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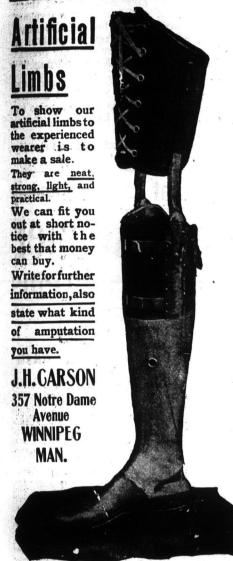
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Correspondence

these columns, and an effort will be made to publish all interesting letters received. The large amount of correspondence which is sent us has, hitherto, made it impossible for every letter to appear in print, and, in future, letters received from subscribers will receive first consideration. A friend of the magazine, offering a kindly criticism, writes that the Correspondence column has at times an air of monotony, as one writer after another follows the same phraseology. We wish to warn our correspondents against this common error. A little independent thought will help mutual development, and readers of the Monthly will find valuable aid in the study of the many instructive articles by eminent men that appear from month to month.

Farmers' Wives Have a Better Time of It Than Plato Makes Out

Sask., May, 1913.

Dear Editor:—I was reading the April number of the W.H.M. and came across a letter from a person who signs himself Plato. I read his letter through and when I had come to the end I thought that he knew very little about the farm and its surroundings. He says he wonders at so many women taking up the cudgel on behalf of farm life. I don't think he needs to wonder at all, for if he was around here where I am, he would not meet a woman who is not satisfied with her lot on the farm. I have heard women whose husbands have business places in the city advising young women to become farmers' wives, so I think Plato's reasoning is a little out there. Again, he says, "If he were forced to live at either place he would choose the city." but my choice is the farm However that is nothing as everyone has his or her own likes and dislikes. Plato says again that "no one can deny that country life is narrowing and knowledge is bound to be one-sided that is gained only by reading." I wonder where he got his knowledge from. By reading, or did he ever go to school? I am pretty sure that he gained it by reading, as his is very much one-sided on the farm question anyway. Neither do all the farmers who make their fortune rush to the city as Plato terms it. He also says that in the city the poorest enjoy the pleasures that are denied the farmer. A statement I very much doubt, for I cannot see where the poor people can enjoy themselves in the way Plato means, when they are almost starving, and there are thousands of those in the cities, even in prosperous Canada. No, that takes a little thinking. It seems to me that Plato is writing about olden times for he certainly cannot be up-todate on such matters. The women or the farms are sometimes out driving and visiting neighbors, such like doesn't seem all work if Plato could see them sometimes. And as far as music is concerned, I have yet to go to a house where there is not a musical instrument of some kind, and good musicians too. I have heard more music since I came to the West than any other place. We have also a church here that gets a larger congregation than any of the towns around us, and the nearest town is seven miles. I hope that when Plato writes again about farmers' wives he will have more modern ideas, not those of 1882 and 1883.

Pippen.

The Funnel-Formed Fiend

A coppery-yellow sky, dull grey at edge, Heat that moved in oppressive waves or

A smothering pall o'er the land. No breeze was there;

Never a grass-blade stirred. The beasts Scented the air in suspicion, hied them Together in herds, and in a stampede of terror

Sought the nearest coulee. Wary young prairie fowl,

Clear-visioned saw in yon low-lying

cloud.

TE invite readers to make use of Small yet as a man's hand, perchance their old enemy

The hawk, and flew screaming away to

Only human guessed not that danger approached, Then 'mid the silence of nature, the

land Awaiting it, knew not what, was rent and scorched

As if by vengeance, long held in check, but now Breaking its bonds, and thirsting for

blood. Out from the mouth of hell it burst

blazing Its trail of woe,—a comet-like fiend, waiting not count toll, but sweeping before it,

like houses of cards, All that lay in its path. With a sudden roar that drowned

Screams and prayers of the stricken it passed; One more moment, and it has gone, The

sun Half rimmed in its setting sends one golden shaft

Over the gloom of death and destruction below

-E. G Bayne.

A Western Farmer

Alta., May, 1913.

Dear Editor and Readers:-I have been a reader of the W.H.M. for over two years and think it is a fine paper. I am a farmer in sunny Alberta, and I have homesteaded four years, and have made a great success of it. I find it a little bit hard to get along baching and working so much land, but I quite agree with Dido in the May number. I am 24 years of age, so I go by what he says, "I will soon know my own mind. I think that "Maple Leaf" put in a very good letter. It is true, a woman cannot work outside and inside at the same time. I would never expect a woman to do any outdoor work unless it was absolutely necessary. As far as the baching part of it goes I fare pretty well, but I long to see the day when I will have a wife of my own to cook for me. Now, girls I will be glad to hear from any of you, who may care to write. I will answer all letters. address will be with the Editor, and I will sign myself

Bachelor Bill.

How Much Influence Has a Woman in a Man's Life

Man., May, 1913.

Dear Editor:-In looking through the corespondence column of the W.H.M., I notice that there are some new subjects introduced for discussion from time to time, and I think that the "Power of Influence" introduced by Fern in the May issue is a good subject to consider. "How much influence has a woman in a man's life?" "How closely must she come in contact with him in order to influence him?" Now these are hard questions to answer, but as I have been a lonely wanderer, I have some idea what effect the influence a woman has on a man in that position. I have worked on the farm as a farm laborer and also at odd jobs in town. I have worked on the gangs at railroad construction and also in the logging camps, and everywhere you go, it seems to be natural for the man to seek the society of the woman. Why should this be? The power of their influence is an attraction to them. I asked a young football player once, if he was going to play in the club's team this season, and he answered, "I have signed on, but I have no girl yet," and I asked why the girl? and he answered, When I know that there is someone looking, I can do a great deal better than I can when I have nobody at all." And I believe that he was right. The influence of a lady friend will put energy into a man. A sympathetic smile will lift the burden off the weary wanderer, and a smile of approval for a service done, will win you much respect. I will close now signing myself

Busy Body.

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