



JOHN KNOX
At 60, a solemn old man

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the meeting of the General Assembly.

and was troubled
by the pamphlet John

Knox is alleged to have written and handed to his wife on the morning of her marriage. I have forgotten the title of that production, but the subject was the wife's duty (or duties) to her husband. Knox would be then in his 60's, and his wife about 16.

Now I have never seen that pamphlet, and have no proof that it exists and that Knox was its author. But since I first read about it many years ago I have found it an effort to pay my debts to Knox, and without the help of Carlyle I might have found it impossible. Yet all the incident proves, if it happened, is that Knox at 60 was a solemn old man. It does not make him a fool, as every man is who undertakes to teach his wife.

Knox was not a fool, and even in his old age would have seen the joke in teaching his wife how to live without him. There was much that he did not know about women, and much that he did not allow himself to know, but he did know with what determination they survive their husbands, with what resilience they remake their lives when fate temporarily wrecks them, and with what patient courage they endure us while they must. I don't know how cheerful women were when marriage meant enduring their husbands through all eternity—crossing the Styx in the same boat whether they wanted to be passengers or not, and attending to all their husband's ghostly needs as promptly as they served him on earth. It was not worth learning to be widows when widowhood lasted a few minutes. But it is as necessary today to teach wives to be widows as it is to teach grandmothers to suck eggs. They know all about it far better than we can teach them. (To be continued)

The Dead Sea Scrolls

WHEN a shepherd boy found some scrolls in a cave near the Dead Sea, he startled the scholastic world. As other caves yielded up further material, a picture emerged of a pre-Christian community whose practices closely resembled Christian teachings and whose literature throws considerable light on the background of the Bible. For the BBC the Rev. H. H. Rowley, Professor of Semitic Languages and Literature at the University of Manchester, discussed the significance of the scrolls. His talk will be heard from 1YA on Sunday, December 1, and from 3YA on Tuesday, November 26.

N.Z. LISTENER, NOVEMBER 22, 1957.

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