THE PATTERN WIFE.

By the Rev. C. H. Grundy, M.A.

Our last monthly parts the qualities in the ideal daughter were discussed, the conduct of such a daughter in relation to her father, mother, and brothers and sisters, was described, and the value of the normal between school life and marriage was urged. Let us now suppose the case of a girl who has employed them well, and who, after some bright, useful, dutiful years in her father’s home, has given her hand to some honest but not the wealthiest man, and who, where everything possible to secure her happiness has been provided, so far as her husband’s means and thoughtfulness can ensure it. She, oftener now the gain to her by the past experiences in the father’s home. The mistakes of the past can now be avoided. For every girl is sure to make mistakes. Still, in the fate of others, she will see others ready to point them out and to rectify them, whereas no one with sense dares to interfere in the married life of a young couple, whatever errors they commit. The very closeness of the relationship between husband and wife renders mistakes all the more disastrous, therefore the need of proper training before marriage cannot be overrated. Half the misery of early married life is the result of either ignorance or narrow-mindedness. Marital indifference is merely ignorance in another guise. The following quotation from a sermon by a well-known clergyman will illustrate my meaning. Speaking of the young wife, he says:

"She does not know this and that and the other, because she has never been told. She knows next to nothing about men. She is surprised, and her husband’s mind on acquires acquaintance so unlike her own. She thinks he ought never to be pre-occupied. He comes home tired, she thinks he is cross. His mind is still his own, although he has not seen her all day, he can hardly speak to her; he must go to his study and make a few notes of what he has been thinking of him, and see how she comes out of his study with a clear brow and wants her society, she is affronted: it is now his turn to wonder. Or again, he cannot estimate the value of his time; she cannot see the necessity for his glancing through the Times in the morning instead of talking to her, although the whole width of the table is occupied with something seen in the morning paper. She has no idea of the relative importance of different things—a bit of ribbon and a political speech are equally important in her eyes, or rather the first is more important than the second. Why any exertion should be made for anything outside the family, or for anything which does not bear upon the narrow home circle, is unintelligible to her."

Our speaking is often to make us thoughtful, and among a large audience like this, such language may hit home in more than one instance. Then also there is the frequent mistake arising from pretentious extravagance in the size of the house selected, the style of food, or the display of dress, or the money spent on amusements. People with limited incomes cannot, as the phrase is, "go everywhere and do everything," and the attempt to behave with a small income as though you had a large one, but only makes you ridiculous, brings, and quickly too, dreadful money anxieties into the home. It is quite refreshing now and then to remember the modest condition of many people enough to give the real reason why they do not do certain things, why, for example, they keep clear of an expensive seaside place when they can only afford a little excursion, but they honestly say "we can’t afford it," their words command the respect of sensible people, and help to render society a little less hollow. A good man will be satisfied with the right kind, firmly enough for not following a fashion, always does good, and strengthens the "weaker brethren" who hear it. Another mistake of that of selfishness.

"Perhaps they won’t put you in the ground, Herbert, but then you didn’t die in the dark and cold!" suggested poor little Leslie hopefully.

Herbert sighed and shook his head. "Clergymen always tell you that good people go to heaven and live again; people like mother, who go to church three times on Sundays, and give away their money, and visit sick people, and take them things and are always good; but I never did anything like that! I wonder if there is such a place as hell? I’d rather sleep for good than go there.

"Nurse says only wicked people go to hell," Leslie said; "and you’re not wicked, you know, Herbert." Herbert shook his head. "You’re a good little chap, Leslie, but you don’t understand. I wish I didn’t think I should have to look like Jim Cleaver. I wonder where he is? It could only know something for certain about it all! There, get down, dear; there’s Jane with the tea, and I hear Laura coming; get down!"

And at that moment ten did make its appearance, and Laura bustled in, very brisk and cheerful, but with very red eyes. "Why, you’re all in the dark," she exclaimed, lighting the lamp quickly. "There’s better! Why, how hot and uncomfortable you look, Herbert! Let me shake you up that pillow."

Her voice sounded cal, Leslie thought, and as she bent over the sofa, deftly replacing the pillow under Herbert’s head, she whispered passionately, "I don’t believe Dr. Westwood knows anything about it! I shall make father send for someone else! You’ll get well again in time, I’m sure you will! Don’t think you are going to die, for we won’t let you! We won’t! You’ll have to try and make us believe you!”

"The Pattern Wife.”

(To be continued.)
establishment is in disorder until far into the afternoon, while the wife gradually gets into the way of thinking that want of method makes her a part of the problem long as things are got into fairly good order by the time the husband arrives from town. Lazy, self-indulgent habits grow very easily. She will have chosen the meal planning in her father's house has firmly fixed in her character, activity, order, and tidiness.

The great thought a young wife should have in mind, and ought to be to this—I must say, so long as things are got into fairly good order by the time the husband arrives from town. Home, as she says, to arrange the meals, and apportion the food. In doing this, it is necessary that, as she should say, out of her own money, she was able to buy an estate. No doubt that money was partly saved in her allowance and partly earned by her own efforts, something, as for the household, and some for sale. It is always a great satisfaction to a thrifty wife to be able, directly or indirectly, to contribute towards the cost of her family's property, and to thus improve the position of her husband and children. The ideal wife is also very can, when speaking about other people and their affairs, that is well to keep silent. She does not go about a neighborhood chattering from house to house about rumors. Many a man has been obliged to remove from a locality because of the mischief done by a wife, who says out at once whatever she has heard, or whatever comes into her head, but we are especially told (verse 26) that the character of a good wife" (see heading to the chapter) prudence in conversation is included; "she openeth her mouth with wisdom. And further, "in her heart she is wise, and kind: she makes it a rule to be gentle and courteous to all, not excepting the poor. She has a sweet, winning, irresistible manner and deportment. She is a convenience to people. Charity is the law of her life and conversation. This picture of a wife is as true and complete as ever. When we read it we recognize the portrait of a beautiful, well-educated, kind-hearted, gentlewoman, beloved by all, and at a value above rubies. One or two features of her character to her husband may be mentioned. She will be honest and firm, but very quiet, in the statement of her opinions and convictions. She will not yield to the want of her love. Her judgment must be founded on reason. She will be ready to be convinced by argument, but the sincerity of her character will not permit her to pretend to be convinced, merely for the sake of peace. It is very hard to be obliged to differ from those we love, but at times it is our duty. A wife who dare not state her opinions, and therefore not doing her duty to her husband. Numerous examples, now gone to pieces, might have been saved, had the advice of the wife been asked and acted upon by those who gave her the wife, no matter how much it pained her to be required to give the one, or to move from what she knew to be the best course. The wife often approaches a question from a more unbiased direction than the husband does. My advice to young wives is to remember to be ready to be convinced by argument, but the sincerity of her character will not permit her to pretend to be convinced, merely for the sake of peace. It is very hard to be obliged to differ from those we love, but at times it is our duty. A wife who dare not state her opinions, and therefore not doing her duty to her husband. Numerous examples, now gone to pieces, might have been saved, had the advice of the wife been asked and acted upon by those who gave her the wife, no matter how much it pained her to be required to give the one, or to move from what she knew to be the best course. The wife often approaches a question from a more unbiased direction than the husband does. My advice to young wives is to remember to be ready to be convinced by argument, but the sincerity of her character will not permit her to pretend to be convinced, merely for the sake of peace. It is very hard to be obliged to differ from those we love, but at times it is our duty.

Let me close these remarks with some advice to women, by three things, which Bishop Thorold once mentioned in an address to wives. They are, "Truth, Temperance, and Intercession. And by sympathy I mean more than the mere sorrow at the sight of suffering. A wife's sympathy will render her tender-heated, too sensitive, and apt to give in to the first concession in trifles, able to view things from another's standpoint and to do allowances. Sympathy, it is the chief ingredient in that "charity which never faileth."

Truthfulness, without which there can be no true and real charity. It is the sudden slight distrust of one another's intentions, words, and deeds, is fraught with grave danger to the family harmony. Then last of all, intercession. The wife pleads for her husband at the Throne of Grace, as he pleads for her. She presents him by name, without a shadow of a doubt, and all his faults before the God who gave them their happy home, before the Saviour, who always, even on earth, blessed and sanctified home life, and not only for that heavenly wisdom which may enable him to help him, guide him, and to use her wonderful influence over him, for the advancement of his highest and purest interests and aims, but values her above rubies, but her prayerful hope is that the experience of their married life may be that "her husband may safely trust in her."