

A QUESTION OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Have the parents of the last two or three generations inspired their daughters, and even sons, with a high moral standard for which England has always stood? To judge from the apparent loose morality of girls in recent murder trials and the ease with which they acquaint themselves with unknown men in strange places, it would appear that here is a question for great reform.

On making enquiries in this connection, we have had placed at our disposal an explanation of what is "The Mothers' Union."

We know that this Society is of long and high standing, not only in England, but abroad, and ask that the following Regulations will be carefully studied by those mothers who have not yet associated themselves with the Union. It has attained a very high moral standard.

WHAT IS THE MOTHERS' UNION ?

The Mothers' Union is a union of mothers who try, by the grace of God, to make their homes Christian homes. They promise three things. First, to believe that marriage is a holy and life-long relationship. Secondly, that they will teach their children to be good Christian boys and girls. Thirdly, that they will pray every day, and try to be good examples in their own homes.

The First Promise.

God wants every marriage to be holy and happy. When a Christian man and woman marry they promise God and promise each other to be loving and faithful as long as they both shall live. This is a very great promise to make, but God will help us to keep it if we ask Him. For God can give us the power to do things which we could not do by ourselves.

God wants this love between husbands and wives to grow stronger year by year. It will only grow stronger if both husband and wife love each other better than they love themselves. This means that each must be unselfish. To be unselfish is to try first of all to make the other person happy, and to do what is best for him or her, even if it means doing hard things.

When a man and a woman marry they become something different from what they were before. They become husbands and wives. Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us in the Gospels that husbands and wives go on being husbands and wives as long as they both live. They cannot stop being husbands and wives, or go back to being unmarried. This is what is meant by marriage being a life-long relationship.

The Second Promise.

When God created the world, He made all living things to be male or female, so that they might unite and bring forth young. He has given men and women the power to love each other and be joined in marriage, so that they may bring children into the world.

He wants these children to be taught to love Him and to serve Him. So the second promise that members of the Mothers' Union make is, that they will teach their children about God. They will teach them what is right and what is wrong according to God's laws. They will tell them how much God loves them, and how He has sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to show us what God is like. They will teach their children that they belong to God, and that they must serve Him and worship Him as their Father. They will teach their children to pray, and to talk to God so that they may learn to love Him and to know Him.

The Church is the great Family of God's people. So the members of the Mothers' Union promise that they will have their babies baptised in order that they too may

become members of God's Church. When the children are old enough their parents must take them to church to worship God and to learn more about Him.

The Third Promise.

Members of the Mothers' Union know that they cannot be good wives and mothers without God's help. They therefore promise to ask God every day for His power and His strength to be the kind of wives and mothers He wants them to be.

If they are to teach their children about God, they must always be learning to know Him better themselves. So they must read their Bibles, and be faithful and regular about going to church to worship God on Sundays. If they have been confirmed they must make their communions regularly. For in our communions our Lord comes to us to give us His own life, so that we may live our lives in union with Him.

Members of the Mothers' Union also meet together to learn how to make their homes more truly Christian homes, and to thank God for the husbands and children which He has given them.

How Did the Mothers' Union Begin ?

It was started in 1876 by Mary Sumner. She was the wife of a country Vicar in England who wanted to help the wives and mothers in her husband's parish to have Christian homes. She asked them to make these three promises, and soon women in other parishes wanted to make these promises too. Then they decided to join together into a society, and to call it the Mothers' Union. They realised that it would be a great help to them in keeping their own promises if they knew that there were other mothers trying to make their homes Christian too.

So the Mothers' Union has grown from one small group in England to a great society all over the world. There are now over 600,000 members. Whether they live in England or in Africa or in Australia, or any other part of the world, they all make the same promises.

Who Can Join the Mothers' Union ?

The Mothers' Union welcomes as members married women :—

- (1) Who have been baptised themselves and promise to have their babies baptised.
- (2) Who accept the teaching contained in the Apostles' Creed.
- (3) Who are faithful to their marriage vows.
- (4) Who agree to uphold the Three Central Objects (or promises).

Where is the Headquarters of the Mothers' Union ?

At the Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, London, S.W.1. This House was built by the members to be their own Central House. It is called after Mary Sumner who founded the Mothers' Union. There all the business of this big Society is carried on. There the leaders can meet together and decide how best to carry on the ideals of the Mothers' Union. In the centre of the House there is a beautiful Chapel where prayers for the Mothers' Union are offered day by day. For prayer is at the heart of the work of the Mothers' Union.

We have also had placed before us a Letter to Parents from the Bishop of St. Albans, which advocates the same godly curriculum for the upbringing of children.

We do hope that the terrible tragedy which has occurred in connection with the demoralisation of Neville George Clevely Heath will be taken to heart by parents, so that they really may impress upon their daughters that purity of life is one of the great assets not only in the building of character, but in the building of nations.

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