

Farm and Home Council.

sorry, but her unkindness to me has made me feel rather hard toward step-mothers. The trouble is nowadays so many marry without ever thinking seriously of what they are doing. A woman will marry a widower with half a dozen children rather than be called an old maid. Of course these children must be a care and that care is more than she wants. I am only judging from my own experience, and hope there are not many who have gone through what I have.—[A. C.]

Wild Oats—Having seen the imperfections in the lives of young men leads me to offer a word of advice, hoping they may profit thereby. Most young men are prone to sow their "wild oats," which is very unmanly as well as unnecessary, and only causes them to regret it later in life. Boys, listen, and remember this, and you will never have anything to regret. Never go where you would be ashamed to have the world know you went, and never do anything you would be ashamed to have the world know you did. This also might be a guide to some young ladies, although as a rule they are far superior to the young men. I find that a young man who is morally good and has no bad habits is respected by the world, even his employer having more confidence in him. So let us strive to do our best, as the future of our country as well as our homes depends upon our efforts.—[Charles Bailey.]

Southwestern Hospitality—In answer to the request of Hias Been (Feb 15) I will give the following: At a public sale about two years ago I met an old gentleman acquaintance whom I hadn't seen for some time. After the ordinary hand-shake he said, "Let me see, Jim, didn't you have a sale not long ago?" I said "No." "Well," he says, "I heard something about you. I thought you had had a sale." I said, "Maybe you heard I had got married." "That's it," he exclaimed, and continued, "Well, I didn't miss it so very much—only the difference between having a sale and getting sold." On my trip to Colorado and New Mexico in '97, I spent about three and one-half months among the boys that are supposed to be loaded down with daggers and six-shooters. Can a stranger travel three weeks in New York or Massachusetts, enjoy the best accommodations the people can give, offer to pay for the same, and leave the state without paying out a cent? Such was my experience in New Mexico. I like the drift of discussion on this page. My wife and I watch it with a good deal of interest.—[Jim of the Canyons.]

NEVER SAY DIE.

In the battle of life when
Defeat seems nigh,
And thy hopes have vanished
Like mists in the sky,
And foes have triumphed till
Thy heart doth cry:
Then look aloft, my boy,
But never say die!

MARVIN L. PIER.

Sham Love—Now as to kissing. A moderate amount is all right (but be "mejum," as Aunt Samantha says; don't go to extremes in anything) where both parties have chosen one another from among the rest. But kissing and love-making just for fun are entirely wrong. I say, don't cheapen yourself in such a manner! You can thoroughly enjoy one another's society without sham love. (A sensible person cannot get enjoyment out of anything sham.) Girls, if I were to tell you some of the things said about silly girls behind their backs, by young men, perhaps it would open your eyes; though it isn't very gentlemanly to do so, they will make fun of you nevertheless. Girls, cultivate all that is true and womanly. Respect yourselves, for "self-respect demands respect," you know. Keystone Bach.

don't be so vain over your neat house-keeping, please, as you have only yourself to look after. You said women could keep a neater house if they tried to do so. That there are some slovenly and indifferent housekeepers one must admit. But if you knew how hard most women who are poor or in moderate circumstances work, and try to keep things respectable, you would be more lenient in your judgment, I think. We should be careful how we judge others, for we might not do even so well under similar circumstances.—[Mrs Susie Miller.]

Opposing Influences—Plow Boy, I am also much interested in astronomy and palmistry, and read all I can find alluding to these subjects. Hope you will give your mind another airing in the near future. Opinions and tastes differ the same as people. Each man to his own liking. Shiftless Simpson, your theory of how influence effects one's life is I think correct. How hard it must be for one placed between two

opposing influences of equal strength! Surely one doesn't know what to do. If the influence overcomes the other it often proves to be the bad, although sometimes done for the best. Perhaps this may be easily accounted for, as this world is prone to evil, and in consequence may have the stronger influence, even after a well fought battle. Let us hope some good comes out of all this. I live on a farm and work out of doors some at times and like it. Oregon Rose, I am going to raise some chicks of my own this year. Our hens did not lay well until we gave them a prepared food, and now we cannot complain.—[A Young Mrs.]

Human Targets—Jay Hawker, welcome home! Yes, you have heard it before, but I could not refrain from saying it once more. I would like to take your hand and whisper, "God bless you, 20th Kansas!" but "arms are short and time is fleeting," so though we have never met, please know that your stranger friend is glad that you have

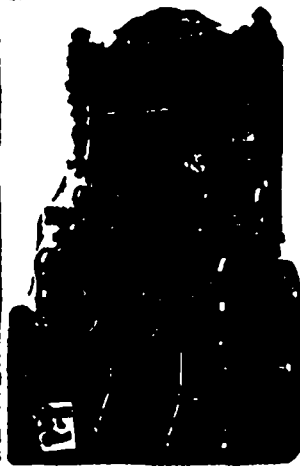
come back to your home and that love you. How cruel it all seems that so many true, brave hearts lie silent, far away, where only the stars keep vigil by night and the lonely winds by day; and to the dear ones at home whisper in a silent language, "No more, no more." Well may we say with Longfellow, "How majestically mournful are those words, they sound like the roar of the winds through a forest of pines!" Surely there must be another way, there is another way, and 'twill teach the world by its unmistakable origin that God did not make men for targets, but that his life and destiny point to higher things. Niskayuna, I have until recently believed you to be a woman. I'll not ask your pardon, for I am sure, were we to do the matter justice, you ought to fall upon your knees and offer profound thanks for my so honoring you. Sed quis cognosco?—[Narcissus.]

Why is a man with wooden legs like one who has an even bargain? Because he has nothing to boot.

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