

What Women Like in Husbands.

FROM THE WIVES' POINT OF VIEW.

THE *North American Review* follows up its "Study in Wives" by a "Study in Husbands." It publishes three articles, all by women, only one of whom, apparently, is married. The articles are written by Miss Marian Harland, Mrs. Burton Harrison, and Miss Elizabeth Bisland. The last is the only one which calls for notice. According to Miss Elizabeth Bisland, the following is the kind of man women wish to have as a husband, together with various hints as to his improvement after they have got him:—

"What every woman hopes for and desires in her mate is that he should be a man. Not merely a person of the masculine sex, nor a creature of impossible

show of effort, in the matter of externals and in courtesy of daily speech, will sometimes go to the heart of a wife, when a gift of value, or a concession of points in dispute between them leave it cold and untouched. The American wife, accustomed as she is to free range of thought and action, to admiration of her spirited achievements, to good-humored indulgence of her "fads," does not, as a rule, receive from her husband the *petits soins* M. Max O'Rell speaks about as distinguishing the manner of a French husband to his wife."

In closing, Miss Bisland refers to some current complaints concerning women, in a passage which may be read with advantage by a good many of those critics:—

"We heard no complaints from him some generation or more ago, when he first began to shift the burden of life upon the shoulders of his women. He thought there was something very noble in their desire for independence, their wish to relieve him of responsibility. Alas! after a decade or two, these women who had accepted men's duties began to demand a

pancy such as this on the part of the author of "The Evidences of Christianity"; but after a week spent in the gay world of London, dining with Madame de Staël, and sharpening his wits by contact with gifted and intellectual people, he records in his diary the resolution to deny himself such stimulus in the future, lest it might prove hurtful to his contentment in domestic life. Now, we believe, that if the great anti-slavery apostle had exerted himself to entertain Mrs. Willerforce, if husbands generally were to talk a little more upon subjects of wide interest at home, and were to force conversation on other lines than those of physical ailments and material wants, there would be no such painful contrast or danger from excursions similar to those which the good man made into the world of vivid thought and interest. Indeed, we half suspect, in the case of Mr. Willerforce, as certainly in other instances, that in his eagerness to please in London society, he exhausted his vitality to the point that he was completely talked out, and in consequence was dull at home."—*Review of Reviews.*



ARCH ROCK.

and conflicting virtues, but one in whom the elements are so blended that within the strong circle of his virility she finds space to develop the best of all her possibilities. Her ideal husband is distinctly a jealous husband, not, of course, to the point of being a vain, uneasy fool, but sufficiently so to prove to his wife that he values her. Her ideal husband regards her neither as mistress, chum, nor servant. Her motherhood raises her in his eyes above all three. She is something different from himself, the embodiment of his finer sentiments, his emotional life. Nevertheless this nice person is not uxorious. While he assumes all the rougher share of life he is extremely exacting of her within her sphere, and demands the very best exertion of her powers. He is not content to be bundled into a hotel because she is too lazy or helpless to deal with domestic difficulties. He will not put up with cold and niggardly affection, with a neglected mind or person.

"He should appear more with her in public; wear less of the air of a martyr led to the stake when in attendance on her before the world; and pay more heed at home to the trifling observances of convention and dress and manner that are so provokingly important to the happiness of most women. A very small

share of his privileges as well, and suddenly all those bright angelic traits assumed the outlines of a hybrid monster, and he raised a loud alarm, which only increases in hysterical intensity as her demands grow more comprehensive. It is the selfish, inferior man, who falls below the ideal, who is responsible for the unpleasant developments in modern woman. She finds a strong, if unexpressed, sentiment in the family now that the girls upon reaching maturity must follow the boys into the world and assume their own support. The brothers decline to be hampered in the struggle for life by their sisters, and even a large moiety of the modern husbands are active in their encouragement of their wives' efforts to help gain the daily bread. No wonder that the woman, finding herself forced to work, insists upon having room to do it in."

The writer upon "Romance after Marriage," in the *New England Magazine*, makes the following observations on one difficulty in married life:—

"Good men and men of ability have occasionally said things which throw a flood of light upon some of the difficulties of married people. Paley once said to Willerforce: "Who ever talks to his wife?" The philanthropist at the time was much shocked at flip-

Thank the Children.

THEY run on our errands, upstairs for our books and slippers, our thimbles, our new magazines; down stairs to tell the servants this thing or that; over the way to carry our parcels; to the post-office with our letters.

They leave their work or play a dozen times in a morning to do something to oblige us who are grown up bigger, and liable to be less absorbingly occupied than they are.

No game of politics or business in after life will ever be so important to the man as the ball and top to the little lad; and no future enjoyment of the little girl will ever be greater in degree and kind than her present in her dolls and play-house; yet Johnnie and Jennie fly at our bidding, arresting themselves in mid-career of the play which is their present work, and alas! half the time we quite overlook our own obligation to be grateful. We do not say, "I thank you." And because we do not say it, we make it difficult for them to be as polite, as simple, courteous as otherwise they would be by nature, and the imitation which is second nature to all children.