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THE FAVORITES OF MEN.

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The Two Kinds of Women That Please Men—Those the Latter Flirt With Are Not the Ones They Marry—The Winner of Discontent that Follows Wanted Opportunities—Telling Words From Mrs. Amelia E. Barr.

It may be taken as a rule, that women who are favorites with men, are very seldom favorites with their own sex. Wherever women congregate, and other women are under discussion, men's favorites are named with that tone of disapproval and disdain, which infers something not quite proper—something undesirable in the position. If specific charges are made, the "favorite" will probably be called "an artificial little flirt," or she will be "slip" or "fast. Mothers will wonder what the man sees in her face or figure; and the younger girls will deplore her manners, or rather her want



THE CALM, SEDATE FLIRT.

of manners; or they will mercifully excuse there is nothing really wrong in her freedom, and boldness but—and her high and strong will deny the charitable hope, with all the emphatic necessary for her condemnation. For if a girl is a favorite with men of her

own sex, she is naturally disliked by the women, since she attracts to herself far more than her share of admiration, and the admiration of men, which women acknowledge it or not, is the desire and delight of the feminine heart; just as the love of women is the desire and delight of the masculine heart.

In their social intercourse, two kinds of women please men; the bright, pert woman, who says such things and does such things as no other woman dares to say and do, and who is therefore very amusing; and the sympathetic woman who admires and perhaps loves them. But these two great classes have wide and indefinite variations and the bright little woman with her innocent and angelic smile, and the graceful swan-necked slender, with her fine feelings and her softly spoken compliments are but types of species that have indefinite peculiarities and distinctions. The two women sitting quietly in the same room, and dressed in the same orthodox fashion may not appear to be radically different, but as soon as conversation and dancing commences, the one in a frankly outspoken way, says just what she thinks, and charms in the most undisguised manner while the other must be looked for in retired corners, quiet and demure, listening to the praise and admiration to her companion's cleverness, and fitting in that invidious way which sets other women at naught.

An absolutely womanly ideal of platonic friendship—if such an emotion exists—is not supposable; for man himself so many-sided, that the woman who is perfect in one's estimation would be interesting in another's. It is, however, very certain that the women men flirt with are not the women men marry. Their social favorites are not the matrimonial favorites and therefore it is not a good thing for a girl to estimate that she should get the reputation of being a "gentleman's favorite." It is rather a position to be avoided for the brightest or sweetest girl with this character will



THE GIRL WHO DOES NOT FLIRT.

Likely pass her best years in charming all without being able to fix one lover to her side for life. This is the secret of the great number of plain married women whom everyone counts among their so acquaintances.

The position of a Favorite is no easy one. She has to cultivate many qualities which should be put to better use and bring her more satisfactory results. She must have discrimination enough to value flirting at its proper value; for it is so comfortable in dealing with Liza and takes everything at a grand serenade, and reputation as a safe favorite would be seriously endangered. Her flirtations she must never permit herself to show whether she be hit or not. She must never suffer a fog to have any occasion for a boast. She must avoid every circumstance which would allow a feminine rival an opportunity for a sneer. She must be able to give and take cheerfully; to conceal every social wound and slight, and to be deaf to every disagreeable thing. In short, she must be armed at every point, and never lay down her arms, and never be off watch. It is, therefore, a position whose requirements if translated into active business life, would employ the utmost resources of a facile and energetic man.

And what are the general results of talents so varied and so industriously employed? As a usual thing, the gentleman's Favorite dances and flirts his way from a brilliant girlhood to a fruitful neglected Femme Passee. She has in the meantime had the mortification of seeing the plain girls whom she despised, become honored wives and mothers, and possibly leaders in that set of the social world, which she still makes one of the rank and file of spinsters. Her disappointments, in spite of her careful concealment of them, tell upon her physique. She approaches of the winter of discontent, which wasted opportunities is sure to bring. Spurred with a sense of hate, by some unhappy slight, she perhaps undisciplined manner, she perhaps twenty years previously would have ventured to clasp her shoe buckle. If he happens to possess a firm will and a sharp eye to his mark, and there will be endless frictions and reprisals with all their possible results. If he is some old lover, weak in purpose, fatuous and business in his admiration than the

social flirting virgin will likely become a foolish flirt; and a miserable complaisance will bring forth its natural progeny of contempt and dislike, and perhaps, continue in some flagrant social misdemeanor.

To be a favorite with men, is not thing they desire for any woman. They will admire her loveliness, and themselves in her smiles, and catch a little ephemeral pleasure and glory in her favor; but they will not marry her. And the reason, though not very evident to a thoughtless girl is at least a very real and powerful one. It is, because such a girl, never touches them on their best side, and never reveals in herself that womanly nature, which a man knows instinctively is the foundation of a wife's value—the nature, which expresses itself in service for Lov's sake, as a very necessity of his being.

On the contrary, a "Favorite" leans all to one side, and that side is herself. She is overbearing and extracting in the most trivial matters of outward homage. She will be served on the bended knee, and her service is a hard and ungrateful one. And this is the true and ungrateful homage—men may be compelled to kneel to a woman's whims for a short time when they do find courage to rise to their feet, they go away forever.

No tact will so estimate of women, for those of their own sex, who are favorites of a great number of men, is a very just one. It is unfair not to judge the results of her social exposure. She must of necessity become a painful jealousy of her own right to a matrimonial career.

Not can she as these qualities strengthen, by the possession of their presence. Every attribute of our nature has its distinctive atmosphere; it is subtle and invisible as the perfume of a

THE SAUCY FLIRT.

plant, but it makes itself distinctly present; even when women are careful to permit the fragrance of the feeling into action. Men are not analyzers or inquirers into character, as a general rule, but they are realists, and their selection of their favorite does not deceive them. Sooner or later, they are sensible to the realness of disappointment, envy and hatred, which seethes beneath the smiles and sparkle. They may put the knowledge away at the time, but when they are alone, they will eventually admit and understand it all.

For when good men want to marry, they seek a woman for what she is; not for what she looks. They want a gentleman of blameless honor, who will love her husband, and neither be reluctant to have children, nor to bring them up at her knee;—who will care for her house duties, and her husband's comfort and welfare, as if these things were an Eleven Commandment. And such women, fair and cultured enough to make any home happy, are not difficult to find. However peculiar and individual a man may be, there are very few in a generation, who cannot convince some good woman, that their peculiarities are abnormal genius, or refined moral sensitiveness, or some other great and rare excellence.

Therefore, before a girl commits herself to a course of friendly and time-pleasing, which will fasten on her such a man as a "Favorite" of men, let her carefully ponder the class of such a career. For having once obtained this reputation, she will find it very hard to rid herself of it completely. And it is also very likely that many girls enter this career thoughtlessly; and not until they are engaged, do they find out that they have made a mistake of their life. Then they are wretched in the conditions they have surrounded themselves with; and yet are afraid to leave them. Their popularity is odious to them. They stretch out their hands to their wasted youth, and their future equals them. They weep, for they think it is too late to reverse their course.

No! It is never too late, to lift up the head the heart! It is always the right hour, to become noble and manly and courageous once more! In such a turn is a Divine help for those who seek it, and in great strength all may turn back and recapture their own time. What life lasts, there is no time to lose! If it is some good that will do us one—Amelia E. Barr.

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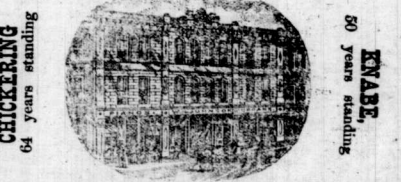
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