

THE CONFESSIONS OF A WIFE

WOMEN DO STICK TOGETHER

Chapter C.

I was so worried about Jack and his note to me in regard to Miss Dunlap that I forgot all about Kitty Malram's letter until I came back from the dinner at the Symones.

I had not told Dick that Mrs. Tenney had called upon me, but after I had read Kitty's letter I decided to do so for, knowing that Dick had read it, I was afraid he would talk it over with Bill Tenney and I wanted him to know that I had heard the other side from his friend's wife.

Kitty's letter to me was much happier than any one she has written since she went away. She says: "I have been thinking very seriously about what you wrote me, dear Madge. In fact, I have taken a part of your letter and hung it up beside my mirror where I read it every morning. You say, 'You can be happy if you will, for happiness is a state of mind and nothing in this world can make you unhappy if you refuse to be made so.'

"I guess you are right when you say: 'Don't take life too seriously and do not unless you wish to be very miserable take yourself too seriously.' And I have found out the truth of certain other paragraphs in your letter.

"When I came here I thought I should never smile again, but I have learned that there is always someone to smile with; someone to trust; someone to love. If you find the one you love is unworthy the only thing to do is to begin immediately to believe in someone else. If the one you smile at does not return your smile be sure the next one will. Remember always that love begets love.

"Madge, dear, I wish I could tell you how much your letters have meant to me and how I think I am beginning to understand all you inferred when you talked to me before I came away.

"I know that Will Tenney is not for me. Out here in this place, away from the lights, the music, the luxuries, that I always associate with him, I know that both he and I were wrong—that marriage vows are not lightly to be broken and that the words 'let no man put asunder' means women, too.

"I am doing a little settlement work and I am much interested in it. Teaching others to make the very best of things and themselves means that I am learning to do so myself.

"I have met a splendid man in the Rev. James Millbank and he too has given me a clearer vision of life from the same point of view that you pointed out.

"Nowadays I do not go to my room after dinner and wonder who of my acquaintances are in the restaurants or at the theaters; instead I am getting up amateur heatricals and teaching the girls and boys in the settlement how to dance."

"Wouldn't it be funny if Kitty Malram turned Bill down for a preacher?" said Dick as he saw that I had finished the letter.

"I do hope she will, Dick," I answered, "for I think it will do Bill Tenney good to suffer some of the pangs he has made his wife suffer. She told me all about it yesterday."

"What!" shouted Dick.

"Yes, Mrs. Tenney came to see me and I told her about poor Kitty and both she and I agreed that while Bill was not wicked he was desperately weak and in the Kitty Malram affair as in many others of which Mrs. Tenney told me was absolutely to blame."

"Good Lord!" ejaculated Dick. "And yet they say women do not stick together."

(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

Kansas is reported to have 15,000 widows. That ought to be an inducement to new settlers.