July 29, 1931
Batavia, Ohio
Route 1.

A response to Ida M. Tarbell's "Marriage is Worth Fighting For".

Altho this article gets a little closer to fundamentals than the usual discourse on the subject, there is, even here, a superfluous attention to effects and an oversight of underlying causes. Admitting the accuracy of her description, there is, still, much wrong, which is remediable, with marriage as the institution stands to-day. It has been undeniably outgrown by many sincere and progressive souls who, nevertheless, manage a compromise which gives more credit to them than to the institution.

To get a proper viewpoint it must be admitted that marriage has been established

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for the convenience of humanity, and when any question arises as to whether the institution is failing to do what it purports, it is mankind's prerogative to rebuild or remodel or enlarge the institution to meet his growing needs, and never ought he to be confined within limits which curtail his progress, and, thru that, the evolution of society itself. Nothing merits present usage by mere reason of good service in the past. A home that has been outgrown is remodeled to meet the requirements of the family which it serves. Why is it not as logical to cultivate the principles upon which the home is founded, giving them opportunity to grow into larger service and beauty to enhance the structure that they embrace?

The youth of To-day is a serious and progressive generation. Its wholesale destruction of all that tradition holds dear is but an incident in its ruthless search for the Truth which has been withheld so long from its eager and

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questioning mind. Its non-restraint is the natural outcome of an age of silent conspiracy. It is in revolt against the limitation which fearful and incourageous parentage has imposed upon it. Its courage and earnestness vividly appear in the extent to which it is willing to suffer to find its Ideals. These have been sugar-coated, carefully covered and veiled from an inquiring gaze until youth is resentful and desperate from following unknown beacons. It demands and, without awaiting a delayed response, achieves the answers to its questions. By the time it reaches maturity the world will have acquired a generation worthy to assume parenthood. In spite of its evasive elders this Youth is discovering the difference between human weakness and divine privilege, and it is honest enough to admit the one without attempting a camouflage with the other.

It is a finer world that is in the making. There is little beauty in the process

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of tearing down which is necessarily precedent to ~~the~~ proper reconstruction in any line, whether it be the four walls of a house we have called Home, or the very principles upon which that Home was founded, but this part is as important as the last coat of paint. And it is painful to view in proportion to the amount of unworthy material which was allowed in the original building, becoming personal to the extent that one may have been identified with the building process.

A youth which is willing to sacrifice the comfort of a lifetime and to face public disapproval to the attaining of knowledge which will enable it to live the next life better as a youth worth reckoning with, is worthy of the world's deep respect, and incidentally of its encouragement and praise rather than its scorn and hasty criticism.

Those who will observe in patience and with open minds can perceive the nicety with which the new order is unfolding. Individuals identified with the rebuilding are getting their value

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straight. Their ideas of human relations are clear and unprejudiced, based on knowledge rather than emotion or traditional evaluation. Life becomes more scientific, and thus truer to purpose. Marriage becomes a contract whereby those who wish to become parents may provide an environment suitable for the growth of children. The mating of mind and emotional nature does not require a marriage contract. It is only when bodies mate and children result that society is justified in codifying the behavior of individuals. Self-control and mental and spiritual development will be the new order of life rather than birth-control and self-indulgence. Humanity is reaching up to the Light. Precocious Youth refuses to be bound by the worn out creeds of ignorance and superstition and the Lords of Darkness.

Marriage is worth <u>rebuilding</u>, but let us do our ~~fighting~~ for the world's progress and the steady

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evolution of mankind into the completeness and perfection for which Jesus of Nazareth gave the pattern and formula. Let us join the crusade of youth in re-capturing from the citadel of Night that Beacon which lights the way to Progress and the culmination of human endeavor.

Faithfully,

Joyce Hunt Hilson

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