

THE ADDRESS TO THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM

by the ARCHBISHOP OF YORK

IN the presence of this congregation and in the hearing of an invisible audience in all parts of the world, you have now become man and wife.

Notwithstanding the splendour and national significance of the service in this Abbey, it is in all essentials the same as it would be for any cottager who might be married this afternoon in some small country church in a remote village in the dales.

The same vows are taken; the same prayers are offered; and the same blessings are given.

Everywhere and always this service is built round the taking of vows and the receiving of a blessing.

You have made this great promise willingly and gladly because you have given yourselves to each other in unselfish love. Love must always be unselfish, and unselfishness is the true secret of a happy married life.

It means thoughtfulness and patience; ready sympathy and forbearance; talking over and sharing together the special interests and cares which each of you will have. And thus you will learn to bear one another's burdens as you walk on the road of life, making the journey together with happiness and hope.

Through this unselfishness while you are helping each other and are together in your own home, you will be able to make your home an oasis of peace and quiet in midst of a life which is certain to be crowded with public duties, and which will often be interrupted by exacting claims upon your time.

A happy and unselfish home life of your own will enable you to enter more readily into the joys and sorrows of a people who have a deep and instinctive love for their homes.

But this service is much more than the taking of solemn vows. It is one of blessing. For it is only through God's help that you can keep the promises you have made. Let Him always be the Unseen Guest in your home.

So, with high and confident hope for all that this day means for yourselves and the nation, we send you forth from the Abbey to the great crowds outside who are eagerly waiting to welcome you as man and wife.

May God's unfailing love always surround and protect you. May He, day by day, now and always, give you joy in all your married life, every blessing, peace and happiness.