickness And Anxiety Come. "In your lives, as in all lives, there will be periods of sickness, of anxiety, of stark, dread drudgery. In the happiest and the most beautiful marriages there are times when duty and self-sacrifice are stronger fortresses than romance against outrageous fortune. Upon what then, shall you rely? Surely not on passion! That will be no defense when you are ten short years older!"

Others Have Done It. "If you place your obligations before your emotions you may win out. Others have done it. Instead of having laid waste their vineyard, they have pruned it to bear better fruit. If you were my own child I would prefer to have you come to me and say: 'I know that this is a cowardly and cruel thing that I am doing. I know that it is damnable and rotten. But I choose to do it.' Then I could be sure that when your day of trouble came you would, at least, have one clean weapon left to fight with."

GAPS IN ADORATION (cards at Dillon Rack): Sunday - 1:30; 2:00; 2:30(2); 3:30(2); 4:30; 5:30. Monday - 8:30; 10:30(2); 11:30; 12:00; 12:30(2); 2:30; 3:00; 5:30.

PRAYERS: Deceased - the grandmother of Carroll Pinkley, '28. Six special intentions.