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THE FAVORITE

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1874.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

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MARRIAGE AND LONGEVITY.

Of all the relations into which a man enters, marriage is that which exerts most influence on his mind and body, on his powers of study, on the development of his affections, on the bringing forth of all the hidden qualities of his character. The intellectual element in his nature, without the softening and humanizing effect of domestic love, might, at first sight, be expected to absorb the whole man, and render him a giant in achievements. Practically, it has, as a rule, no such effect. It is beneficial to the most active minds to have the current of thought occasionally broken in upon, and diverted from the channel of systematic investigation into the calm, sweet delights of home-life, of wife, of children, of playful sportiveness, which gives to man in his period of greatest force something of the careless frame of mind which gave freshness to his childhood. Marriage, therefore, should be regarded in general, as a help to long life, and should be called in to a man's assistance as soon as he has completed, or nearly completed, his studies—we say nearly completed, because, in many cases, the companionship of a wife is of great service in directing and giving a higher aim to the intellectual force. Some are of opinion that the contracting of marriage ought to be deferred till the fervor of passion is over, till youth has lost its bloom, till the companionship of woman is rather desirable as a friendship than as a source of love. Aristotle thought that eighteen years for the woman and thirty-five for the man were the likeliest periods respectively to insure happiness in marriage; but the Spartans, whose institutions had been framed by one of the loftiest intellects ever concerned in the business of legislation, acted on a different principle, thinking that persons of nearly the same age would love each other more ardently and harmonize better together.

As a rule, early marriages are better than late ones, better for the woman especially, whose maternal duties are less exhausting to the constitution, more productive of health and beauty to the offspring, and of happiness all around her, than at a later period of life. Tacitus observes that the ancient Germans, the most robust and war-like nation with which he was acquainted, eschewed early marriages; but, when he comes to explain what he means by the phrase, we find that he thinks it late enough to defer marriage to the age of twenty. Charles James Fox, who was perhaps as good a judge as Tacitus, brought into the House an act for fixing the majority of woman at fifteen, and in the speech with which he introduced it, put forward reasons which the country in general thought conclusive, though the legislature did not. As one swallow does not make a summer, so neither is one example sufficient to serve as

a basis for a general conclusion; yet it is worthy of remark that one of the most extraordinary instances of longevity among women, recorded in Roman history, is that of Clodia, who died at the age of one hundred and fifteen years, and in her youth had been the mother of fifteen children.

THE BEST SOCIETY.

"No company, or good company," was a motto given by a distinguished man to all his young friends. It was a motto he had always endeavored to follow as far as lay in his power, and it was a very wise one.

Another man, of high position in the world, made it a rule to associate with high-minded, intelligent men, rather than with fashionable idlers; and he said he had derived more intellectual improvement from them than from all the books he ever read.

Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton often spoke of the great benefits he had derived from his visits to a particular family. Their words and example stimulated him to make the most of his powers. "It has given a color to my whole life," he said. Speaking of his success at the university, he remarked, "I can ascribe it to nothing but my visits to this family, where I caught the infection of self-improvement."

Surely, if our visits have such an influence upon our characters for life, it should be a matter of serious importance to us in what families we allow ourselves to be intimate. Boys and girls form attachments very easily, and often with very little forethought. In this, as in all things else, you should not fail to take advice of those who are older and wiser, and never, never choose for a friend one against whom you have been warned by those who dearly love you. There are people whose very presence seems to lift you up into a better higher atmosphere. Choose such associates whenever it is in your power, and the more you can live in their society the better, for both mind and heart. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

LAUGHING CHILDREN.

Give me (says a writer) the boy or girl who smiles as soon as the first rays of the morning sun glance in through the window, gay, happy and kind. Such a boy will be fit to "make up" into a man—at least when contrasted with a sullen, morose, crabbed fellow, who snaps and snarls like a surly cur, or growls and grunts like an untamed hyena, from the moment he opens his angry eyes till he is "confronted" by his breakfast. Such a girl, other things being favorable, will be good material to aid in gladdening some comfortable home, or to refine, civilize, tame, and humanize a rude brother, making him gentle, affectionate, and lovable. It is a feast to even look at such a joy-inspiring girl, such a woman-girl, and see the smiles flowing, so to speak, from the parted lips, displaying a set of clean, well brushed teeth, looking almost the personification of beauty and goodness, singing and as merry as the birds, the wide-awake birds that commenced their morning concert long before the lazy boys dreamed that the sun was approaching, and about to pour a whole flood of light and warmth upon the earth. Such a girl is like a gentle shower to the parched earth, bestowing kind words, sweet smiles, and acts of mercy to all around her—the joy and light of the household.

A YOUNG blacksmith wrote his advertisement, stating that all orders in his business would be promptly executed. By mistake it was printed, "All others in this business will be promptly executed." An old blacksmith, on seeing the notice, threw up his hands and exclaimed, "Has it come to this, after thirty years of honest toil? Law me! Well!" (Young printers, be careful, and don't frighten the old folks.)

NEW STYLE.—An Eton boy went into Bath during the vacation to have his hair cut. The tonsor knew Mr. Charles, and was delighted to see Mr. Charles. "And now, Mr. Charles," said he, flourishing his professional weapon, "which is it to be—the town style, sir, or the country style, sir?" "Well, John," replied the youngster, "as we live four miles out of town, suppose you cut it in the four-miles-out-of-town style."

A CONUNDRUM.—Jones had worried Smith with conundrums very often, and now it was Smith's turn. "Guess what I did last night," said Smith. Jones thought of sundry improbable things, and suggested the making of a speech, the doing of a kindness, the getting himself into the station-house, and finally gave up the conundrum in despair. "Well," said Smith, in a triumphant tone, "I slept!"

A SCREW.—The Honorable Algernon Fitzboodie is blessed with a father who is one of the greatest "screws" that ever walked London streets. He has worn from his youth upwards the same great-coat, the cloth of which has become as shiny as the steel of a Life-guardman's breastplate. The young man, horrified to see his father such a scarecrow, conceived the other day an ingenious stratagem to renew the old gentleman's wardrobe. He ordered of his tailor a first-rate great-coat, costing from six to seven guineas, and commissioned an itinerant Jew clothesman to take it to his father and sell it him very cheap.

"Ha, my boy," said the parent to his son, the morning after his purchase, "I have done a good stroke of business. Yesterday I bought a beautiful great-coat for fifteen shillings, and this morning I sold it again for thirty!"

KEEPING ONE'S TEMPER.—When M. de Persigny was French Minister of the Interior, he received a visit one day from a friend, who, on sending up his name, was shown into the great man's sanctum. A warm discussion arose between them. Suddenly an usher entered, and handed the Minister a note. On opening it he at once changed his tone of voice, and assumed a quiet and urbane manner. Puzzled as to the contents of the note, and by the marked effect it had suddenly produced upon the Minister, his friend cast a furtive glance at it, when to his astonishment, he perceived that it was simply a plain sheet of paper, without a scratch upon it! More puzzled than ever, the gentleman, after a few minutes, took his leave, and proceeded to interrogate the usher, to whom, he was well known, for he himself had been Minister of the Interior. "You have," said he, "just handed to the Minister a note, folded up, which had a most extraordinary effect upon him. Now, it was a plain sheet of paper, with nothing written upon it. What did it mean?" "Sir," replied the usher, "here is the explanation, which I must beg you to keep secret, for I do not wish to compromise myself. My master is very warm, and very liable to lose his temper. As he himself is aware of his weakness, he has ordered me, each time that his voice is raised sufficiently to be audible in the ante-room, without delay to place a sheet of paper in an envelope, and take it to him. That reminds him that his temper is getting the better of him, and he at once calms himself. Just now I heard his voice rising, and immediately carried out my instructions."

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

"THE PET."

Thanks, M. Jourdan, for this very pleasing picture! Criticism the most savage must be disarmed before so graceful a presentment of a pretty naïve little sempstress, so patient and pensive, gathering about her for companionship her flowers and her favorite to help while away the time over the lonely "stitch, stitch, stitch." She must be as gentle as she is pretty, or her favorite would not be sleeping in such perfect confidence on her lap. Has the gentle reader a favorite of this kind—one of the large and beautiful cats, with long silken coats, white as snow, and great bushy tails, variously called Persian and Angora cats? If so, he or she will enjoy the picture far more. These cats, which are more common in France than here, have some strange, inscrutable peculiarities. Many of them have eyes of the softest, purest azure, and this species is invariably, we believe, perfectly deaf, or appear. The writer of this had a cat of this sort. But it had only one blue eye, the other being a light greenish brown, yet it never gave the least indication of hearing; it would only take cognizance of noises that produced a near concussion of the air or vibration of the floor. Nevertheless, it was hard to believe that this creature had not some mysterious sixth sense, so perfectly well acquainted did it appear to be with everything that went on in the house that need concern a cat. Of course, our favorite was a beauty, too; and certainly a more docile, affectionate, sagacious pussy never lived. The moment her mistress went out "Lily" would plant herself on a table at the window and there stay till her mistress's return. Her knock it must have known, like a dog, for the cat was at the door the moment the sound was heard, though she would take no notice of anybody else's summons, and—which was one of the many mysteries of this cat's deafness—she would rush to the door equally if she did not and could not see her mistress's approach. At length Lily was left at home for nearly a week. The first two days she spent on the hall-form, whence she could not be enticed; the remainder of the time she hid herself away behind a piece of furniture, and neither persuasion nor force could induce the poor animal to take food, she only lapped a little milk towards the last. At length came the welcome knock, and with it Lily's appetite and happiness; but ever after she testified great uneasiness whenever her mistress's bonnet was produced.

"AN ALGERIAN MOTHER."

The Kabyles of Algeria have many peculiar domestic and personal habits, amongst which, as shown in Mr. C. Brun's picture, is the use of a singular cradle for babies, hung by ropes from the opposite walls of a room. The cradle, which is light, though strong, being made of a few bamboo rods firmly tied together, may be easily rocked or swung by means of a cord in the hand of mother or nurse sitting at her work on the floor below it; and the child is kept well out of harm's way. It may safely be left, if the mother have occasion to go out of the room, for the bands crossing the child's body will prevent its getting out of the cradle, which cannot possibly fall unless hooks or ropes give way. In case a similar contrivance should be introduced into our nurseries, the old rhyme would seem more appropriate—
 Hushaby, baby, upon the tree top?
 When the wind blows, the cradle will rock;
 When the tree breaks, the cradle will fall;
 Down will come baby, and cradle, and all!

NEWS NOTES.

Cardwell, late War Secretary, becomes Viscount Cardwell.

The French exhibition to be held in 1875 is a private enterprise.

The Peabody trustees report the expenditures for the year 1873 amounted to \$195,000.

Despatches received from the upper lake ports indicate unusually early opening of navigation.

A New York Company claim to have discovered extensive gold mines in the island of French Guiana.

It is said that the new Parliament immediately after assembling will adjourn for a fortnight or three weeks.

The Queen's Speech will probably recommend a grant of money for the relief of sufferers by the famine in Bengal.

The Queen and her Ministers have send despatches to General Sir Garnet Wolseley congratulating him on his success.

It is officially announced that the Duke of Edinburgh and his bride, accompanied by the Queen, will enter London on the 12th March.

It is said the arrest of Baez will re-open all the old San Domingo controversy, and will lead to revelations connected with the annexation scheme.

A despatch from Wilkesbarre says great consternation has been caused by an extensive cave in at the Empire Mine. Families are leaving the vicinity.

President Serrano and Admiral Topete, Minister of Marine, left Madrid for the North. Zabala will act as President during the absence from the capital of Senor Serrano.

The special correspondent of the *News* in India telegraphs that the villagers of Eastern Tirhoot are slowly starving to death, and the future in other districts looks terribly ominous.

An Havana letter states the Madrid Government disapproves of Jovellar's late proclamation, and will soon send ex-Captain-General Concha to resume command of the island of Cuba.

General Custer writes from Fort Lincoln that the projected prospecting expedition from Roseman, Montana, will, he thinks, embarrass military operations and precipitate the difficulty.

A despatch dated March 3, from St. Jean de Luse, a French town eleven miles south-west of Bayonne, says the Carlists kept up a steady bombardment on Bilbao during the last three days.

The sale of the Conservative Republican journal *Le XXe Siècle* has been prohibited, because of a publication in its columns of an article insulting to M. Buffet, President of the National Assembly.

A petition has been presented to the Washington Senate from New York merchants representing \$500,000,000 of capital, condemning the late issue of notes, and asking for its immediate retirement.

Despatches from the naval fleet state that orders have been received from Washington yesterday, to continue the naval exercises until April 15. The fleet are now en route for Key West for coal.

A conference of leading workmen representing 80,000 of their class in the west of England was held at Bristol. A resolution was adopted favoring the settlement by arbitration of all international disputes.

A demonstration is anticipated in Paris on the 16th inst. in favor of Napoleon the Fourth, who becomes of age to govern on that day, and it is said that the ex-Empress Eugenie is in Paris plotting a Bonapartist manifestation.

The Police Commissioners of Columbus, Ohio, have asked the City Council to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors within corporate limits, pledging themselves to see the law enforced. Whiskey dealers are already beginning to feel the effects of the movement.

It is reported that the Chinese Government notified Foreign Ministers at Peking that it cannot guarantee the safety of the lives of foreigners residing at Tientsin, and that the naval authorities have been requested to send war vessels to Tientsin to insure their protection.

An Havana letter states the order from Spain removing the embargo from American estates has not been carried out, and the authorities, being pressed by the United States Government in demanding the release of these estates, have added such enormous taxes to them that the owners will be forced to sell or abandon their property.

In the Reichstag a motion is under discussion to deprive the Governor of Alsace of the power to declare a state of siege. Prince Bismarck made a speech against the motion. He declared he never expected Alsace would greet our institutions with applause. Alsace shared the responsibility of the war. The motion was rejected by a vote of 180 yeas to 196 nays.

The trial of the Tichenborne claimant, on charges of perjury committed during the trial for the possession of the estate, which has been in progress for 180 days, was brought to a close on the 28 ult., with the conviction of the accused. The jury, after being out a short time, brought in a verdict of guilty of all the charges, and the claimant was sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude. There was great excitement over the verdict.