

A BACHELOR'S VIEW OF MARRIAGE.

DEAR SIR,—I have just received a rather curious manuscript from an old acquaintance of mine hereabout, one Peter Carper, who lives a solitary life in a few rooms of the old Carper mansion just east of Cowley's Dyke. He is a singular character, well-read in literature and given to collecting walking-sticks and old music-boxes. In his younger days he was something of a society man, but is now averse to all companionship, and sour and cross-grained to a degree. He wishes me to forward the manuscript to you and tells me you propose to arrange a Symposium for next year's JOURNAL on the question, "Is Marriage a Failure?" the papers to be contributed by lovers, old bachelors, husbands and those who have been divorced, and to which his forms the preliminary essay. I do so, leaving the matter to your discretion; but I fancy the whole thing is one of the old fellow's vagaries. The philological treatment he falls into at the first step is an old habit with him, and is, perhaps, one source of his distorted views of life, terms having taken the place of real things in his mind. The accuracy of his statements I am not in a position to dispute, but the disquisition grows wearisome toward the end. His text from Shakspeare you will allow me to cap with another from the same source as apt to the man as his to the subject:

"Sure, sure, such carping is not commendable;
No; nor to be so odd and from all fashions."

"Much Ado," III: 2.

Your last number commends itself to all for its excellence, and I eagerly await the next. I have in hand the article you asked for, but have been delayed by several matters.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours most truly,

SAMUEL BADLEY.

Stobo, East Ridley.