F & H Romance—I can sympathize with Cowboy in regard to loving and then giving her up and trying to forget her. My friend, I have been in the same trouble myself but have found someone else whom I love better than I did the first, and we became acquainted through the F & H. Last winter I made her a visit and found her as she represented herself to be, and we expect to be married this coming December if nothing turns up to prevent. One thing I would like to say for F & H—I wish to thank it for the letter circles, for if it had not been for them I would never have known the young lady and I would have missed the best part of my life in the future. Now, friend Cowboy, you go and see the young lady and you will be surprised to find how quick your love will change from the one you were engaged to to your new acquaintance, and you will soon forget her and be glad of it. Try the experiment and see if I am not telling you the truth. With best wishes for your success,—[Member of Letter Circle No 106.

Proved a Mother—Stepmothers, I will tell you something that perhaps will help you. I know of a family of children that were all school teachers. Their father married a woman younger than some of the children. She was a very nice lady, but they did not like her and would not call her mother. One of them came home on a visit and was taken sick with a fever. The stepmother did all that was possible for an own mother to do. Another daughter came to help take care of her sister, and she also was taken sick. Then was when the stepmother reached the sisters' hearts. After they were well, one of them was heard calling "Mother!" When asked why, she said, "She has proved herself a mother." So try in some way to prove that you intend to do by them as near right as possible.—[Mac.

Regal's Horror—E. M. H. in F & H for March 15 gives the reasons, as she sees them, for women becoming stepmothers. She entirely ignores the one reason, love, which is or ought to be the one reason for all other marriages, and why not for such? Cannot a woman marry a widower just as she would marry a bachelor, simply because she loves him, or thinks she does (it is all the same), and because he tells her he loves her? Does she not become a stepmother just as she becomes a daughter-in-law, because she cannot marry the man she loves without? How does a man dare ask a woman to marry him if the most he wants is a nurse for another woman's children? And how does any woman dare take the sacred place of wife without "the love which alone makes marriage holy?" If the man she marries has children needing a woman's care she should give it freely and kindly, as she should care for his parents if they need it. But no one would ask that she should love them better than her own father and mother. Girls, sisters everywhere, don't become a stepmother. If you must and will marry, marry a bachelor, whatever else he is.

THIS WILL INTEREST MANY.

F. W. Parkhurst, the Boston publisher, says that if any one afflicted with rheumatism in any form, or neuralgia, will send their address to him at Box 1501, Boston, Mass, he will direct them to a perfect cure. He has nothing to sell or give, only tells you how he was cured. Hundreds have tested it with success.—[Adv.

Marry a man who drinks even, if you must choose between such a one and a widower with children. I mean it. I had rather lay my fair young daughter in her grave than see her a drunkard's wife, but if I must choose, I would sooner she marry a drunkard than become a stepmother. There is no other horror in life equal to the horror that evil-minded stepchildren glory in making of the life of the woman so foolish as to place herself in their power.—[Regal.

Nature Studies—The country schools are poorly supplied and equipped. The farmers ought not to be contented with half-way teachers. They should demand teachers who can teach well nature studies. Teach such things and teach them well, and your boys and girls will soon become aware that country life is the ideal life. Let the broad light of modern science drive the mists from off the meadow and raise the veil from the hilltops, and our boys and girls will turn their eyes forever from the dim, false lights of the city's aurora. Introduce free text-books into the country schools, and be sure there are good botanics and insect and bird books among them. Furnish a few good microscopes ($1.50 apiece), and of all things require that your teachers understand teaching the habits and laws of nature and love the beauties of life all over the farm and meadow.—[Good Faith.

A Moral—Cowboy, please let that pony rest a moment while I relate to you a short, true story. A gentleman who had loved and lost asked a friend to be his wife, telling her he had no love to give, but had respect, confidence, a beautiful home and a good name to offer her. The reply was, "If I marry you I can only give respect and confidence, no love, as that has been given elsewhere." My! but he looked angry and dignified as he arose (six feet two) and politely informed her that it was not his intention to marry any woman unless she would promise to love him better than any other man. Was the lady at fault if she smiled? A short time ago a brother of said gentleman made this remark: "Joe is beginning to realize that the women are not as foolish as he thought, as he has failed to find one that is willing to give all and receive nothing." Tablers, was it selfishness, or has this story a moral? Bill of the Ark, which one of the eight are you, as the writers of the good book failed to mention you as a member of Noah's family, although the apples and berries are spoken of? A mere oversight. [S. T. S.

NATURE'S PAINT BOX.

Why is the sky so blue,
And why is the earth so green,
While the sunset clouds have a rosy hue,
The prettiest ever seen?

The flowers have a richer glow;
The roses, lilies and phlox
Choose colors that glow in a magic flow
From nature's great paint box.

Oh the wonderful ways of light!
Let some philosopher tell
How things delight in the rays so bright
To love and grow and dwell.

MARCIA IRENA BARNARD.

Cruel Parents—Girls, let me say to you if you want to see some pleasure before you die, do not marry while you are in your teens. Some of our girls around here were married when they were nothing but children, and I know they do not see much pleasure. Some parents think their children should marry whomever suits them, but I don't, for I think we "children" are the ones that have to live with the men. There was a young fellow paying some attention to me, so one evening we were at a party and he wanted to know if he might walk home with me. I let him come, but what did I get next day? The old folks just kicked awfully about it so I did not bring him home any more, but whenever we see one another we always have a good chat together. I hope the day will come when we will be together for life. He is just as nice a young fellow as you most ever see, but because some of his people had a hard name they looked down on him, too, then! Could you keep your thoughts from what might have been and be true to your wife? If you still love your old I do not think that is right, because every family has a black sheep in the flock and sometimes two and three of them.—[Elmira.

A Kind Word—How much of happiness to the human family is involved in being kind to others and receiving the same treatment from them. A kind word soothes, encourages and helps one at all times, especially when one is downcast, disheartened or disappointed. A smile, a kind word or deed is like a beam of sunshine in a cloudy day. Cross words irritate, foolish jests, if they do not do actual harm do no good to their author or the one they are meant for. Ill-natured words, innuendoes, unjust criticisms, have a blighting effect, and leave a bad impression upon the mind, and add no luster to the fame of their author.—[Philander C. Chaney.

Once More—Cowboy, your experience has been so identical with my own that I wish to give you the benefit of a glimpse inside a woman's heart. After several years' engagement to a man I loved and still love, through a misunderstanding and pride on my part, the engagement was broken. I know what you mean by the loneliness and the resignation that come with the years. I have sometimes thought if it had been the grave that was between us it would be easier to forget, but feeling in your inmost heart that someone else is lonely and trying to forget double the pain. Yet pride is stronger than all the emotions, conquering even love. Now, I know you want to be honest and true to the eastern lady. Ask your own heart this question. Would I ask her to be married if I could persuade my first love to resume her place? If the eastern lady should prove loyable and all that you expect of her, undoubtedly in time the first would become just a memory, but if in time you found you were even a little disappointed in her, God help you

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