

Cosy Corner Chats With Our Girls.

"My wish . . . that womankind had but one rosy mouth, to kiss them all at once from north to south."

(This department is edited by Cousin Ruth who will be glad to hear from our girl readers. Address all letters, suggestions, comments, questions to "Cousin Ruth," Ladies Pictorial Weekly, etc.)

THE cousins this week are like the nine little Indians, just that many and no more. First is "Chic," with her straightforward sensible four sheets, all about platonic friendship, which she started off to defend after reading my answer to "Florence." By the way, allow me to introduce you two, Florence and Chic; one away down in the Southern States, and the other up in a pretty Canadian city, not very far from Toronto. Two clever, level-headed girls, especially you "Chic" who have the advantage in age, and also, by your own confession, in experience. Indeed, Chic dear, Florence never doubted the existence of platonic friendship. She only wanted to know if it would be likely to flourish under the circumstances she detailed—or something of that sort. I am so glad you've found men good friends; so have I, and the best friends of my life have been men, and some of them I would rather have died than married, so there! (I suppose its no harm to confess that those "some" were married already). This gives me the strongest proof of the genuineness of her platonic friendship, when she tells how one of her man friends came to tell her of his engagement, and receive her congratulations. That is a tester, Chic! Because even though you don't want him yourself, you often feel a little rebellious at seeing some other girl absorb him. I hope you were very wise and cordial. I know you were, for a little way down the page I find him coming again, this time sad and sorrowful, for your sympathy, and I think the way you say after his *fiancee*, you were the first to be turned to, "is just too sincere and sweet for anything." Professor put his glasses on to see your writing, Chic, when I asked him to be very kind and tell me if it was extra good. "She has sense enough to talk and sense enough to be silent," he said, grumpily, for these ideal wives are making him very cranky. And then, after he had given it back, he took another look and grunted "Sensible woman." So you see, you have one endorsement more. By the way, the reason people sneer at platonic friendship, is because there are so many imitations and parodies of it, they get disgusted with it. You did not weary me, my dear. Write again from the city where you are one among many dear friends.

And then comes Pauline, who has always lived in the country, and who, with her sister Rosie, I am real glad to meet. I always have a sort of yearning to go to your part of the world Pauline, for I've got a big brother down there whom I should dearly love to see. I wonder if you two have ever come across him? Give my love to Papa and Mother. I shall think of them often, for you see I am a part of their Xmas present, quite a lot of Cousin Ruth goes with the paper. I do hope you will write again, your questions depends a good deal upon circumstances. The man is presumably the head of the money market, and to him any payments should properly be made. If the boarder is a woman she will probably prefer to pay a woman, but in any case custom usually decides the question. As you ask me to decide, I'd recommend the payment to be made to the father, but only because that is the business way. Good-bye, as far as your own particular letter is concerned, I am very glad of my Ole Virginny cousins!

SNOWDROP.—Have you a plain skirt, and a plain dark green waist with long sleeves. Make a great many frills of pleated white tissue paper and tack them on, with long glass-like blades of dark green here and there, leave the sleeves green to the elbow, and then pleat leaves of the tissue paper over long white gloves drawn to the elbow, for the collar make more leaves of the tissue paper, and sew them to a necklet, make them full and deep. For the hat take all tall cone pasteboard and cover with dark green, cut more leaves of the white tissue paper, and paste on near the edge, put some of the blades with them, and there you are, a "Snowdrop." Can you do it? It is cheap and pretty.

THAT was my answer to your question of January 20. dear flower, cousin, but I am afraid it will come too late for the Carnival I don't know your town, or your church, but I know your parson, one of his daughters is a dear friend of mine, that is if you go to church in the town where your letter is post-marked, and not in the big city near by. As to your other question, I don't think any magazine would publish a story if it had so little worth that they had to be paid for doing so. Your letter was neither stupid nor too long and I hope you will not forget me when you have another half-hour to spare.

AND Trixie you are another dear cousin from Ole Virginny, please read what I said to Pauline will you, my dear? And so you are in love with me? Well, perhaps when I have read as many of your letters as you have of mine, I shall be just as deep in love with you! I am feeling a little that way now. Do you know I never expected to get half a dozen thoughtful and sensible letters in one batch like these I am answering to-day. All these cousins have a high view of Life, and there is a lovely "stand on my own feet" sort of tone about them. It is not often you hear girls express themselves about matrimony as you and Chic do, but perhaps the world is growing wiser and the women too. How sorry I am about that fire, and how much I want to help you about the parlor furnishings. Can't you manage a rug or two? As for the chairs you don't tell me what they are made of, are they wicker, wooden, upholstered or not, varnished or

stained or painted. What color is the floor, how large is the room, and how many windows has it and which way do they look. Are the walls plain or papered? What furniture have you altogether. If you will tell me just these things, I can give you some ideas, I think. I will find out the price of the Book of Housekeeping and let you know in the Correspondence column. I guess the Editor will give me a line or two.

GIRLS, here is "Louie," from the Western States, who asks may she come in and be a cousin, and she particularly demands a shake hands with "A Country Lass," who joined us a month ago. Please reach over from Pennsylvania to Illinois, "Country Lass" and shake Louie warmly by the hand. Dear me! I'd like to see you, Louie, when I go to Chicago next spring! Wonder if I shall, I think you voice a very beautiful thought when you say that we often go along, expecting and asking for some big work to do, and are disappointed of it, when if we just go ahead and do all the little things we shall come suddenly on the grand thing, round some corner, when we least expect it. About your other question, I must ask the Managing Editor. He is real good natured and will probably say Yes. I'll try and let you know next week, in the Correspondence column. Write again, Louie dear!

AND here is a very distant cousin (perhaps her *nom de plume* will explain). She signs herself "Your California Cousin," and she hails from the city of "Frisco," as they call San Francisco when they are in a hurry. I am real sorry, dear Y. C. C. that you haven't received your prize yet, but don't fret, you will because the Managers are very anxious that you should. Such pretty prizes are as good as a Column Advertisement, and are always sent though sometimes there may be a little delay, sometimes even they have to wait to get them themselves. Now California, I may as well hit you, and hit the other offenders with the same brick. Here it goes! Don't ever say, any of you, "I hope I haven't tired you, Cousin Ruth!" Tired? Why a cousin who can jump on her wheel and ride twenty miles don't tire easily, and once for all, she never gets tired of you girls. I hope lots more Golden State girls will come on.

OH, "Wenona," how could you roust me up like that. Girls! "Wenona" says someone in the papers says this isn't Leap Year! For goodness sake, how did I go to a party on New Year's Eve and have to take a gentleman in to supper, just after twelve o'clock if it isn't Leap Year? And I've been to several parties since, where Leap Year manners threw all the ladies into the attitude of attention and set the gentlemen round waiting to be asked to dance! If that don't make it Leap Year, I give up! But seriously, when I read your letter Wenona, I began to think whether you were not right after all, then I went to the grumpy Editor and asked him, and he sat on me by saying scornfully, "Of course its Leap Year. It won't be the year of adjustment of time for several years yet." Now, that's what he said. It sounded reassuring, but I've not got to the bottom of that adjustment notion yet, though I will and when I understand I will tell you!

Good-bye all,
COUSIN RUTH.

An Ideal Husband.

21. Pray let me describe my ideal to you,
He's faithful, patient, kind-hearted and true,
As lover-like now as before we were wed,
Though twice twenty years have rolled over his head.

He's respected, honored and loved as a friend,
Though seldom an evening from home he will spend,
Unless by his side is the wife of his heart,
From whose companionship none can him part.

At home he is always free-handed and kind,
He'll help with the housework, the children he'll mind;
He's never exacting, and never gets vexed,
This gem of a husband, the truest and best.

22. Religious, sober, industrious, kind and considerate to his wife, consoling in trouble or sickness as well as in health, and a good provider as far as he has the means to do so with.

23. A genuine Christian, a total abstainer from strong drink, a man not addicted to the use of tobacco in any form, a man that is good to his wife and family. One not addicted to the use of profane language, a man that always looks after his own affairs and minds his own business. One that does not spend his money too freely, and gives one tenth of his income to the support of spreading the gospel.

24. The "Ideal Husband" is the one who possess the happy faculty to develop the women he marries, mentally and morally, to the greatest extent of her capabilities, enabling her to be contented and happy, performing her part faithfully as wife, mother and citizen.

25. The good husband is of necessity a good, for only he who walks in light from above can illuminate with serene radiance the life joined to his. He loves his wife above all other human beings. He believes that she is indeed his "helpmeet," and as such accords her trust and honor. He is lenient to her faults, indulgent to her tastes, helpful to her virtues, stimulating to her intellect. The same standard of purity and temperance which he expects of his wife he himself observes. He is brave, honorable, diligent, generous, courteous, tender, and true.

26. I would have a God-loving, God-fearing man, honest, upright, honorable systematic and economical, possessed with a kind, sympathetic, affectionate disposition; but stern, just and decided. Master of his home, yet commanding respect and love. He must turn his back on the wine cup and that which lures a man from all that is pure and good—still he should have his associates and amusements. He should make his wife his confidant in all things, and be true to her. She should share his walks, drives, etc., occasionally, and his home he should love above all other places.

Correspondence.

The correspondence columns are open to all readers of the LADIES PICTORIAL WEEKLY. Questions relating to fashions, etiquette, literature or any subject of interest to our readers can be sent in for reply. Address correspondence editor in care of this paper.

WORKING LASS.—Your question would have been better answered in Cousin Ruth's column—Why don't you write to her? She takes great pleasure in helping girls to make the best of what they have. If you want a dress for evening wear, and have only an old grenadine over silk, which is worn out in the sleeves. I should recommend you to invest in a silk blouse of the style now in fashion, and after freshening up your old skirts you may look quite pretty and neat. I should prefer a bright color, corn color or cardinal for your brown complexion. It is well to remark that a blouse of delicate color is often spoiled by being worn under a heavy coat which you are in the habit of wearing over dark dresses, and which rubs off on your faint colored blouse. It is a good plan to slip on a clean old muslin or cambric sacque over the blouse, and so protect it from the dark coat.

PREMIER ETAGE.—In a flat dwelling every one has the same privilege as regards the use of the elevator, but sometimes the telephone is put in for one particular tenant, be sure and enquire before you take for granted that it is "pro bono publico." When you rent your flat, you get a latch key, for the front door if there is not a concierge, and you can have a gate put at the head of the stairs, if you are on the top flat, not otherwise. If you find the accommodation sufficient, I should prefer the top flat. As you are more private. Hope you will soon be comfortably settled.

ENQUIRER.—Ex-president Grover Cleveland is not a young man. I should fancy getting well on to the half hundred. His wife is much his junior. They live up town in New York city, or did, when I saw them two years ago. Mrs. Cleveland is a typical American of the better class, and of course an attractive and bright young lady. At present she is an invalid, and her recovery is not progressing as rapidly as her many ardent admirers hoped for. She is extremely popular both with young and old.

QUILL-DRIVER.—There are worse plights than yours, my friend, many a one would be glad to have your berth. If you will accept a suggestion, I would advise you to take your lunch at a restaurant some short distance from your office, so as to ensure you a walk, the time it takes will be more than repaid in your own increased working power, you should certainly get fresh air at noon time if you wish to retain your health and growthful appearance.

AUITA.—Amber necklaces are fashionable, cameos are rather out, but such as you describe may be worn without hesitation.

N. E. W.—It is very seldom done, only when the contributor has a certain fame, or when the poem is of unusual merit. Some papers such as the Sunday School Times, never take anything which is not worth paying for. A stated scale of prices holds in each office, so much a column or some such measure, and that amount is what is paid.

INVALID.—Your quotation is not poetry, but a rather profane rhyme. I don't know who wrote it, but if I come across the author will be sure to let you know. It smacks of coarse fancy, and low ideas enough to have been written by one of the so called poets of Swift's time.

PRIZE-WINNER.—I think you would get junior prize.

ETIQUETTE.—Your question is a little obscure you ask, "whom do you consider the writer on etiquette?" Isn't there something wanting?

OPHELIA.—I think it would only be necessary to leave a card if the host were a very much older or more important person than the guests. A stag party, as I understand it, is a man's party, invited by a man, and rather an informal affair. It is certainly not necessary to call on the wife or female relatives of the host, as they had nothing to do with the party. 2. In a small town or village it might be done, but in a city I should not do it. You don't know who might drop in, and tea gowns are "Taboo" outside one's own home. 3. An afternoon tea does not require a call.

E. L. PEMBROKE.—No delineations are made but under the competition. Certainly the Professor has no time to send private studies without a fee. The charge is half a dollar for a private delineation, you can address study, in care of this paper, if you care to pay the fee.

D. V. MCBRIDE.—If you have complied with the conditions of the contest, you will receive your due in the course of a short time. Pencil studies are never submitted to Professor Wickle, he would not accept them, you will probably receive your delineation in due time, if the second study came to hand. A great many unreasonable people can't wait, but the professor goes right on, and all his work will be done strictly in order of receipt of studies. For your suggestion about a private study, kindly read answer to E. L.—We don't own all of the professor's time.

TAMMANY.—There are certainly reasons why you should not interfere. You say you don't see them well, just look here! The persons concerned are old enough to manage their own love affairs, and you will surely do more harm than good by meddling with them. In the second place, you are plainly prejudiced against the young man, and probably by some who are jealous of him. Third, as you were once an aspirant for the young lady's favour, most people would discredit your sincerity. Fourth, you have not authority enough to command nor tact enough to manage, so for goodness sake leave things alone for the present.

OSGOODE.—Don't you know, you naughty girl that you got yourself into that very unpleasant fix. A young lady should return to her rendezvous after every dance, and especially towards the end of the evening should she keep her chaperon in view, consult her as to how long she wishes to remain, and give up a dance or two cheerfully if she is not able to stay for them. Of course, your chaperon did not do her duty in going home without you, but perhaps you tried her patience too far.

NANCY.—I am sure the suit you speak of will become you capitally. I hope you will have a lovely evening. I would suggest white silk elbow gloves, instead of the tan kid. I think they are prettier for young girls wear.