

Correspondents writing over assumed signatures must make known their names to the Editor, or no attention will be given to their communications.

DIVORCE.

When asked if we believe in the law and principle of divorce we must emphatically answer, "No!" True marriage is indissoluble, eternal; a science as indefinable, as intangible, and as necessary to the happiness of humanity as are the inexorable laws of attraction and repulsion which together operate to sustain the wonders of infinitude.

Believing, as, knowing this to be true, we cannot advocate the principle of free divorce. But humanity so often errs that it seems that people seldom reach the ultimate of human happiness—the grand soul-center of a perfect union. Hence, many discord arise in the existing marriage relation which seem to make the enforcing of irrevocable laws impossible. As long as false marriages are made, just so long will it be found necessary, in many cases, to regulate those bonds.

When a man of forty, thirty, or even twenty-five, marries a child of fourteen, one of the great harmonious laws of human life is shamefully violated, and the result is subjugation on one hand and despotism upon the other. Sooner or later this state of things is manifested, and the victims of misnamed matrimony must pay a fearful penalty.

When a helpless woman, the mother of numerous children, only less helpless than herself, becomes the victim of a besotted wretch, who disgraces the name of husband, it is indeed a cruel mockery of justice to keep her in his power.

When a man neglects his family for the gambling table, the billiard room, the "melocon," the rink, or even the rostrum, the pulpit, the legislature, or club, or lodge, or Congress, habitually leaving them in discomfort, and oftentimes in want, it seems hard, indeed, if she can have neither claim upon nor divorce from such a monstrosity; yet, we reiterate we cannot advocate free divorce. The immediate consequences are too fearful, too glaring; the opportunities given to men and women to marry without reflection, or with no intention of holding to their vows for life; the fearful wrong that would thus accrue to children; the many deserted wives; the many desolate firesides, all combine to cry out against the flagrant injustice of removing the marital responsibility. We believe that, instead of advocating free divorce, it is the duty of everybody who possesses one spark of human philanthropy to advocate no marriage except those that are based upon the most ordinary principles of common sense. Let people act with as much judgment in choosing companions for life as they exhibit in pairing off and perpetuating different races of animals. Let our laws, which, to be perfect and harmonious, must be made by husbands and women, be so framed and enforced that children of tender years may not be permitted to marry. Let drunkenness, infatuation, idleness and utter poverty become legal barriers to matrimony. All these are evils which may be remedied or diseases that may be cured. Let such people wait till they can come up to such a legal standard as the best wisdom of harmonious law—which always measures made by the combined wisdom of both sexes—shall establish, regulate and enforce. Let people who are disengaged, by long-nourished vice, from becoming fathers and mothers of healthy, happy and sprightly children, be denied the boon of marriage. It will be a curse to them instead of a blessing. Those who sow the wind must reap the whirlwind.

But the husband or wife who is struggling to break the bonds that he or she may now endure, will find small conciliation in the above regulations, which indeed do come too late for them. To assist us in kindness and consideration, we beg you to endure the bonds. Intemperance, which is an evil has been the bane of so many unfortunate women and children, is a disease and should be treated as such. The victim should be cared for by the State as are the unfortunate inmates of any asylum for the insane. If they are able to work, their labor should be for the benefit of their families; and their wives should have no more right to divorce than wives of other victims of monomania.

The woman who wakes to knowledge of her bedding but despised womanhood, after having lived for years in lawful adultery with a man, who dared, under sanction of law, to outrage the delicacy of her childhood, is more to be pitied than any. The marriage of such children is too often the result of the scheming of older people; probably parents, whose stupidity and ignorance, alike inexhaustible and culpable, have wrecked the life of the child whom they should have shielded. Hard indeed is the fate of such, but we do not see how they could better their condition by divorce. Let them assert their newly awakened womanhood and command the respect of the spoiler, who deserves not the title of husband, and let such husbands know that the day of their dominion over them has passed away. Let them not desert such husbands; too often that is what they want; but let them, for their own and their children's sake, endure unto the end, training their children into a knowledge of the fundamental laws of common humanity, that thereby they, at least, may escape the miseries of conjugal misery and disease and shame.

THEY'RE GETTING OVER THEIR BOAR.

We have been much amused since the advent of our paper by the exhibition of tropidion upon the part of so many husbands. They imagine that the New Northwest is going to take their wives away from them! Who ever heard of anything so ridiculous? Why, brethren, we have been the faithful wife of one man for almost a score of years, and intend not only to remain his wife until death doth part us, but we shall do all in our power to persuade your wives to stay with you. We have no doubt but many of you feel that your wives ought, in justice to themselves, to leave you and care for themselves and children a respectable living; but instead of our counselling them to do so, we shall content ourselves with doing all in our power to enlarge their opportunities to benefit their families, not even excluding their frightened lords. We really were not before aware that so many men imagine that they hold their wives by power rather than by love and high and holy principle. Numbers of men who have read our paper are astonished that they find nothing in it that is destined to destroy the marriage relation; and have gratified their wives by subscribing for it like gentlemen; others are reading it a while on trial, and we are smitten that all of them, who have one particle of claim to the holy relationship of matrimony, will yet appreciate the work we have inaugurated for their welfare.

FASHIONS FOR LADIES.

This topic will always command a great deal of public attention. That "there is no great harm without some degree of accompanying good" may be said of the changing fashion with more truth than can be said of any other apparent folly. When we think of the scores of thousands of people who are kept in employment by the demands for artificial flowers, we rejoice that they are so fashionable, so plenty and becoming; and we are almost ready to consider the wearer a sort of public philanthropist, although she may not have a thought beyond her personal gratification. When we note the fact that thousands and tens of thousands of women and children earn their bread by the manufacture of straw hats and bonnets, we are glad to see the demand increased.

When we think of the durability, convenience and health that accompany the small hoop skirt (which fashion has tried in vain to banish), we rejoice that by their manufacture thousands of people earn a livelihood.

So of the manifold varieties of passementerie, fringes, buttons, ornaments, cords, loops, gimpes and what not, that are exhibited and sold by merchants everywhere. We are glad that these things are worth, though we by no means approve of unnecessary extravagance.

Inhabitants of many localities. We are glad that ladies use them. The same may be said of parasols, embroideries, lace, ribbons and cheap jewelry.

We hope that gentlemen will not infer from the above remarks that we are at all disposed to favor their follies for the sake of the public weal. Tobacco and whisky do give employment to thousands—we won't deny it—but their use is demoralizing to a fearful extent, far in excess of any good that may accrue to the manufacturers, who may, if they choose, raise cotton instead of tobacco and bread in lieu of rum. We don't object to their canes, and rings, and open glasses, and beaver hats, and lavender kids, and killing neckties. They are poor beneficiaries when they pay the cash for these, but when they so largely patronize other follies, for which we all pay double taxes, we think it poorly becomes them to deride that public philanthropy which has for its title the Philanthropy for the Ladies.

CORRESPONDENCE.

This department of the New Northwest is to be a general vehicle for exchange of ideas concerning any and all matters that may be legitimately discussed in our columns. Finding it practically impossible to answer each correspondent by private letter, we adopt this mode of communication to save our friends the disappointment that would otherwise accrue from our inability to answer their queries. We cordially invite everybody that has a question to ask, a suggestion to make, or a scolding to give to contribute to the Correspondents' Column.

W. W. is informed that his or her questions will be answered when he or she makes known his or her name and address to the editor of this paper. This rule is arbitrary.

Ladies, we reiterate our last week's assertion. The Herald is converted. Seriously, if men are as unstable, illogical and inconsistent as the Herald admits, it is not to be wondered at that they thus fear the political equality of woman; neither is it desirable that they should be permitted to hold the balance of power. No wonder they get into political muds, fratricidal wars and corrupt corporations. They are, by the Herald's showing, incapable of even governing themselves. Are these the things to govern women?

LETTER FROM EAST PORTLAND.

Brunsch. They possess the advantage in their use by persons not able to afford them. Ladies' fans also occupy the skill and time of a large portion of the being ready to turn after one side is almost worn out. The difference in price is almost nothing.

"Enquire?" says: "What is a polo-naise?" It is a long sack cloak, generally half fitting at the back, with coat sleeves and buttons.

Minnie: Changeable silks are again becoming fashionable.

"An amateur musician" says: "Can you explain the meaning of the words 'misere' and 'contra-alto' that occur in your very interesting serial story?" We don't know whether you would like to take a little fun at us or not; but we do suggest that you procure a dictionary of musical terms. Prof. McGilley or the Vieuxtemps Brothers will give you the desired information. Glad you like the serial.

Farmer's wife: No; we do not think it pays for the mother of little children to spend her time in knitting. We've done "lots" of it, and must acknowledge that it never "paid." Knitting, though apparently light work, is really very trying upon the muscles of the arms and back. Men never fritter away their lives at such work. That is one reason why they have so much strength. Sell your wool and buy stockings. We can get them at wholesale prices for a trifle more than the worth of the raw material. Jacob Mayer has "loads" of them.

Merchant: We have looked through the store of Goldsmith Brothers and find that they have an immense stock. If they'd advertise with us we'd like to put them; but they don't. Get your goods of Jacob Mayer. He keeps an excellent stock and is very accommodating.

Other letters will be answered next week.

EAST PORTLAND, Oregon, May 25th, 1871.

Editor New Northwest:

The advent of your newspaper is well timed; it demonstrates a somewhat-disputed fact, that the world does move, and that we live in an age of progress. It is an event worthy of commemoration, that in far off Oregon, the *Gem of the Pacific*, a daughter of Columbia has unfurled the banner of freedom, greeting her Atlantic sisters with the self-evident truth, that woman as well as man, was endowed by her creator "with natural and inalienable rights, amongst which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"Duty is the sublimest word in our language!"

"Human virtue should be equal to human charity."

Montesquieu truly observed: "The safety of a State depends on the virtue and intelligence of its women."

To write an essay upon woman, and do her impartial justice, is an imposing and delicate task. On no other subject have writers run into greater extremes or differed so widely. The most nauseating flattery, the keenest satire and the most vindictive animas have been showered upon her in copious effusions. She merits none of these. The man who flatters is apt to betray woman; and he who condemns the sex as a species, and is ever ready to express his contempt, shows that he has been unfortunate in his associations or his advances,—perhaps both—or that he has never been favored with the society of intelligent, refined women.

"What is life?"

"We're not to stalk about and draw fresh air From time to time, or pass upon the sun!"

Zenobius, a citizen of Corinth, purchased Diogenes when sold as a slave. He asked the tub philosopher what he could do. "Command freemen!" was the prompt and laconic reply, which so pleased his purchaser that he immediately set him at liberty. Independence, as is usual with true lovers of freedom, was a strong trait in the character of Diogenes. Alexander the Great once visited him in his tub, and asked him what favor he could bestow upon him. "Get out of my sunshine," was his quick and sarcastic answer. The conqueror of the world turned to his courtiers and said, "Were I not Alexander I should wish to be Diogenes."

"Get out of our sunshine!" we would respectfully suggest as a motto to be inscribed on the banner of the second Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. A voter myself, I give women a chance to have their own way, open the avenue of all legitimate trade and business, including the so-called "learned professions," to honorable competition; no discrimination on account of sex in representation or taxation. We are glad that already in many parts of our country the right and ability of women to engage in the learned professions is conceded; and in many instances they have honored their profession. The most distinguished doctors of medicine in obstetrical practice advise the employment of an accoucheuse, and we presume no intelligent man will doubt woman's capability to treat successfully all the diseases incident to her sex, when qualified by a medical education. That she is equally adapted to the professions of theology and the law we think will also be conceded when we take into consideration her well known appreciation of the cardinal virtues, faith, hope, charity and justice. Her quickness of perception has long been acknowledged, and we think her gift of gab? will not be disputed. This has proved successful in some of the most eminent and important branches of business, such as teaching, lecturing,

copying, merchandising, banking, telegraphing, type-setting, and even editing, has been demonstrated. We cite a case in point.—A lady of our acquaintance, about twenty-five years of age, has been in an office at the junction of two of the most important railroads in New England, where not less than seventy coupon tickets are daily sold for distant points, including San Francisco. She is also telegraph operator for that station, and has the reputation of being one of the best sound readers on the continent. Another marked feature in the case is that travelers always receive from her a prompt and civil answer to questions for information. So far, woman's capacity to grapple with the stern realities of life can no longer be questioned.

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"But what will become of the babies when their mothers are gone to election?" What becomes of them now when their mothers attend church and places of public resort? My brethren, it is for the purpose of reforming the abuses of society that we claim the ballot for woman. We regard it already reduced to the single question of expediency. Then let us put it to a practical test, or else stop our infantile piping about incapacity for the ballot.

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