

HOUSEHOLD.

Companionship in Marriage.

I believe in the promises of nature; I believe that in every want there is the promise of a possible satisfaction. If we are hungry there is food somewhere, if we are thirsty there is drink. But in the things of the world there is often an indication of order rather than a realization of it; so that in the confusion of accidents the hungry man may be starving in a beleaguered city, and the thirsty man parched in the Sahara. All that the wants indicate is, that their satisfaction is possible in nature. Let us believe that for everyone the true mate exists somewhere in the world. She is worth seeking for at any cost of trouble or expense, worth travelling round the globe to find, worth the endurance of labor and pain and privation.

Men suffer all this for objects of far inferior importance; they risk life for the chance of a ribbon, and sacrifice leisure and peace for the smallest increase of social position. What are these vanities in comparison with the priceless benefit, the continual blessing, of having with you always the one person whose presence can deliver you from all the evils of solitude, without imposing the restraints and hypocrisies of society? With her you are free to be as much yourself as when alone; you say what you think and she understands you. Your silence does not offend her; she only thinks their will be time enough to talk together afterwards! You know that you can trust her love, which is as unflinching as a law of nature. The differences of idiosyncrasy that exist between you only add interest to your intercourse by preventing her from becoming a mere echo of yourself. She has her own ways, her own thoughts that are not yours, and yet are all open to you, so that you no longer dwell in one intellect only, but have constant access to a second intellect probably more refined and elegant, richer in what is delicate and beautiful. There you make unexpected discoveries; you find that the first instinctive preference is more than justified by merits that you had not divined. You had hoped and trusted vaguely that there were certain qualities; but as a painter who looks long at a natural scene is constantly discovering new beauties whilst he is painting it, so the long and loving observation of a beautiful human mind reveals a thousand unexpected excellencies.

Then come the trials of life, the sudden calamities, the long and wearing anxieties. Each of these will only reveal more clearly the wonderful endurance, fidelity and fortitude, that is in every noble feminine nature, and so build up on the foundation of your early love an unshakable edifice of esteem and respect and love commingled, for which, in our modern tongue, we have no single term, but what our forefathers called 'worship.'—Philip Gilbert Hamerton.

City vs. Country.

Really, I think it is too bad—all the pitying we get, just because we happen to be farmers' wives, when not more than half of us need it. I was city born and bred, and always had an idea that a farmers' wife was to be pitied. I supposed they led lonesome lives always drudging, never from home, in

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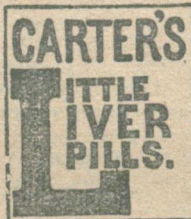
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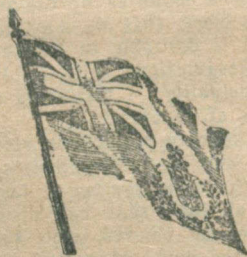
short, living somewhat as a convict does, in prison, at hard work for life.

I vowed that never would I marry a farmer, and I didn't, but here I am, living on a farm, My John was born and brought up on a farm, but like most farmers' sons, thought the old farm too 'slow,' so it was in the city we met and were wed. As his salary was not a large one, we had to contrive all sorts of ways to make ends meet. The only house we could get, near his work, was one of five rooms, in a block, at fifteen dollars a month. The rule is, that three feet make a yard, but we didn't have even one foot. Our front door opened on the street, our back door on the alley. Had to carry all our wood and coal up from the basement. When I washed I had to carry my clothes up two flights to the roof, to dry them. All your farmers' wives can imagine how white they were, with the smoke from the chimneys blowing upon them. I felt like crying every time I took them from the line. Here I can spread clothes over two or three sections of land, and how sweet and fresh they smell!

Of course, the city has some advantages, such as the bargain counter, etc., but you see we have no need of those things to tempt our purses. I am more than content since we came to North Dakota and took up our claim, and I wish more young people, now working for a few dollars a week in the city, and liable to be told any Saturday night their services are no longer needed, would strike out for themselves and do likewise. I know their trials. It is a constant worry, work and fret to keep up appearances. Here we let appearances go, and do the best we can with what we have.

My John is a firm believer in Woman's Rights; that is, her right to have good tools to work with. I have a washing machine, wringer, barrel churn, and what so many women lack, a good cook stove, also a sewing

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machine. I neither milk, chop nor bring in wood, carry water nor empty slops. Those things are all done for me. I look after the chickens in summer, not in winter. As I have only a two-roomed cabin to keep clean. I have plenty of time for reading, doing fancy work, and amusing my three-year old. He helps Mamma by keeping his playthings in order, and always has to do his share of the churning, or be heart broken in consequence.

To crown it all, think of the pure air, such as we never breathe in the city. And it's all free, too, no tax on it, so we poor farmers' wives can use all we need of it. Again, we have plenty of room to stretch, and swing our arms without striking our neighbors. I can sing, or scream, at the top of my voice, and run no risk of being arrested for disturbing the peace. When a meal is ready, I go to the door, and give a regular warwhoop, and feel all the better for the exercise.—'Housekeeper.'

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