

This is the Question

Marry

Children—(if it Please God)—Constant companion, (& friend in old age) who will feel interested in one—To be beloved & played with—better than a dog anyhow.—Charms of music & female chit-chat.—These things good for one's health.—Forced to visit relations but terrible loss of time.—(But then it is very bad for ones health to work too much.)—My God, it is intolerable to think of spending ones whole life, like a neuter bee, working, working, & nothing after all.—No, no won't do.—Only picture to yourself a nice soft wife on a sofa with good fire, & books & music perhaps...

Not Marry

No children, (no second life), no one to care for one in old age.—What is the use of working without sympathy from near & dear friends—Freedom to go where one liked— choice of Society & little of it.—Conversation of clever men at clubs.—Not forced to visit relatives, & to bend in every trifle.—anxiety & responsibility—less money for books—perhaps quarreling—Loss of time.—Cannot read in the Evenings—fatness & idleness—Perhaps my wife won't like London—the dingy reality of Grt. Marlbro' St.—Imagine living all one's day solitarily in smoky dirty London House.

Marry—Marry—Marry: Q.E.D.

—Charles Darwin, *personal diary entry, 1839*
carefully weighing the prospect of marriage

Text: Charles Darwin
(1809–1882)

This is the Question

Music: Karim Al-Zand
(2023)

Ad Libitum
hesitant, a confidence p

Mar - ry, ————— Not mar - ry: ————— this — is the ques - tion.

p swiftly

④ Calm ♩ = 88 (*character 1: deliberate, later emotional*)

Child - ren ————— (if it please God) —————

mf cantabile

⑧ Restless ♩ = 56 (*character 2: apprehensive, later impatient*)

No child - ren, (no sec - ond life) no one to care for one in old

R.H. molto legato sempre
flowing

age. ————— Con - stant com - pan - ion, ————— (and friend in old age) who will feel

in - ter - es - ted in one ————— What is the use of work - ing with - out sym - pa - thy

18 *poco f*
 from near and dear friends— To be be-loved, to be be-loved and

22 *p* *mf* *carefree*
 played with— bet-ter than a dog an-y-how— Free-dom to go where one liked— choice of So-ci-e-ty and lit-tle

26 *loving*
 of it.— Con-ver-sa-tion of clev-er men at clubs.— Charms of

30 *p* *f*
 mus-ic— and fe-male chit-chat.— These things good for one's health.— Forced to vis-it re-la-tions but ter-ri-ble loss of

33 *mf*
 time.— Not forced to vis-it rel-a-tives, and to bend in ev-'ry tri-fle.— anx-

37 *cresc.* *f*

- i - e - ty and re - spon - si - bil - i - ty — less mon - ey for books, — per - haps quar - rel - ling — Loss of time.

42 *mp*

(But then it is ver - y bad — for one's health — to work too much.)—

45 *cresc.*

My God, it is in - tol - 'ra - ble to think of spend - ing — one's whole life — like a neu - ter bee,

48 *f* *mf*

work - ing, work - ing, and noth - ing af - ter all. — Can - not read in the ev - 'nings — fat - ness

52

and i - dle - ness — Per - haps my wife won't like Lon - don — the din - gy re - al - i - ty of

56 $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\text{♩} = 112)$ *p* r-2 r-2 *mp* r-2 r-2

Great Marl-bro' street.— Im-ag-ine liv-ing all one's day

sub. p *molto legato* *cresc.*

60 *mf* 4:3 $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\text{♩} = 88)$ *f* *b*

sol - i - tar - y in smok - y dirt - y Lon - don House.

f

64 *allargando* *p* r-3 *sub. p*

No, — no — won't do.— On-ly pic-ture to your-self a nice soft wife on a so-fa with

68 *rit.* *Ad Libitum; as before*

good fire, and books and mu - sic — per-haps... Mar - ry—

71 *ritenuto* *pp*

Mar - ry— Mar - ry: — Q. — E. — D. —

pp

[3'40"]