

"A Mother's Counsel." Proverbs 31.

Proverbs 31:2;

What, My Son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?

1-There is a threefold cord of maternal love which this parent was wont to employ.

2-My son:

1-Is the outmost and uppermost aspect of the relation.

2-This is a bond set in nature, felt by the parties, and obvious to all.

3-On this she leans first when she makes and appeal to his heart.

3-Son of my womb:

1-Here she recalls the day of his birth.

2-She goes back to that hour when nature's greatest sorrow is dispelled by nature's gladdest news, "A child is born into the world."

3-By recalling this hour, she increases her purchase upon the direction of his life.

4-The son of my vows:

1-Before his birth she held converse, not with him for God, but with God for him.

2-1-Samuel 1:27; Hannah said,

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him.

1-We have many beautiful pictures of women in the Bible.

1-Deborah of whom we read in the Judges.

2-The mother of Moses.

3-Hannah, the mother of Samuel. Mary the mother of Jesus.

-And now the mother of Lemuel:

1-There is no where in all creation such an image of utterly unselfish, of completely self-sacrificing love as that of a woman for her child.

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1-The greatest privilege of a man is to be a father.

The greatest honor is to be a good father.

2-The greatest privilege of a woman is to be a mother.

1-The greatest honor is to be a good mother.

3-A good mother:

1-A good mother, concerning her child, gives her life for his infant existence.

2-All through his helpless years she watches over him with untiring care.

3-When he goes forth into the world she follows him with never-flagging interest.

4-He may forget her; she will never forget him.

5-If he does well, her joy is unbounded; if he does ill, her heart is broken.

6-Without thought of self, she spends herself on her child, and finds her life or death in his conduct.

4-**Concerning the complete self-abnegation of a mother for her child, a Poet said,**

"The bravest battle that was ever fought, Shall I tell you where and when?

On the maps of the world you'll find it not
Twas fought by the mothers of men.

"Nay, not with cannon or battle shot,
with sword or noble pen,

Nay, not with the eloquent word or thought
From the mouths of wonderful men.

"But deep in the walled-up woman's heart-
Of women that would not yield.

But bravely, silently bore their part-
LO, there is the battle field."

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"No marshaling troops, no bivouac song,
No banner to gleam and wave;
But oh, these battles they last so long-
From babyhood to the grave."

1-The great need of this country:
1-Is good mothers in all that the word good implies.

2-If Washington's mother:
1-Had been like a Happy Hooligan's mother;
Washington, no doubt, would have been a
Happy Hooligan.

2-Look back with me this morning to the ancient story of Moses.

1-Tell me, where did Moses get his faith?

1-From his mother.

2-Where did Moses get his backbone to say: "I will not be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter?" **He got it from his mother.**

3-Where did Moses get the nerve to say, "Excuse me please," to the pleasures of Egypt? I venture the opinion that he got it from his mother. *Timothy; acts 16:1; 2 Tim. 2:5.*

3-The characteristics of a good mother:

1-She is given to **"PIETY."** Prov. 31:30;

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised

1-She has within her the spirit of reverence.

2-Her life is one in which worship and the study of the will of God have no small share.

3-She knows well that the happiness of her home and the well-being of her household depend upon the favor of God.

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3-The Characteristics of a good mother continued:

1-She is a woman of purity.

1-She is a "Virtuous woman." verse 10

2-She give her whole heart to her husband, and enjoys his full confidence. Verse 11;

2-She is a woman of wisdom: Verse 26;

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

1-Her conversation is far removed from mere idle gossip.

2-She is familiar with "the law of the Lord," for she knows what is the secret of lasting happiness.

3-She is a woman of Kindness. "For in her tongue is the law of kindness."

1-She does not rule by the "Constant droppings" of censure.

2-She always wins by the never-failing stream of gentleness and encouragement.

4-Her reward:

1-Affection and honor on the part of those nearest to her.

Proverbs 31:28;

Her husband trust and praises her.

Proverbs 31:28;

Her children arise up, and call her blessed.

2-Strength and Dignity in her home:

1-She is "clothed upon with" the tributes woven by love and esteem.

2-Her influence is felt much oftener than it is recognized.

3-Long after her face and her voice are no longer seen and heard her children and her husband will sing her praises.

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5-The manner of some is to good with one hand, and with the evil of the other to spoil it: whereby they still remain to be evil wives.

Others will doo good while the fit lasteth, but soon they are weary of well doing; whereas a good wife will do good to her husband all the days of her life.

1-It is not said of his life, but of hers.

1-For though he be dead, she will do him good while she liveth.

2-She will do him good:

1-By doing good to his children.

2-By doing good to his friends.

3-By doing good to his memory.

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