

PROGRESS, SATURDAY, APRIL 27 1895.

WHAT MAKES A LOVELY WOMAN?

Is it Form or Figure, Face or Feature, or Merely Character and True Womanhood Shining Out From the Soul?—A Question Most Difficult to Answer Partially Solved at Least by the Views of Twenty Notable People.

The "woman question" has become one of the questions of the day. The new generation of hysterical English novelists has magnified it into an importance far beyond its deserts.

ing her beautiful. Eyes black or blue? Nobody ever noticed them. She suits us," they say: "She is just right."

Mrs. Kendal's Views. We are all lovely in somebody's eyes. For instance, no matter how plain a child may be, in its mother's eyes it is a thing of beauty.

And George Eliot's voice was low and sweet—a most exquisite voice. Her words were always well chosen. Whenever she wished to impress you very much, she would lay her hand on your arm or shoulder.

If, on the contrary, they use a pair of green spectacles, they shall see us from their own point of view, most of our disagreeable traits appearing, even to an exaggerated degree, before them.

Every woman at some time or other in her life has wished for a beautiful face, but many have had to be content without it.

They get a little irritable, to put it mildly, when they first discover that the Gentleman with the Wings is bidding them "good evening" and that the Gentleman with the Scythe is most anxious to make their acquaintance.

It is Emerson who is quoted, every spirit makes its house. Comeliness of form and of face is not uncommon; but "beauty without grace is the hook without the bait."

From New England. You are quite right in considering that sweetness and strength of character constitute the truest loveliness of woman.

Says Mrs. Dahlgren. The loveliest woman is she whose large-heartedness makes her forget herself.

She is refined because she considers others. She has a pleasing expression because she is good.

When in addition she is intelligent she becomes a leading force without knowing it.

One "Loveliest Woman." A lovely woman is always a beautiful woman. She may not be a beautiful woman outside; but inside—oh, my! isn't she an angel! No? Some think of call-

Thus men lean upon her for sympathetic aid, where they might refuse her leadership if she claimed it.

Mrs. Lease's Ideal. That rare unselfishness, which, leaving no thought for effect or result, prompts the thoroughly natural bestowal of gracious acts kind words and pleasant looks, which sweeten the giver and strengthen the receiver.

MARY ELIZABETH LEASE. They are Angels. When I was a boy I thought that women were angels. Now that I have been married nineteen years, I know they are.

When I was a boy I thought that women were angels. Now that I have been married nineteen years, I know they are. That is the sum of my life's experience, and I ask of my boys no better assurance that they will never go far astray than that they shall enter upon life with that conviction.

Those loveliest women are those who are tender, sympathetic, unselfish, noble and good. Thank God for it. The world and especially America, with many such a one is blest, or life would not be worth the living.

Marie Jansen Very Serious. Lovableness is the test of loveliness. Qualities of nature and elements of character are its essential components.

Sincerity is essentially to loveableness, for it is necessary to love. It is the bulwark of all true friendship. This noblest of virtues find the limit of its worth when incarnate in woman, and lifts her high towards the summit of human loveliness.

At a time when "woman's rights" have come to mean man's as well, and also the assumption of his occupations and attire, it may be well to remember that gentleness is woman's inborn and distinctive charm.

Without disparaging any of the attributes that compose the infinite charms of feminine loveliness, it is my motion that the sufficient possessions of the qualities mentioned bestows it upon every woman.

What constitutes a lovely woman? you ask. Why charm, surely. What is charm? Who knows? Can you analyze the perfume of a flower?

Woman's loveliness is effected through, first, her body; second, her mind, and third, her heart. When any of these three are beautiful, she is lovely.

My ideas are not original, perhaps, not even "up to date"—but is feminine loveliness really fin de siècle?

I am almost distrust with work, and responsibility, and if asked what "woman" really was at this moment, I should say something nigh a dray horse, but a truce to badinage.

"Woman," real, true, sweet woman, is one who lives for others, who lives to make her dear ones happy, not altogether by bestowing, but in a thousand little kind and thoughtful acts: who lives to find the sensitive points, and not wound them, to find the weak ones, and consider them. I know two women who are my ideals of womanhood. One has long since passed

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tual brilliancy—in time proves tiresome, its charms pass away; then, too, the very seeds of discord lie ready sown, and the spring into life and choke the flowers of friendship and love as soon as a man discovers her mental superiority.

I have seen numberless women of unclassical form, irregular features, and complexion other than that of the milkwhite do., who were beautiful, charming and lovely. I have known such women, whose physical appearance entered not the mind of any one in their presence.

Again, I have seen women with the figure and the face of the Milonian Venus, who were unlovely or even repellent by reason of their vanity, selfishness, flippancy, venality, or other vile traits.

As this question must be answered according to each one's tastes, it must result in anything but exact definition. As woman must be loved for some leading and many minor qualities, as her physical beauty, her intellectual powers and her character, or sentiment, it would be enough to say that the most beautiful, the most intellectual and best cultured woman, would be the "most lovable woman."

Let any one give a glance at the organizations and representative women which have just formed the Convention held by the National Council of Women in Washington. The grand, eloquent, intellectual women who made their mark, and possibly lasting impression, did well, for the whole nation has reason to be proud; but what of the earnest, plodding, aggressive workers who compose these organizations, and wield mighty power in work and prayer behind the throne of the leaders!

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The attractions of the sweet, chaste virgin, sung by the ruse, coupled with a trumpet-tinge of the importance of increased mother-love and home training, have become wearisome. It is time for women to dilate upon the duties and privileges of father-love toward their own offspring, as fathers and bachelors have assumed for so long a period the privileges of teaching and preaching at length concerning the duties and privileges of womanhood.

Some women are made for homelife, some for workers in the busy world, and the latter in braving its bustle and temptations long for but never reach the restful goal. Not even in the world there are a thousand opportunities for the impress of woman's gentleness, and woman's proud est gifts—content and the giving of pleasure to her sisters who are less blessed in worldly possessions, though rich in God's. That constitutes a Lovely Woman.

So let us accept our lot—whatever it be—let us try to be content, to contrast our lives with the lives of others, and see how much we have that they have not. This will make womanliness, and raise us to that height all women aim for—loveliness—and to be the respected, honored, worshiped companion of man.

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