

FIRESIDE MISCELLANY.

HUMAN BLINDNESS.

Human ways are hedged with doubting, Human hopes are built on sand; Though men stride on stilts of wisdom, What is it they understand?

Life?—Man lives in utter darkness, Ever groping for the light; What seems day when far before us, Turns at touch to ragless night.

Straining up the path of action, Thousands climb the heights of fame, Finding on the narrow summit Lesser joys than whence they came.

Love?—Men fall before an idol, Grasp a spark that glows to-day—Glow and burns and dies forever, Leaving ashes ured in clay.

Or, if ending earnest passion, Warm and steadfast as the sun, Raise it higher than their soul, and Lose it ere its truth be won.

Death?—A mystery unfathomed, All we know is that it is—That all creatures which inhabit God's great world must come to this.

He alone who gives and taketh Knows the endless good unseen In our coming and our going, And the life that lies between.

Life, and Love, and Death are Nature's; Far beyond their cycle lies Heaven's great ultima hidden From human thoughts and human eyes.

AN ITEM FOR EVERY MAN,

We have probably all of us met with instances in which a word heedlessly spoken against the reputation of a female has been magnified by malicious minds until the cloud has become dark enough to overshadow her whole existence. To those who are accustomed—not necessarily from bad motives, but rather from thoughtlessness—to speak lightly of females, we recommend the following hints as worthy of consideration: "Never use a lady's name in an improper place or at an improper time, or in mixed company. Never make assertions about her that you feel she herself would blush to hear. When you meet with men who do not scruple to make use of a woman's name in a reckless or unprincipled manner, shun them, for they are the worst members of the community—men lost to every sense of honor, every feeling of humanity. Many a good and worthy woman's character has been forever ruined, and she herself heart-broken by a lie manufactured by a villain, and repeated where it should not have been, and in the presence of those whose littleness of soul and imbecile judgment could not deter them from circulating the foul and bragging report. A slander is soon propagated, and the smallest thing derogatory to a woman's character will fly on the wings of the wind, and magnify as it circulates, until its monstrous weight crushes the poor unconscious victim. Respect the women, for your wife, mother and sisters are women; and as you would have their fair fame untarnished, and their life unembittered by the slanderer's tongue, heed the ill that your own words may bring upon the mother, the sisters or the wife of some fellow-creature."

ANTHONY TROLLOPE ON MARRIAGE.

—Marriage is a woman's one career, let women rebel against the edict as they may; and though there may be word rebellion here and there, women learn the truth early in their lives. And women know it later in life when they think of their girls; and men know it, too, when they have to deal with their daughters. Girls, too, now acknowledge aloud that they have learned the lesson, and Saturday Reviewers and others blame them for their lack of modesty in doing so—most unreasonably, most uselessly, and, as far as the influence of such censors may go, most perniciously. Nature prompts the desire, the world acknowledges its ubiquity, circumstances show that it is reasonable, the whole theory of creation requires it; but it is required that the person most concerned should falsely repudiate it in order that a mock modesty may be maintained which no human being can believe! Such is the theory of the censors who deal heavily with our Englishwomen of the present day. Our daughters should be educated to be wives, but, forsooth! they should never wish to be wooed! The very idea is but a remnant of the tawdry sentimentality of an age in which the manly insipidity of the women was the reaction from the vice of that preceding it. That our girls are in quest of husbands, and know well in what way their lines in life should be laid, is a fact which none can dispute. Let men be taught to recognize the same truth as regards themselves, and we shall cease to hear of the necessity of a new career for women.

An old bachelor who had become melancholy and poetical, wrote some verses for the village paper, in which he expressed the hope that the time would soon come when he should "rest calmly within an ehroud, with a weeping willow by his side;" but to his inexpressible horror, it came out in print— "When I shall rest calmly within a shawl, With a weeping willow by my side."

"When men break their hearts," remarks a cynical female writer, "it is the same as when a lobster breaks one of its claws—another sprouting out immediately and growing in its place."

A WOMAN'S KISS.

A ballet dancer, who turned the heads of the amorous gentlemen of the Russian capital last winter, is a native of Cracow, and reputed to be the illegitimate daughter of a Polish Count. She received presents by the score from her admirers, among whom was a very wealthy nobleman. He made her acquaintance and was charmed with her. He offered her a diamond he wore upon his finger for a kiss. She accepted, and he gladly gave her the jewel, believing, perhaps, with Ovid:

"Who gains a kiss and gains no more, Deserves to lose the bliss he got before."

His suit did not prosper, however, as he had hoped. At the end of a month he presented her with a second, and received a second salute, but beyond that he could not go.

At the end of the year he had parted with nearly all of his diamonds, and was as far from success as ever. Irritated by her stubbornness, he sought an interview and upbraided her for her resistance.

"I have no more diamonds to give you," he said.

"Then," she replied, "I have no more kisses."

"What am I to do? Your heart is made of ice. Give me some word of hope."

"I can't do that, but I'll give you a word of counsel."

"What is it?"

"Never buy your first kiss of a woman. If you do, though you be the Czar himself, you would be bankrupt before you reached her heart."

Not long since, in the vicinity of Utica, N. Y., a marriage was solemnized in a singular manner. As the parties to be married entered the parlor arm-in-arm, the clergyman met them midway in the room, when the bridegroom, taking the right hand of the bride, said: "We have promised to protect each other so long as we live. We intend now to be united, and hereafter to live together as husband and wife, and we have invited you to be present this evening to sanction our union according to the requirements of custom and the laws." The clergyman in reply, said: "By the authority I possess as a clergyman, and in the presence of these witnesses, I hereby (laying on his hand) recognize you as husband and wife in fulfillment of your promises." Prayer followed and the ceremony was ended.

Don't, my lad, be ashamed if you have a patch on your elbow. It is no mark of disgrace. It speaks well for your industrious mother. For our part, we would rather see a dozen patches on your jacket than hear one profane or vulgar word escape from your lips. No good boy will shun you because you cannot dress as well as your companions; and if a bad boy sometimes laughs at your appearance, say nothing, but walk on. We know many a rich and good man who was once as poor as you. There is one of our wealthiest men who told us a short time since that when a child he was glad to receive the cold potatoes from his neighbor's table.

Many years ago there lived in an Andalusian town a German toy-maker, who had a charming daughter. This young maiden was famous for her beauty and virtue, both of which attracted the attention and eventually won the love of the young son of the Count Montijo. She met his advances with the cry, "Marriage before love." His affection for her was an honest one, and in spite of his father's obstinate refusal he married her. The old Count refused the young pair any assistance, so that their sufferings promised to be very great. But the two elder brothers of the young husband dying, the old Count had but the prodigal child, whom he took back to his heart and purse. This Countess of Montijo was the mother of Eugenie of France.

A poor man who had a termagant wife, after a long dispute, in which she was resolved to have the last word, told her if she spoke one more crooked word, he'd beat her. "Why, then, ram's horn, you rogues," said she, "if I die for it!"

A young lady who went out with a rather timid young beau, one evening, complacently remarked to him that she never went out but she got chaps on her lips. The young man took the hint and—chapped.

A Michigan paper wants to know, "Will the coming woman be a man?" Probably not, but she will be as near a man as she can without damage—to man.

Jenny June asks, "Does a woman marrying a man named Hogg make a hog of herself, or does he do it?" We suppose they both do it.

Mrs. Yell cowered a Mr. Lay for not performing a promise to marry. As he wouldn't make her Lay, she made him Yell.

Don't trouble yourself to stretch your mouth any wider, said a dentist to his patient; I intend to stand outside to draw your tooth.

At the gate which suspicion enters, love goes out.

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