

been impossible if he never used the same language outside. But for say, we are not the only sufferers in this way. It is a regrettable weakness, is as hard or harder to get rid of than drinking or smoking.

You see, batching away, with no woman to talk to and no pastime but the fiddle, a paper or a book, gives one a good opportunity to thresh out the problems of life. Now, for instance, I have to come to the conclusion that marriage and love is about all that keeps the world running. Of course, it slips a cog now and then, but not often. That is just when the husband fails to have any wood cut to cook dinner with, or the wife in her hurry, forgets to make the bed and the man retires first and so on.

I say each one has a right to help the other. If the man works late in the harvest time, the woman ought to milk the lazy cows, feed the pigs, etc. But on the other hand, the man, if through first, has a right to help wash the dishes, knead a batch of bread or sit up late and finish baking it. But I do not think a good husband constitutes getting up and doing all the chores, and often getting his own breakfast, taking a cup of coffee and a plate of toast up to an able-bodied woman, who rises later to smoke cigarettes and read novels through most of the day. No, sir; a fellow might better batch; and that is a true instance. Batching has a great many advantages but if both parties do what is right by the other, it ought not to hold a candle to married life.

And sure it is, the world goes by twos. One horse does not make a team, nor a stick a fire. The fire made of one stick will go out, like the interest out of a bachelor's life. Here endeth the first lesson.

Should you see fit to publish this, and forward any correspondence, anyone wishing to exchange words with me will find me quite willing. Wishing you every success.

"Only One of the Many."

A Defense of the Farmer.

Carroll, Jan. 26, 1907.

Editor.—I am a reader of your excellent magazine and have become somewhat interested in the correspondence.

To see so many letters from the fair sex would lead one to believe that marriageable women were plentiful in this Western country and what surprises me is that there are so many bachelor farmers. The chief reason is that many girls in this country prefer working in the towns and choosing husbands from the town counter-jumpers and sports rather than staying on the farm. One of your writers in the July number, "Youthful Manitoban," by name, expresses to a certain extent the feeling of a good many girls. They seem to think that farmers are too common and slow for them, but I would like to remind the girls that the farmers are the backbone of this country and the bachelors are the shining lights amongst the farmers. They are the best there is, for a man requires an inexhaustible amount of patience and perseverance to work a farm and to do housework at the same time. The town-folks are simply working for the farmers and most of them are no good on a farm. I think if Y. M. was to go out amongst some of these wild, rough, poky, old bachelors she speaks about and sing and play the piano to them, she might work wonders to soothe the savage beast, but I will venture to say that before she went far she would find out that larger and warmer hearts beat in the farmers' tattered cot and scaly skin than can be found under the broadcloth and polish of the rich bankers and merchants and other city-bon tons, and would be anxious to join hands with one of them and share his joys and sorrows for life. Now, girls, get wise when you see a young farmer industrious and trying to make a comfortable home, get a string on him and if you are fortunate to become his wife you will have a happier life on the farm breathing fresh air and getting exercise doing honorable work than being crowded up in a town or city with nothing to do but put on airs and style. I am a farmer and not ashamed of it if I do keep bachelors' hall but am not too old to get married, out would not like to marry by corresponding only. It would not be fair to either party, but might do for a start, so if any of the young ladies wish to write to me I would be very much pleased to hear from them.

"An Observer."

"Square Deal" After the Girls.

Lacombe, Jan. 26, 1907.

Editor.—Your paper is of special interest to the public because of its matrimonial chat and I should like to add a word. I see letters from married young women and some of them seem to be of the right stamp. Like all other young men I have an ideal which I should like to find in a young lady before contemplating marriage. In the first place I want a wife whom I can love above all other women and who can love me more than she can love any other man, for when love fills the heart of man and wife many an obstacle can be overcome which might cause conflict under other circumstances. I appreciate neatness of dress, care of toilet, witicism, cheerfulness, love for the home, ability to sew, cook, play the piano and converse on ordinary topics of the day, and I should take pride in one that can milk a cow if needed and handle a horse. And more than

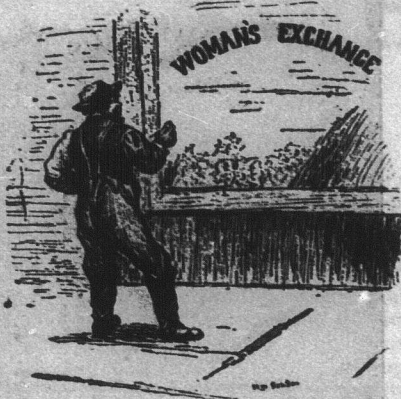
this, I regard as most important of all a love for God and humanity. I should esteem unusually high the young lady whose words crucify her own feelings than say something unkind to hurt another. I do not honor the dancing kind who are charmed with such cheap performances, but I'd like one who loves pastimes and leisure hours, who can throw her work to one side and say, "Let us have a little recreation today." "Work while you work and play while you play" is a good motto to follow. I should like to correspond with a young lady who is in touch with real life, who knows how to be happy and how to make others happy. I somehow like the enthusiasm of the young lady from Strathcona who signs "A Strathcona Canuck," and the good sense of "Practical Girl," Lytton, B. C. If they are noble and womanly in spirit I should like to make their acquaintance.

"Square Deal."

Husband Should Trust Wife.

Alberta, Jan. 12, 1907.

Editor.—I find in your correspondence page this month several interesting letters. I like the one signed "Another Disgusted One." They certainly cannot be sure of what they are getting and it seems too much like a lottery to me. A wife certainly should do all she can to help her husband, but if she is looked upon as a piece of machinery she will eventually wear out as machinery does. I am sure I would do without an apron all the remainder of my days rather than coax, even ask my husband for so slight a sum. I think that if a man cannot trust his wife he had better not marry her. "Milestone" seems to think that by drinking and gambling he can drown his loneliness, when, if he only knew it, he is making it a lot harder for himself. No one of any consequence can respect a drinking, gambling man. I have not much faith in the bachelors that say they neither smoke, chew, drink or use profane language. Indeed, if it is true, they are nearly ideal young men. But if they are ideal young men will they stand on the street corners and shout it out to the passers by? I rather like the run of "Sportsman's" letter. He speaks of



Fat—"Woman's Exchange is it? An' a foine oidee it is. O'll jist be skepin' in. Its mesil that ud be exchangin' me ould woman for a foine young wan."

"smoking and whisky that is indulged in to moderation." Perhaps he can indulge in such things moderately, but look at the many weaker brothers that he is leading on who may take a drink because he does and have no will power to quit it and at last end his existence in a drunkard's grave. I do not draw a line as to smoking, still I think the very safest place is to let the whisky entirely alone. He certainly intends to have a jolly life and I hope that he will not be disappointed. "Happy Joke" may have to wait a long time if he gets the one to his liking. Still there are more such girls as he desires in this world than he suspects. He is right in not admiring the "fickle, brainless lot," for they certainly are very tiresome. But perhaps he is not the only one taking the risk. I certainly have a gossip, too, but I have seen gossiping men as well as women and they are most despicable to me. It is my opinion that if the girls of the West had higher standards of mankind and treated their boy friends more as brothers than beaux, this would be a happier, more sincere country.

"Alberta."

Cottonwood Heard From.

Cottonwood, Sask., Feb. 2, 1907.

Editor.—I read a letter in an old number of your magazine written by a lady who signs herself "Would marry but not anxious." She seems to be a good sort of girl and I would like to know her. "Jolly Girl," another correspondent, is another nice sort of writer. Could you give me her address? I enclose you my subscription for your excellent magazine.

"Cottonwood."

Oyster Writes.

Stratton, Jan. 28, 1907.

Editor.—Please forward letter enclosed to "No Cissy for her," in your September number.

"Oyster."

One from a Knight of the Cleaver.

Rocanville, Sask., Jan. 29, 1907.

Editor.—Please be good enough to forward enclosed letter to "Brown Eyes," "Butcher Boy."

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