

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 530

House of Representatives, April 4, 1919.

Ordered, That 500 copies of Representative Hinckley's presentation speech, Mrs. Farrington's reply, and Speaker Farrington's reply be printed for the use of the members of the Legislature. Read and passed.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN

Mr. HINCKLEY of South Portland: Mr. Speaker, it seems indeed fitting at this time that we should turn aside from the turmoil of busy life, and take just one brief moment and think of more serious things. I recall the words of that courtly and scholarly gentleman, Sir William Jones, when he said:

“What constitutes a State?

Not high raised battlements or labored mounds;

Thick walls or moated gates;

Nor cities proud with spires and turrets crowned;

Nor broad and armored ports

Where laughing at the winds rich navies ride;
Nor starred and spangled courts
Where low-browed baseness wafts perfume to pride;
But men! High minded men!
With powers as far above dull brutes indued
In forest, brake, or den
As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles rude;
Men who their duties know but know their rights
And knowing, dare maintain."

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the one who penned these lines did not fully appreciate and recognize the important place that woman occupies in matters of State. A boy's greatest heritage is a good mother; a man's greatest asset is a good wife. Nobody knows how; nobody knows when; nobody knows where, but sometime, somehow and somewhere, there comes inevitably into the life of every man that intangible, indescribable something we call love.

Men, it means much to all of us, and as we go down through the days and years we appreciate and realize what it means more and more. It grips a man; it binds a man; it enslaves a man; but by this very enslavement he becomes more the master of himself.

Mr. Speaker and gentlemen, it gives me pleasure at this time, in appreciation of the high regard and respect we have for woman in general, and for the wife of our distinguished Speaker in particular, to present to Mrs. Farrington this token

of our love and esteem. (Prolonged applause; the members rising.)

(Mr. Hinckley then presented a basket of flowers to Mrs. Farrington, and introduced her to the House.) (Applause.)

(Mr. Hinckley continuing) These red roses suggest the passion of your love; the white roses the purity of your life, and their fragrance, the sweetness of your domestic life; and as the years go by, and as your distinguished husband further climbs the ladder of success, I hope that you will remember, as your responsibilities and duties increase and become more arduous, that one hundred and fifty men of this House are ever thinking of you, and wishing you Godspeed. (Applause.)

Mrs. FARRINGTON: I do not know how I can properly thank you for all that this means; but I shall treasure this honor to the last days of my life. I thank you all. (Applause.)

The SPEAKER: Your Speaker just wants to add one word of thanks for this; and while the fragrance of the flowers may fade away, the memory of you splendid fellows will never die. (Prolonged applause; the members rising and giving three cheers.)