

FEMALE SOCIETY.

Continued from page 4.

with unworthy women. In a thousand cases we shall not find three exceptions to this rule. A young man who, with any degree of earnestness, declares that he intends never to marry, confesses to a brutal nature or perverted morals.

But how shall a good wife be won? I know that men naturally shrink from the attempt to obtain companions who are their superiors, but they will find that really intelligent women, who possess the most desirable qualities, are uniformly modest and held their charms in modest estimation. What such women most admire in men is gallantry; not the gallantry of courts and fops, but boldness, courage, devotion, decision and refined civility. A man's bearing wins ten superior women where his boots and brains win one. If a man stands before a woman with respect for himself and fearlessness of her his suit is half won. The rest may safely be left to the parties most interested. Therefore, never be afraid of a woman. Women are the most harmless and agreeable creatures in the world to a man who shows that he has got a man's soul in him. If you have not the spirit in you to come up to a test like this you have not that in you which most pleases a high-souled woman, and you will be obliged to content yourself with the simple girl who, in a quiet way, is endeavoring to attract and fasten you.

But don't be in a hurry about the matter. Don't get in a feverish longing for marriage. It isn't creditable to you. Especially don't imagine that any disappointment in love which takes place before you are twenty-one years old will be of any material damage to you. The truth is, that before a man is twenty five years old he does not know what he wants himself. So don't be in a hurry. The more of a man you become, and the more of manliness you become capable of exhibiting in your association with women, the better wife you will be able to obtain; and one year's possession of the heart and hand of a really noble specimen of her sex is worth nine hundred and ninety nine year's possession of a sweet creature with two in her head and nothing new to say about either of them. Better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay. So don't be in a hurry, I say again. You don't want a wife now, and you have not the slightest idea of the kind of a wife you want by and by. Go into female society if you can find that which will improve you, but not otherwise. You can spend your time better. Seek the society of good men. That is more accessible to you than the other, and it is through that mostly that you will find your way to good female society. If any are disposed to complain of the injustice to women of advice like this, and believes that it involves a wrong to her, I reply that not the slightest wrong is intended. Thorough appreciation of a good woman on the part of a young man is one of his strongest recommendations to her favor. The desire of such a man to possess and associate his life with such a woman gives evidence of qualities, aptitudes and capacities which entitle him to any woman's consideration. There is something good in him, and however uncultivated he may be, however rude in manner and rough in person, he only needs development to

become worthy of her in some respects at least.

I shall not quarrel with a woman who desires a husband superior to herself, for I know it will be well for her to obtain such a one if she will be stimulated by contact with a higher mind to a brighter and broader development. At the same time I must believe that for a man to marry his inferior is to call upon himself a great misfortune, to deprive himself of one of the most elevating and refining influences which can possibly effect him. I believe, therefore, it is the true policy of every young man to aim high in his choice of a companion. I have previously given a reason for this policy, and with that and this conspire to establish the soundness of my counsel.

One thing more; not the least important, but the last in this letter. No woman without pity in her heart is fit to be the companion of any man. You may get in your wife beauty, amiability, sprightliness, wit, accomplishments, wealth and learning, but if that wife have no higher love than herself and yourself she is a poor creature. She cannot elevate you above mean aims and objects, she cannot educate her children properly, she cannot in hours of adversity sustain and comfort you, she cannot bear with patience your petulance induced by the toils and vexations of business, and she will never be safe against the seductive temptations of gaiety and dress.

Then, again, a man who has the prayers of a pious wife, and knows that he has them, upheld by Heaven, or by a refined sense of obligation and gratitude, can rarely become a very bad man. A daily prayer from the heart of a pure and pious wife for a husband engrossed in the pursuits of wealth and fame is a chain of golden words that links his name every day with the name of God. He may snap it three hundred and sixty five times in a year for many years, but the chances are that in time he will gather the sundered filaments and seek to re-unite them in an everlasting bond.

Yours truly,

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