

**DIVORCE  
ABOLISHED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649394944

Divorce Abolished by A. J. Palmer

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**A. J. PALMER**

**DIVORCE  
ABOLISHED**





©

DIVORCE

ABOLISHED.


---

PUBLISHED BY

A. J. PALMER.

---

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.  
1888.



## DIVORCE ABOLISHED.

---

It is related of a certain famous but crusty judge, that his wife, after a period of ill health, went one day to consult a new physician. Upon her return home she gave her husband an account of the interview, exclaiming at the end of her description :

“There! I forgot to ask him the cause of all the trouble.”

“Cause!” growled her husband, “do you think he would tell you the cause? When a physician does that he abolishes himself.”

It can scarcely be hoped that even a complete revelation of the cause of marital unhappiness would be enough, in itself, to abolish the evil, but we may confidently assert that an earnest inquiry into such cases and a conscientious and intelligent effort toward their abolition, would result in great gain. We can go even farther and claim that there is an avenue of escape — one not by any means impossible to travelers through this world of lights and shadows. It is my purpose in the following treatise, to point out, as clearly as possible,

this avenue, not altogether new, and yet not old enough to be imprinted, as some day it will, by many, many feet.

Before entering upon my examination, it may be well to glance at some conditions of social life, and see what manner of women we have to deal with, for, although I do not believe that woman is the only cause of the trouble, I firmly believe she is the chief hope of its remedy.

It is said that after examining a single bone of any strange fish, Agassiz was able to draw the entire animal. I cannot pretend to like skill in the delineation of human character—such character being much too complex and contradictory to be successfully constructed upon the presentation of a single trait. Nevertheless, certain distinct types are so clearly resultant from certain conditions of social life, that given the one, we may, with confidence, look for the other. For instance, several hundred years ago, social life was in a very different state from that in which we find it to-day, and the women of that period differed widely from those of our time. Even in our own day we are struck by the difference presented by the women of various countries. If we look at those of the East, we find them childish, dependent, winning, obedient, idle, sly, as a natural result of a social opinion which awards to woman the position of toy of the other sex. Now, whoever objects to the character of such women, should lend his aid toward the formation of an entirely different state of

social opinion from that which is responsible for the results which he deplures.

Many of us are opposed to the reform known under the title of Woman's Rights, and earnestly maintain that the success of its main object would tend toward the abolition of feminine gentleness and modesty. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied, by those whose sense of honor is stronger than their prejudice, that an increase of womanly earnestness and dignity is already noticeable and must, by the fair-minded, be directly traced to the attempt to put more power into female hands, and furthermore that this increase is anything but an occasion for regret. The ballot has not yet been universally granted to women, but owing to the efforts of some to obtain this privilege, many indirect ends have been compassed. Doors, heretofore closed, have swung wide open, and women have entered, and successfully worked in many fields formerly reserved for men. More than this; in the steadily enlarging band of working women there unquestionably is an increase, not only in strength of character and general intelligence, but even in many of those essential feminine qualities which form the very essence of womanhood—a gain, which is offset by no modifying loss, and which is, to some extent, shared by women who are apparently still walking in the old beaten paths. Whichever we decide it to be—in consequence of, or in spite of, the Woman's Rights movement,—we are forced to acknowledge that the very womanhood for whose safety we trembled, has devel-



oped nobly within the past few years. We may look, if we will, with longing eyes, to the olden times, or to the present times, in some European countries, and sigh for the quiet, satisfied women—notable housewives, devoted mothers, and obedient wives. We may deplore the time when women first began to cherish a dream of independence, and set that down in life's journal as the day when the most dangerous seeds of marital troubles were sown. Our opinions on this point are not able to abolish certain facts—the dream was cherished, and to-day in thousands of cases, it is a reality. The old type of woman, like the Indian race, is slowly dying, and, figuratively speaking, her bones, like those of the mastodon, will soon be exhibited as objects of wonder, if not of admiration.

These are simply facts. What more? Just this: that women of this new type cannot live happily under the laws that fitted women of the olden type. Agitations, both domestic and civil, will be inevitable until these different conditions of character are recognized by different laws. Married life has already suffered many upheavals and disturbances owing to the changes of opinion that have so powerfully affected female character. Those who assert that the old way was the safest and happiest, and that a household with two heads must, of necessity, be divided against itself, are not wholly without reason on their side. But a statement of views on this point holds but a secondary position in my purpose, as I, ~~who~~ chiefly

wish to bring forward here a few facts to prove that character, and especially female character, has undergone important changes within the last fifty years; that married life must attempt to harmonize itself with such changes, and that the old conditions of marriage are as unsuited to the new conditions of character, as are many of the old church formulas and customs to the new conditions of belief.

In pursuance of this object, a study of some of the commonest troubles of married life, and a few suggestions as to remedies, will be in place. This study has long been of interest to me and has been facilitated, not only by much discussion of the subject with many and various kinds of men and women, but also by professional consultations with married people seeking release from their bonds.

In general, when we turn our attention to this subject, we are too apt to confine ourselves to objects near at hand. We look at one married pair, and say the trouble lies in the exacting nature of the wife; or at another, and decide that the husband's irritable temper is the cause of all fault. In this manner we might go on indefinitely, each particular case furnishing, to our minds, its particular cause. If nothing more than this can be done, remedy is almost hopeless, for as many cures as causes would be necessary. But a study of human nature and of various conditions of social life, will enable us to probe far down into this great sore of humanity, and discover some of the deep-seated causes of the eruption.

Passing then, these various minor troubles which affect individual cases and may be classed as surface conditions, we will confine our attention to a few of the more general causes of disagreement in married life. It has seemed to me that these might be summed up as follows :

1. *The ignorance of women in the conduct of households.*
2. *The lack of sympathy between men and women.*
3. *The lack of proper respect, in both men and women, for womanly employments.*
4. *The lack of business training in women.*
5. *The failure, on the part of the husband, to respect the wife's ownership of herself.*
6. *Habits of dissipation.*
7. *The undue idealism with which young people enter married life.*
8. *The interference of outsiders.*
9. *Finances.*
10. *The balance of power now resting in the hands of the husband.*

For the cause and remedy of almost all of these sources of trouble, we must go back to a period of life preceding maturity, and in so doing, we must hold mothers accountable. It is my earnest belief that these mothers have the power to abolish marital unhappiness, and I trust that the day is not very far distant, when they will come to a full realization of their privileges and responsibilities in this very respect.