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The Making of a Successful Husband

By CASPAR S. YOST.

A Discussion of the Very Important and Delicate Matter of Domestic Finances-It Is a Fatal Mistake to Begin Married Life by Assuming the Entire Financial Control.

[Copyright, 1905, by C. S. Yost.]

MY DEAR JOHN-Your inquiry reminds me of old Tommy Tucker, who lives around the corner and who used to be a member of my favorite club. You remember him-the fussy little man who always wears a high hat and a sack coat and walks with a strut that makes me think of a turkey gobbler of which I was the proud possessor in my boyhood days. Tommy is a gay old boy, very fond of the fair sex in general, and the rights of women used to be one of his favorite topics for discussion at the club. He would talk for hours about the poor downtrodden wives who are little better than the slaves of their husbands, who must grovel on their knees for actual necessities and who seldom have a dollar of



Who must grovel on their knees for ac tual necessities.

their own from one year's end to an other. Tommy's righteous indignation was something fair to see. "Give youl wives an allowance, boys," he would say. "Let 'em have money of their own to spend. My wife has had an allowance ever since our marriage, and I tell you it pays." Well, after awhile we were astonished to hear one day that Tommy's wife had sued him for divorce on the ground of nonmainte nance, and in the proceedings which followed it developed that his much boasted allowance was the sum of \$1 a week, out of which Mrs. Tucker was required to clothe herself. He doesn't belong to our club now, but his ches is as obtrusive and his tile sets at the same angle as of yore.

A Very Important Question. This question of an allowance is t pretty serious one, and the disposition of the woman in the case enters large ly into its consideration. Some women never get beyond childhood mentally and prefer to be treated like children all their lives. They know nothing about their husbands' incomes and care less if they keep them liberally sup plied with the luxuries their childisk natures demand. With such womer there is only one course practicable and that is the ancient and time hon ored one which is based on the theory that all women are irresponsible be ways seems to be a subtle difference | management. in their mental equipment which enables a woman to reach an instant con- woman just as it does in a man. Let intuition, while man arrives at the same point after a laborious proc-

ess of reasoning, but whether this difference is actually physiological or a curious result of ages of mental repression we are unable to say. But To be fed and clothed. I am wandering from the main issue. And that reminds me of a preacher who used to ride a circuit down in southern Illinois and who always preached from the same text. "I like to start from a point with which I am familiar," he would say when asked for an explana- you by digging tion, "but you notice that I never go up a roll as big over the same road, and one text is as as your arm good as another if you lose sight of it some time when

Your Actual Partner.

All I have said thus far is beside the mark so far as you are concerned, for your wife is no child. As a matter of fact, really childish women are comparatively few in number. The fault in a great majority of cases where they No trouble to are treated as such is the husbands', who can't or won't see the wrong they are doing themselves and their wives Machine Oil and Coal Oil always in stock by such treatment. It has always seemed to me that the proper view of the marriage relation is one of actual Agent. partnership. There should be, so far

as practicable, an equal division of labor, an equal division of responsibilities and an equal division of financial returns. The woman's labors and responsibilities should be within the home; the man's, for the greater part, outside of it. Success in her realm is of as much, if not more, importance to both than success in his. A business failure is a small affair when compared with a domestic failure. The one is a mere matter of money; the other affects body, mind and soul. The wife should be supreme within her sphere, but with that supremacy she should accept the responsibilities that belong to it and be held accountable for results. On the other hand, she should not interfere in his province, but each should ask for and receive the advice and help and encouragement of

the other. But you ask how can this theory be put into practical application. By applying ordinary business principlesprinciples which, I regret to say, are very seldom applied to domestic affairs in the right way. The trouble is that the average business man runs his home as he would his store, considering his wife as a simple item of expense-an expense which he pays in an irregular way as her needs, expressed or implied, seem to require, or in the form of a fixed allowance. The first method places her in the position of a mendicant or a pensioner; the second improves her standing, but makes her relation to him something in the nature of a salaried employee. While the latter is far the better plan of the two, giving the wife, as it does, a certain independence impossible with the former, it is not, I believe, the true relation, which should be one of equal partnership, as I have said.

From a Business View.

If you were going into business with another man as your partner, each having the same interest, it is probable that you would divide the duties of management so as to give each a certain definite responsibility. One of you perhaps would have charge of the finances and accounting, the other of the buying and selling. Each in his respective sphere would be supreme, but to individual saving when compared the profits would be yours jointly, to with the first mentioned plan. But it's be held in bulk, reinvested for your a good scheme nevertheless and vastly joint interest or equally divided, as superior to the mendicant or allowance you might individually elect,

With proper modification the very same system may be applied to the domestic partnership, the husband holding the position of senior, the wife that of junior partner. The husband's department is his business; the wife's is the home. The one produces revenue;



An equal division of labor.

the other does not, analogous to the selling and accounting departments of the commercial concern. But the home, like the accounting division, is an essential factor and, like it again, may be the means of saving or losing money as it is properly or improperly ings and are to be considered property | conducted. I don't want to tire you, of a higher sort, to be fed and clothed but I am very anxious to get my ideas and perhaps regarded with a degree of into your noggin straight; then if you affection, but not to be treated as men- don't like 'em you can do as you please tal equals or to be given any active about 'em. You remember the story part in domestic administration except about the white man and the Indian as upper servants. The great trouble | who went turkey hunting and divided is that there are so many wives who the game in accordance with the white are treated in this manner who do not | man's proposition. I won't repeat the deserve to be. The human dolls are, in story, but you will recollect that the fact, a mighty small minority of wo white man got all the turkeys. Some mankind. The supposed limitations of business partnerships and a great the sex have been fixed in the mascu- many domestic partnerships are manline mind by the customs and preju- aged in this way, and that sort of thing dices of centuries, and it is pretty hard usually ends in a dissolution. If you to change its attitude, but the change succeed in life, you've got to play is being made and made more rapidly square with your partner, and particin this country than in any other. We | ularly so to the one with whom you've have learned that the average woman | made a life contract, solemnly signed has just about as much sense as the and sealed in the presence of the repaverage man, and, given the same resentative of the Almighty. Give her training and same conditions, she can control of the home and let her underaccomplish equally much. There al- stand that she is responsible for its | a sufficient amount for his necessary

Responsibility makes character in a clusion by means of something we call her have a fixed sum every month to pay the household expenses as well as to provide for her personal requirements and allow her to expend the money without question or interferwhen she needs it. She'll come to you for more money when she needs it, but if the amount is rightly fixed she will seldom have to do that. She will take a pride in keeping within her limit and more than likely will save more money than you will. In the matter of small economies a woman can beat a man every time, but she must have a personal interest in the saving, must feel that it is hers without restriction. She will probably spend most of it on you

or will surprise as soon as you get started, as I and you are in desperate need of it. A woman is always trustwor-

thy if she is were trusted. The You can do as you man's point is please about 'em. to make her feel that there is no string tied to the amount given her, that it is hers absolutely, but that she is expected to meet certain expenses.

AND I THOUGHT

Sit Down and Figure.

Suppose, for example, you figure up your fixed charges, as the railroad man would say. Under this head will come your rent, your water license, taxes, in

urance, servant's hire, etc. Make iberal allowance for indefinite exeases, as provisions, clothing, car fare, loctor's bills, repairs, and so on. Take mon yourself the payment of all acounts except the current fluctuating xpenses of the household and the perional expenses of your wife. That would give to her the responsibility for he payment of all the bills from the crocer, the butcher, the milk and ice enters and other table accounts, as vell as her own clothing, etc. Then livide your salary in proportion to the elative expenditures of each. If you assume one-half the expenditure, divide your salary equally. If your part of the expense is three-fifths or threefourths, reserve that proportion of your income for yourself. That is the plan I have followed for many years, and it has worked well.

Another plan which has its advantages and which is based, like the oth-



Give your wife the responsibility for the payment of household bills.

er, on the partnership idea is to place your salary each week or each month, as you may receive it, in a common receptacle at home. Each of you should have free and unquestioned access to this fund, and whatever is left can be deposited in the bank from time to time. A memorandum book should be kept with the money, and all withdrawals should be properly noted. The advantage of this system is its simplicity. Its disadvantages arise from the dangers of loss by theft or otherwise and from the fact that it lessens the individual responsibility and the stimulus

Don't Enslave Yourself.

I never believed in the plan of giving all one's salary to one's wife any more than I believe it right for the husband to keep all of it himself. In the first place, it throws upon her a burden that properly belongs to him, in part at least, and, in the second place, it makes it necessary for him to ask her for what he needs, and too often he may be required to explain his needs in detail before he gets it. Some men are so weak that they need restraint of this kind, and for such this method is commendable, but for a man with average backbone it's humiliating to have to ask his wife for money even if he has voluntarily placed himself in durance. It reverses the position of mendicancy and is harder on a man than a woman, because in her case it has the sanction of the ages. I believe in woman's independence, but I don't believe in reversing the traditional relations of the sexes. It is possible to give your wife freedom without enslaving yourself, and a certain amount of starch in your spinal column is just as important under the conditions I have suggested as in any other situation, domestic or otherwise. I know a man whose wife allows him barely enough to pay car fare, and when



he wants mere he has to make an itemized requisition. She is unquestionably his superior as a financial manager and is saving money, a It reverses the position was able to ac-

of mendicancy. complish. But he is unhappy. Her thrift should be a blessing to him, but blessings may become curses if they are worked overtime. He might have taken advantage of her greater thrift and at the same time preserved his self respect if he had reserved to himself the unexpected.

Now, my boy, just one more word before I toddle off to bed. Consider your wife as your equal-in every respect. She may not be in some, but she is entitled to the consideration. Consult her about your affairs, tell her ence. She'll come to you for advice | your troubles that are worth telling at all and take no liberties yourself you are not willing to grant her. And now, with love to your dear girl, much for yourself, I will bid you good night. JOHN SNEED. Affectionately,

He Knew.

Pete-I, too, have been a great duck hunter in my time. Dick-Go on! You don't know a wild

duck from a tame one. Pete-Yes, I do. The wild ones are the ones that always get away from me, and the tame ones are what I bring home.-Cleveland Leader.

Ambiguous.

"Yes," said the would be author, "the editor sent my manuscript back, but he inclosed a nice note saying the rejection of the manuscript 'did not necessarily imply lack of literary merit," "Oh, I guess he didn't read it, then,"

said his friend.-Catholic Standard and

An Insult. Delia-Ye didn't stay long in yer new place, Maggie. Maggie-Faith, I did not. Me self

respict wouldn't let me. Shure, they

had the keyhole of ivery door in the

house plugged up .- Philadelphia Press.

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