

Mother's Day -

Honor thy father & thy mother
forsake not the love of thy mother,

This has long been a man's world. Its laws and customs have been made by man for man's pleasure and man's advantage. It is said that in very early society there is a stage when it is a woman's world - when what they call a matriarchate appears. There are many legendary stories of a race of amazons, woman warriors who ruled the tribes. But we have had nothing like it for thousands of years. For a very long time we have had control i.e. outward control of affairs, and woman as such before the law and according to custom has had scant consideration. Only in our own time and within the memory of those of my age we have seen the rise of what is called "The feminine movement". Women have been recognized generally as humans all over the world. She has ceased to be the property or the slave of her husband or father or master or employer. Her rights have been recognized as those of a citizen. She has been granted the franchise the right to vote - she has the same privilege as a man to work - & she has entered every trade - and monopolized many trades - like telephone girls, & stenographers, typewriters - & some many positions are now filled by women which formerly were occupied by men only. Women run machines of many kinds, they run large business enterprises, own iron & steel mills, and probably the most successful coal operator in the U.S. is a woman. They have almost usurped the teaching profession in the grade & even the High schools, there are a rapidly growing number of women who are professors in colleges & universities - they have entered the field of science and have done great work in chemistry & medicine. There are women lawyers

Judges, senators & representatives in nearly every if not every legislature in the country - Certainly woman has proved her capacity to do things. Not long ago we wondered if a woman had a soul - In Turkey only a few years ago it was flatly denied and even to day she may not enter a Mohammedan mosque, where the men go to worship God. But even in Turkey a woman can vote - she need not wear a veil & she can appear on the street without a veil. There are still areas of the world where a woman is regarded as private or public property valuable principally for sex.

It has been a great & almost world wide revolution that we have witnessed. It would be interesting to enquire as to what brought this all about. I am not qualified to state the case adequately. But I believe that women and their pictured heroines had a great deal to do with it. There was the education movement - to give girls as well as boys schooling. If the men wished to maintain their monopoly of labor & opportunity in life they made a great mistake when they began education - for the girls outstripped the boys and we find that to day more of them finish the H.S. course than boys and about as many go thru college & higher schools of training as boys do. Then the women began to organize into clubs, fraternities, societies of various kinds, even political organizations and began to demand their rights. They secured for themselves equality before the law, as to inheritances, holding of property, & administration of the same. In the whole process wives & mothers improved their status. Their rights were far more respected and motherhood came to be recognized as a most important office - demanding from society considerations not even recognized before.

Stock breeders took better care of cattle before & after childbirth than many a poor mother of human beings received - But all that is partly changed yet the end is not yet - We are by no means near the goal - we have not yet made motherhood what it should be.

Indeed we have only started. Our mothers were great women. They under almost barbarous conditions, with hardships almost unbelievable brought us into the world and gave us good upbringing. Many of us if not most of us could truthfully say like Garfield

N.A.S. that we owe most of our success to our mothers.

The fathers of men are quite likely to be undervalued I believe for the very reason of the heroic lines of our mothers.

The fathers you know contributed greatly to what we are.

They supplied a warm shelter and often & generally the food & shelter that kept us alive - often too an example that was helpful - inspirational. They all make huge sacrifices, good fathers do - but this is mothers day and instead of considering fathers needs & interests to day we will confine ourselves to mothers -

I wish to omit all sentimentality as we love & honor our mothers. It is not either that I would not indulge in ^{the} special activity of this day - telegraphing messages & sending flowers, visiting graves - sending a check to living mothers and all that goes with common observance of the day. But this day makes a fitting time to consider the greater interests of motherhood. To that end there are several propositions some of which are rather revolutionary to which I would call your attention.

First is no man should have motherhood thrust upon him unwillingly. This has been a most common practice. Nor should so grave & significant an event as bringing a child into the world be a mere accident. It should always happen by intention, by a desire for offspring. 1000's of unwanted children are born to parents that do not know how they can support them, that know full well that they cannot properly feed & clothe them or give them cultural advantages or a good environment. Such people do not want children, particularly many children - but they are the very ones who have most of them - which gives society many problems. It is a breeding of paupers & criminals & riot riots. In other words "what we call birth control" is surely needed. The more intelligent inform themselves about it and have no more children than they can care for. They have to do this illegally, or by the personal consultation of a Dr. or somebody informal or by resort to illegal trade. But they generally do this. Birth control or contraceptive methods should be a part of the education of all prospective married people. Certain interests notably the Catholic Church has been able thus far to prevent this information from being given to possible parents.

It has marked untold hardships upon women - caused long years of suffering, early death, & we have reaped the consequences in asylums, hospitals, jails, county houses, orphanages & like institutions supported by taxes. Motherhood has not had sufficient consideration.

There are reasons, many of them, why many women should never be mothers - hygienic reasons, economic reasons, environmental reasons even moral reasons. In the first place our potential mothers need education for this most important office. We demand a certain amt. of education for a school teacher but comparatively nothing for motherhood. We are however beginning to do something along this line. We are beginning to take cognizance of the importance & the needs & qualifications of motherhood. The qualifications can only be considered by some education about birth control.

The needs are recognized - In Russia & in Scandinavia generally it is recognized that a prospective mother needs rest, medical care and an income before and after childbirth. This she is given - and if she has to make for a living as most do in these countries a place and a nurse is provided to care for the children during her working hours. In such a condition a woman is not penalized for parenthood and it is welcomed as it is not in bad situations as we find in many parts of the world.

There is obviously nothing more important to society than the breeding & rearing of our children. The Govt. has spent vast sums of money to improve our livestock of the farm - our hens & hogs & cows & sheep & horses even for the protection & comfort of wild life & the fish in our lakes & streams. But little for human engines. An expectant mother needs special consideration special service.

Imagine my grandmother with 12 children. How she brought them up, kept them clean, fed clothed & gave them training passes my imagination. But she led a hard life - though she lived to be 80. Few of our stock now a days have the hardihood - the constitution to do such a work. She was always poor - always worried, always tired.