

tween similar trees and ferns and flowers, beast and birds, and insects.

Why, then, not assist both eyes at once, and let them work together as Nature intended them to do? Why seek an ally that is so treacherous and has so many enemies as the single glass? Simply because its patrons—at least those whose brows are so formed as to favour its use and to obviate contortions and the premature growth of wrinkles—find its merits outweigh its defects.

In the first place, it fits more closely to the eye than the double glass possibly can. Hence, on an average, quite as much of the horizon is visible at a glance through the former as through the latter instruments, for, while its range is more contracted at one side, owing to the obstruction of the nose, at the other side it covers a large space that would be uncovered by a double glass. From the same cause, the single glass becomes useful in clouds of dust, enabling its wearer to keep one eye open. Again, the single glass is steady and free from that vibratory motion which, often unperceived except by its effect, seriously mars the usefulness of the double glass, especially in a wind or when the wearer has suddenly moved his head. That one eye can see almost, if not quite, as well as two anybody, with or without glasses, can ascertain for himself by shutting one eye. The strain on the sight is not so constant when you wear a single glass as when you wear a double one. From the greater ease and quickness with which it can be dropped, you will not keep it nearly so long in your eye. You can bring it into action in a second, and

can drop it without raising your hand. At elections, and on other imaginable occasions, this facility might prove specially valuable by preventing the glass being broken in your eye. It certainly a favourite threat with loafers and small boys to smash your — glass or glasses. The same comparative merit of the single glass makes it the easier to wipe. Lastly, when you really have occasion to cut an acquaintance, a single eye-glass makes you some slight amends for the many wanton 'cuts' you may have been falsely accused of. Artistically used, it conveys to your late friend the assurance that he is both seen and ignored; it steadies your facial nerves throughout the ordeal; it adds to your calmness and to his embarrassment; it makes you look cool and makes him feel chilled.

On these conveniences, actual and possible, to its wearer the defence of the maligned 'quizzing-glass' must rest. Only fops or fools can really think that any fancied superiority in point of 'style' or 'form' is at all an equivalent for the decided, if ignorant, prejudices existing against it and the frequent misconceptions it creates.

On the whole, spectacles seem the most sensible and satisfactory aids to short-sight. They are steadier and fit closer than double glasses. Few young myopes who, undeterred by 'The Adventures of Mr. Verdant Green,' are philosophical enough to disregard a slight appearance of seriousness or austerity, will regret adopting 'gig-lamps.' On some noses the double, on some eyes the single, eye-glass is heavily handicapped; but nearly everybody can wear spectacles.