

PRISM / CHASUBLE

PRISM: You are too much alone, Dr. Chasuble. You should get married. A misanthrope I can understand – a womanthrope, never!

CHASUBLE: (with a scholar's shudder) Believe me, I do not deserve so neologistic a phrase. The precept as well as the practice of the Primitive Church was distinctly against matrimony.

PRISM: (sententiously) That is obviously the reason why the Primitive Church has not lasted up to the present day. And you do not seem to realize, dear Doctor, that by persistently remaining single, a man converts himself into a permanent public temptation. Men should be more careful; this very celibacy leads weaker vessels astray.

CHASUBLE: But is a man not equally attractive when married?

PRISM: No married man is ever attractive except to his wife.

CHASUBLE: And often, I've been told, not even to her.

PRISM: That depends on the intellectual sympathies of the woman. Maturity can always be depended on. Ripeness can be trusted. Young women are green. I spoke horticulturally. My metaphor was drawn from fruits. But where is Cecily?

CHASUBLE: Perhaps she followed us to the schools.