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The Morality of Marriage

Mona Caird (1854–1932) was a British novelist and early radical feminist social critic who insisted on maintaining her independence after marrying. Her 1888 article 'Marriage', in which she criticised marriage for limiting and subordinating women and called for equality between partners, sparked a furious controversy, and brought her widespread recognition. This volume, first published in 1897, contains a collection of Caird's feminist essays. She analyses the indignities marriage caused for women, both historically and contemporaneously, and advocates both equality in marriage (including in domestic duties) and women's economic independence. Caird also examines and criticises contemporary ideals of motherhood, discussing legislation and changes in social attitudes which would improve the lives of mothers. This volume presents a detailed account of controversial late-Victorian radical feminist views and criticisms. For more information on this author, see http://orlando.cambridge.org/public/svPeople?person_id=cairmo

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*And Other Essays on the Status
and Destiny of Woman*

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THE
MORALITY OF MARRIAGE

*AND OTHER ESSAYS ON THE STATUS
AND DESTINY OF WOMAN*

BY
MONA CAIRD

“J’ai bien peur que cette nature ne soit elle-même qu’une
première coutûme, comme la coutûme est une seconde nature.”
—PASCAL.

LONDON
GEORGE REDWAY

1897

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TO WOMEN

“In the name of your years of anguish,
In the name of the curse and the stain,
By the strength of your sorrow, I call you
By the power of your pain.”

CHARLOTTE STETSON.

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 978-1-108-02199-9 - The Morality of Marriage
 Mona Caird
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|------------------------|------|
| INTRODUCTION | 1-17 |

THE EMANCIPATION OF THE FAMILY

PART I

EARLY HISTORY OF THE FAMILY

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Fear, the ruling motive of primitive worship—Society in a state of perpetual motion—Progress not inevitable—Crystallising of national forces under influence of fixed ideas—Pursuit of wealth produces certain kind of social crystallisation—Varying family customs among primitive peoples—Original organisation of family through the mother—Early marriage customs—Survivals of matriarchal system after establishment of patriarchal rule—Occupation of tribe generally decided family system—Instances from Sir John Lubbock and Nachtigall—Origin of hostility towards mother-in-law—Survival of custom of capturing wives—Transition between matriarchal and patriarchal rule—Custom of securing the independence of wife on marriage—Ancient <i>Gerade</i> becomes property of husband in patriarchal times, in form of dower—Gradual degradation of woman under father-rule—System of Woman-purchase grew out of capture system—In matriarchal period, father had nothing to do with his children—Rights of father derived through purchase of mother—Basis of modern law—Juridical character of fatherhood in ancient codes—Marriage in Sumatra—Exogamy and Endogamy—Great importance of children in patriarchal age—Remarkable differences in minor customs among savages—Establishment of patriarchal rule due to capture of women, and to their temporary weakness during child-birth—The law of adaptation—The power of association of ideas—Sacrifices to Moloch—Polyandry earlier practice than polygyny—Varying ideas of vice and virtue—Ideas of the becoming—Primitive notions of religion—Instrument of human progress | 21-40 ix |
|---|-------------|

PART II

THE PATRIA POTESTAS

- Position of women under Roman law—Right of life and death over woman—The Twelve Tables—The *patria potestas*—Laws of Julia and Papia Poppæa—Liberal measures of Justinian—Corruptions of Empire often attributed to freedom of women—Signs of decay many ages before existence of Empire—*Confarreatio* and *coemptio*—Christian opposition to divorce—Penance of Fabiola—Separation between the ancient polity and the influence of the Church—The fall of the Empire—Roman and Barbarian usages—*Patria potestas* and German *mundium*—Traces of matriarchal customs in German codes—Marriage customs of the Germans—The *Morgengabe*—Woman under canon law—Children of a woman who had been carried off were held as belonging to her husband—In all eras, children belong either to mother or to owner of mother—Possession of rights over children proves legal ownership of mother—Origin of present lop-sided social development 41-50

PART III

THE END OF THE PATRIARCHAL SYSTEM

- The individual as unit of modern society—The woman not yet accepted as free individual—She has lost security without gaining independence—Woman under competitive system—Woman's "sphere"—Woman under tutelage, yet held responsible—Illogical position of upholders of present system—Artificial disabilities—Far-reaching effects of subjection of women—Real brunt of present marriage-bond borne by women—Position of mother before passing of Act of 1886—Her present position—Maternal duties enforced with great rigour—Domestic institutions a barbarous survival—Satires of men against women—The Family to be brought into line with general progress—Right of private contract—Marriage "contract"—A School of Superstition—Close of the Patriarchal System 51-59

MARRIAGE

PART I

THE PIONEER OF CIVILISATION

- Abandonment of laws of reasoning when women are in question—Restrictive system founded on evil consequences of restriction—Unconscious revenge of victim—Scheme of articles—

CONTENTS

xi

PAGE

PART I. THE PIONEER OF CIVILISATION—*continued*

| | |
|--|-------|
| Woman's demand for freedom implied demand for altered marriage—Dependence of women result of human injustice—Women not originally inferior to men in physical strength—Doctor Richardson's view—Enormous pressure of adverse conditions—Woman an initiator of civilisation: represents originating principle—Contradictory views regarding women in the past—Evidences of struggle for supremacy between sexes | 63-72 |
|--|-------|

PART II

MARRIAGE BEFORE AND AFTER THE REFORMATION

| | |
|---|-------|
| Influence of Christianity on position of women—Ideals of Chivalry—Position of women at the time of rise of chivalry—Best side of mediæval life—End of the Middle Ages—New spirit introduced by Reformation—Commercial development—Elements out of which grew modern domestic ideals—Definite fixing of outlines of marriage system—Importance given to outward sanctions—Luther's teaching on marriage—Women regarded solely as child-bearers—Luther's influence on modern sentiment—Views of Karl Pearson, Bebel, Lecky—General influences in sixteenth century favourable to women—Decline of power of Ecclesiastical Law—Opportunities for marital tyranny—Organisation of an outcast class—Building up of modern society—Class of women at once demanded and punished by community—Choice between degraded positions inside or outside respectable society—Condition of women after Reformation—Duties of wife—Silence of History concerning women of sixteenth century—Women under Reformed Church—Attitude of modern divines—Charles Kingsley—Leaders of thought support prejudices except those attacked by themselves—Wife's position under present law—Women trained to regard facts closely affecting themselves as "improper"—Purchase system origin of popular view of woman's "virtue" and man's "honour"—Dual moral standard for the sexes—Theory of proprietorship of wife by husband—Death of "Merrie England"—Retrospect of social history | 73-91 |
|---|-------|

PART III

THE LOT OF WOMAN UNDER THE RULE OF MAN

| | |
|---|-------|
| Difficulty of tracing pedigree of social evils—Scheme of article—Condition of women under patriarchal rule—Instances from Gibbon—Instances from Institutes of Manu—Parallel with English sentiment—Manu translated into modern terms—English homes, best and worst—Mongolian customs and British sentiment—An unwritten tragedy | 92-97 |
|---|-------|

PART IV

A MORAL RENAISSANCE

- Co-relative education of men and women—Dominant attitude of man complemented by submissive attitude of woman—Dependence of women on marriage ensures motives for remaining blind to its nature—Victims blamed instead of system—Treatment of girls—Unhappy marriages—Tradition at fault rather than individuals—The unmarried woman—Mrs Augusta Webster on popular inconsistencies—Friendship between men and women—Letters to Max O'Rell—Popular sentiments regarding married life—Exceptions—“United” couples—Marriage a failure in proportion to conformity with orthodox notions—Ideal unions only to be found among heretics—Coercive element in marriage—Society forced to come to rescue of woman—Growth of opinion inimical to old ideas—Important claim of modern woman—Monogamic ideal—Co-education of the sexes—Not marriage *per se*, but its attendant ideas at fault—A moral renaissance . . . 98-111

THE FUTURE OF THE HOME

- Pendulum theory of History—Opposing theory of the Meliorist—Man as arbiter of his own destiny—Conscious direction of Evolution—Test of true spirit of freedom—Present marriage not a true contract—No choice of conditions—The marriage “contract”—Woman’s first duty—Her power enjoyed not by right but by favour—Oriental ideas—Hamerton’s *Intellectual Life*—Marriage requires suppression of originality—Deification of the Average—Peril of Democracy—The rights of minorities—Fallacy regarding majorities—Laws ought not to exact martyrdom—Peril of curing evils at expense of freedom—Reverence for monogamy—Herbert Spencer on monogamy—No rational limit to principle of liberty—Society in higher condition wherever affection is deemed essential to marriage—State deeply concerned in marriage—This no justification for interference—Modification of marriage laws—Conditions needed for complete freedom of contract 115-127

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-02199-9 - The Morality of Marriage
 Mona Caird
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xiii

PAGE

THE MORALITY OF MARRIAGE

PART I

MOTHERHOOD UNDER CONDITIONS OF DEPENDENCE

Instance from real life—Parallel with slavery—Effect of economic dependence on status of wife—Nervous exhaustion due to excessive maternity—Great strain on the civilised mother—Evil results of woman's obedience to precepts of man . 131-137

PART II

MARRIED LIFE, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Essential attributes of present form of marriage—Illustration by views of Guido Franceschini in "The Ring and the Book"—Inconsequence of Guido's critics—Alterations of proportions and relations of human qualities—Difficult relation of husband and wife—Disenchantment—Narrowness of married life—The ideal of the future—True Socialism—Freedom banished from domestic life—Liberty a safeguard against license . 138-149

PART III

CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE

Wrongs of children under present form of marriage—Increased sense of parental responsibility ensured by freedom—The one function exacted from women necessarily ill-performed—Division of labour—Injury to children—Low standard of health—Maternal love not a substitute for common-sense—Needless to keep whole people in bondage for sake of few exceptions—Do children benefit by present marriage system?—School life—Traditional modes of training—Parents not necessarily best trainers for their children—Stepmothers—Need of special gift for training children—Waste of energy in home life—The mothers of the Future . . . 150-156

A DEFENCE OF THE "WILD WOMEN"

| | |
|--|---------|
| Futility of replying to personal accusations against supporters of new movement—Advocates of unpopular cause—Charges of Mrs Lynn Linton cancel one another—Two types of womanhood—Trading on chivalry of man—Other types of old school—Mistake of some women in imitating men's dress and habits—Effort of modern women to become independent—Importance of woman's independence—Rush of women into labour market—Artificial selection of victims for general good—Sacrifice enforced on sole ground of sex—Work on unfit shoulders—Variety of character—Uselessness of an imposed faith—Demand for conformity of type—Argument that Nature intends woman solely for motherhood—Abandonment of belief in natural law—Destruction of nervous force—Loss of balance of faculties—Absorption in maternal cares—Worship of "Nature" survival of old image worship—Perpetual repetition of same kind of stimulus—Induced disease—Mrs Lynn Linton on the French Revolution—Suicidal arguments—Marital peace—Mrs Lynn Linton on personal appearance of her opponents—On Eastern manners and morals—Sacrifice of parents to children—Folly of large families—Mistaken efforts of some modern women—Simplification of household methods—Must mental development of women be sacrificed for physical safety of race?—Impossibility of progress under such conditions—Sexual enmity—New ideals—Prospect for the future—Dictum of Professors Geddes and Thompson—Mutual tolerance—Weakness of old argument of violence—The course of civilisation—The cause of woman not less the cause of man | 157-191 |
|--|---------|

PHASES OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

PART I

SUPPRESSION OF VARIANT TYPES

| |
|--|
| Popular fallacies—Average man capable of anything demanded by national creeds—Man liable to revert to savagery—Criminals—Makers of new standards—Human nature register of social forces—Extraordinary production of criminals during the Italian Renaissance—Cruelty—"Blood-madness" of Italian despots—Tyranny follows possession of arbitrary power—Con- |
|--|

CONTENTS

XV
PAGE

PART I. SUPPRESSION OF VARIANT TYPES—*continued.*

science no check to tyranny—Exceptional natures—Danger of their complete suppression—Fate of some Eastern nations—Analogy between Society and hive of bees—Subject condition of women—Predisposing influence in suppression of variant types—Destruction of woman's initiative—Formation of character—Reign of law—Instance from Sismondi—Unequal education on sole ground of sex—Difference in training induces real differences—Differences induced among men by profession, &c.—Conditions of women morally unwholesome—Difficulties of exceptional women—Fate of married woman—"Self-sacrifice" the path of least resistance—Social methods of compulsion—Ibsen's "Nora"—Extreme danger to race involved in subject position of women 193-211

PART II

SONS OF BONDSWOMEN

Injury entailed upon men by subjection of women—Education of men—Conditions tend to incite aggressive instincts—Exhaustion of nervous system—Incessant petty indulgences—Undermining of self-control—False sentiments between men and women—Liberty denied to one sex—License to be expected in the other—Position of minorities—Marriages of inclination—Fulfillment of engagements—The Uneliminated Savage—National progress—Analogy of bird with broken wing 212-220

PART III

THE TYRANNY OF INSTINCT

Choice between instinct and reason—Formation of habits—Heredity—Storing up of minute influences of daily life—Transmission to descendants—Average man no indication of possible human type—Varying standards of necessary indulgence of habits—A dynasty of tyrants—Imaginary case of universal epilepsy—Women offered as propitiatory sacrifice—Possibility of modifying instincts—Importance of mental resource—Many regions of mind and conscience still uncultivated—Changing opinion—Women blamed for social corruption—Relative position of sexes real cause of evil—Difference between man's delinquencies and woman's—Accumulated bad habits engender slavery—Visi-section an attempt to shift penalty of our bad habits on to weaker shoulders—Analogy with prostitution 221-230

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-02199-9 - The Morality of Marriage
 Mona Caird
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xvi

CONTENTS

PAGE

PART IV

THE HUMAN ELEMENT IN MAN

| | |
|---|---------|
| Disturbance caused by transition—Outcry not against barbarism but against civilisation—Struggle between “Nature” and Humanity—Existence of State dependent on departure from Nature—The “natural” not necessarily or probably right—Complaints of “over-civilisation”—Analogy between good and order, evil and disorder—Penalty of complete adherence to primitive Nature—Relative quality of good and evil—Image of ideal human soul—Half animal half human elements of society—Man forced back to belief in some non-material formative power—Man not at variance with Nature in its inclusive sense—Civilised man stronger than the savage—Man forced to pay for spiritual blindness—Probable improvement in physique and prolongation of youth—Moral standards from beginning of social existence—Religious element—Man not the slave of primitive instinct—Emotional creeds govern the world | 231-239 |
|---|---------|

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