

# The Sunday Herald.

And Weekly National Intelligencer.

ESTABLISHED 1800.

MAY 24, 1891.

PAGES 9 TO 16

## THE WOMAN WE WANT.

WASHINGTON BEAUX TELL ALL ABOUT THEIR IDEAL WIVES.

The Bohemian Newspaper Man Cannot Afford a Wife—How He Would Love a Woman Who Could Do His Type-Setting—The Ideal Naval Officer's Wife Pays Her Own Mess Bill—How The Wife of a Lieutenant in the Army Kept Her Family on Sixty Dollars a Month—A Bridegroom-Elect Gives a Pen Picture of His Bride.

As long ago as the days of our first father, Adam, the need of a helpmeet was fully realized. Such being the state of the case, and men forever seeking those better halves without which their lives are incomplete, dull, and savorless, the following representative views of some of the leading professions among Washington beaux in reference to the question will prove of widespread interest and doubtless be of practical value to the matrimonially aspiring class of young girls.

After getting together a budget of opinions from the female standpoint it was suggested to me by a prominent young bachelor of our city that "turn about was fair play," and that the men should be allowed an opportunity to air their sentiments upon the all-important question.

### THE WIFE FOR A NEWSPAPER MAN.

One of my first interviews was with a promising young journalist, whose devotion to his chosen profession leaves little time on his hands for the sweet allurement of Cupid. Yet, all the same, the sly god has not neglected an opportunity of waving his soft pinions across his path and beguiled him into chance visions of the fair "might be." Mr. L., whose full name we withhold for prudential motives, replies to my query: "I find it safer to remain unwed than sacrifice so much of my independence and rather Bohemian existence. A single man may enjoy his club, where a game or so of billiards or pool may be indulged in without giving cause for objection, while a married man must be home with the twilight, ready to share his wife's interests and individual society, regardless of opposing tastes and the demands of alluring boon companions. Their, too, no man should be willing to drag a woman down to the hard struggle for existence that every young journalist must wage before he may hope to attain a competency. In truth, I think it best not to jump out of the frying-pan into the fire. Should I choose a wife, however, I would say, give me one who can use a typewriter in order that I may dictate to her, and thereby secure a true helpmeet in my work, and one who can truly sympathize with me in my professional aspirations. For return I will give her my love and the devotion that her unselfishness so well deserves. In a word, my wife must be to me a 'good comrade' and willing to cheerfully share the uncertainties of my lot."

**THIS ONE MUST PAY HER OWN MESS-BILL.**  
The following is a concise but comprehensive view of the situation from the standpoint of a naval officer, whose broad experience of life and personal attractions of mind and heart entitle his opinions to be read with consideration and carefully digested by those to whom they are supposed to be addressed. I copy verbatim his note in reply to my query, that will give a pretty general idea of the sentiments of all brother officers:

"Miss Grundy, Jr.: I received your note asking for my views on the subject of an ideal wife, and, more particularly, one for a naval man.

"I have never given the subject of matrimony much consideration, and therefore my views would not be of much interest to any one. I do not believe that a naval officer should get married at all, but if he is determined to do so, as a great many of them are, I do not see why his ideal should be any different from that of a man in any other profession. A good wife is a good wife the world over. The only ideal I have ever heard naval officers describe was one that could pay her own mess-bill.

"Ideal men and women exist only in the fertile imagination of romancers. If we were to go around the world in pursuit of our ideals we would have a harder task than Diogenes had in finding an honest man.

"I believe in making your own ideal after finding the right person. You meet one that is attractive and interesting, and whom you are apt at first to admire and then love. You see only what is good and beautiful in them, and thus they become your ideal.

"I am afraid that getting married is like raising the ante in a jack-pot with only a small pair. If you have good luck you may improve and win the pot, and if not you may lose all you have.

"As these are my private views, I trust that you will throw this into the waste-basket and never let them see the light of day. Yours faithfully,  
H. R. SULLIVAN.

**THIS BRIDEGROOM-ELECT EXPECTS PERFECTION.**

Here goes another from a distinguished member of the same branch of the service,



THE THIRD PARTY IS BORN.  
A Political Infant Which Is Likely to Be Killed With Kindness.

whose bachelor existence will ere long be solved into the universal fate toward which the flowing stream of love forever tends, and as a happy Benedict he will no longer be entitled to a space within the present article. "My wife," replied Lieut. —, who prefers not to have his name appear just now in print, "must be possessed of some practical idea of cooking, so that at least she may be capable of superintending that important branch of domestic economy, with the most-to-be-desired result of digestible dishes served temptingly. In addition she must possess sufficient musical talent to enable her to while away the quiet twilight hours of home life with light ballads or soothing airs upon the piano. But deliver me from the classic scholar in whose scientific soul there is no room for anything beneath the classics. I would have my wife well informed in literature, in order that she might share with me the pleasures of the standard works and be able to discuss with intelligence the current gossip of the day, though devoid of pedantry and free from that self-appreciation that well-read women occasionally indulge in to the feeling of superiority over their less-informed husbands. My wife must not be so cultured that she falls to look up to her husband with the feeling of respect that proves the key-note to domestic peace, though he, perchance, may not be in all things the ideal hero of her love. Above all things, she must possess refinement of nature, a true gentleness, loving, tender, and true. I do not object to her dancing, in fact, consider the accomplishment an advantage to both women and men, but she should be willing to be guided by her husband in the choice of partners, sufficiently a woman of the world to hold her own in the very best society at home or abroad. In this respect American girls always prove the best of wives for naval officers, whose profession constantly throws them among the very first society among European capitals, and when accompanied by their wives while resident for a while in foreign ports seldom fail to reap the superior advantages of our more advanced system of female education, and our women are universally popular. Naval officers who wed English girls often too late find out their mistake. I know of one such instance, for example, where a young fellow of my acquaintance spends the larger portion of his leave every three years or so in crossing and recrossing the ocean to visit his wife at her English home, and thereby loses much of the domestic joy so dear to a sailor's heart, and finds small opportunity for indulgence in the society of his better half."

"These are a few of my views in regard to true wedded happiness among the profession, but owing to existing circumstances, which I am sure you will appreciate," blushing continued my informant, "I do not care to have my name appear at present in connection with so important a question."

### WIVES FOR THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

I quote a reply just received from a distinguished member of the Geological Survey, well known as one of our society beaux and leader of many Germans.

"In reply to my friend, Miss Grundy, Jr.'s, query as to my ideal of a wife, I have sought the opinions of my many collaborators on this all-important question, and have taken their views collectively in the following:

"In regard to looks, she must be at least at-

tractive in general appearance, amiable, and unaffected. She must be willing to share, without complaining, the husband's Bohemian existence, which his occupation requires, and able to sew, cook, wash, and iron, so as to be capable of taking the cook's place in camp when in some far-off uninhabitable mountainous country he unexpectedly and threateningly says he will not cook another victual unless this here surveying party pays more money, or something to that effect. She must know how to make up cots and clean tents, and must not fool with the barometers or the other instruments in camp, not be too inquisitive in regard to their use, must be willing to board in a log hut, probably a mile or so from her husband, and not complain if she only has corn bread and bacon to eat, and also willing to ride on moving day twenty or thirty miles in a buckboard and carry a barometer; must be perfectly fearless of snakes and other disagreeable vermin, and never offer suggestions as to a better way of running a camp, nor give the cook recipes of her mother's for new dishes. She must be able to harness a horse and to saddle and unsaddle an animal when desirous of using one of the Government nags. She must have no musical inclinations and be free from gossiping. So I am afraid one will think the United States Geological Survey man seeks, as did the 'primeval lords of creation,' for the unobtainable, 'the ideal woman.'"

### MONEY AND SUBMISSION FOR THE LEGAL BEAU.

An inspiring lawyer writes:  
"It would be suicidal for a young man nowadays to marry unless he had the income of an Astor. The gilded age in which we live, the demands for social supremacy among the women, is so great that a man is forced to seek his club and live in apartment-houses, which are dotted all over the city, for single gentlemen. Women in the olden time used to love, honor, and obey their husbands, notwithstanding the peculiar law that the wife's personal property became her husband's absolutely instantly on marriage, and her checks, bonds, and rents were his also, when he realized upon them. Should she complain or become unruly, she would be brought into submission with a stick no bigger than his thumb. Then, again, a man had the right to forbid a contemplated visit from his mother-in-law. One old writer explained this by saying, 'She (the wife) may be very amiable, but her connections may not be so.' With the changes of the lawmaking, woman is freer in thought in action. She lost all that strong, deep affection for her lord and master, man. The nineteenth-century idea of submission is characterized in a paragraph recently published in a weekly journal. The wife, after a flirtation with a former lover, was questioned by her husband as to her forgetting her marriage vows she gave at the altar. She replied 'on that occasion she was so nervous she did not know what she was saying.'

"Man, in his generosity to make woman more of a helpmate and companion, overstepped his mark, and now the laws are very strong on the woman's side. She now keeps her property, and the husband, on marriage, takes all the debts. Yet a man will marry in spite of all, and, for a lawyer, he wishes a woman who cannot argue, whose opinion is not as strong as 'the wealth obstinate juror,' and one who does not want the last word, who is skilled in stenography and typewriting, and who thinks twice before she speaks, for without these qualifications, 'the joinder of

husband and wife to the suit, the error is fatal.' JOHN DOE, Attorney-at-Law."

### A VETERAN BEAU ON MARRIAGE.

A gallant veteran whose wide experience of garrison life entitles his opinions to serious consideration contributes the following advice to swell my budget: "Let no young girl fresh from the restraints of school, and as yet untried in the practical lessons of life, think to find freedom through a blind rush into the solemn responsibilities of a soldier's wife, as so many fair maidens of wealth and romantic imagination are yearly assuming through the bond of matrimony, all unconscious of the trials that await them and totally unprepared for the stern realities of the position. The most important consideration is, first of all, for a woman to truly love her husband with that pure, unselfish devotion that will enable her to sacrifice every mere personal consideration in the desire to accommodate herself to circumstances, and submit with good grace to small quarters, plain fare, early hours, and a monotony of routine that, after the first novelty of romance wears off, will surely follow and inevitably prove the source of disappointed hopes and bring weary hours of loneliness, that in the usual dearth of female companionship must surely result, and unless a woman be possessed of something beyond mere commonplace attractions, some originality of character and strength of mind, she will finally lose heart, and with it all desire to please and retain the affection of her chosen hero, thus sowing the seeds of that incompatibility which at length saps all conjugal happiness and renders domestic life a hopeless tangle, only severed by death.

### THE WIFE FOR GARRISON LIFE.

"Take the word of an old soldier," my mentor continued, "that the true wife for every Army officer is one who is ready and willing to travel in a baggage wagon, seated in the midst of her household goods, without regard to the roughness of the road, or to journey for miles on the uncertain seat on the back of an Army mule, one of those much-enduring and greatly-abused animals, whose fondness for kicking backwards is proverbially unpleasant and practically risky. She must learn the difficult art of keeping her own counsel and, above all, avoid the temptation to gossip, which to a greater or less extent prevails in every small-sized community and is especially difficult to escape in the contracted interests of garrison life. I once dwelt at a quiet post in the far West where everything was pleasant and peaceful, until one day there appeared in our midst a newly-appointed paymaster and his gossipy wife, whose advent was soon followed by a most woeful change that affected the erstwhile happy community like a sudden whirlwind amid the smooth sands of the desert, and it was not long before the indiscreet meddling of the new woman set every one by the ears and each household at enmity with the other, while the spirit of good-fellowship and love in which all had so long dwelt had fled forever. A soldier's wife must understand something of practical cooking and how to tidy a room and make it attractive on little or nothing, in order that an atmosphere of comfort may pervade her quarters and thereby tempt her husband to linger in happy indulgence of the temporary dwelling she has rendered so homelike, set in the midst of the wild prairies or more secure walls of a fortress. (Concluded on the Eleventh Page.)

## THE PROSPECTS ARE GOOD.

A NEW CITY POST OFFICE NOW SEEMS ASSURED.

The Difficulties in the Way of Securing the Avenue Site Nearly All Cleared Away—What Now Remains to Be Done.

It is learned by inquiry made of the District Attorney that the indications are favorable for the complete acquisition by the Government at an early date of title to the site selected by Congress for the new city post office building.

The awards made by Messrs. Thompson, Lenman, and Hamilton, the commissioners appointed by the court to appraise the interests of the several owners of land in the square, have been transmitted by the District Attorney to the Attorney General, for the consideration of that officer and the Secretary of the Treasury, upon whose request the Attorney General directed the institution of the proceedings in condemnation. The aggregate of the awards amounts to \$651,215, which is at the rate of about \$10.60 per square foot for the whole square.

The District Attorney transmits them with the statement that, in his opinion, although liberal, they are not excessive, and he recommends that they be acquiesced in by the authorities. If the Attorney General and the Secretary consider the recommendations favorably, a motion will be at once made to the court for a confirmation of the awards.

The holders of the largest interests in the square, while not satisfied that the full value of their property has been allowed, have nevertheless concluded to accept the awards made them, and it is thought their actions will be generally followed by the other owners. But one of the parties in interest has so far filed exceptions to the awards. The hopes of the city for a new post office building seems therefore in a fair way of realization in the near future.

The vexed question of the selection of the site was finally settled by the passage of the act of Congress of June 25, 1890, by which the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to acquire the title to the square between Eleventh and Twelfth streets and Pennsylvania avenue and C street, numbered 323, and to erect upon it "a commodious and substantial building with fire-proof vaults, heating and ventilating apparatus, elevators and approaches, for use as a United States post office for said city, and for other governmental purposes."

This act limited the cost of the building to \$800,000, but the amount was increased to \$1,900,000 by the act of August 30, 1890, and the latter act further provided that the building should be fire-proof, with not less than eight stories, and appropriated and made available for the purposes of construction the sum of \$250,000.

The act of Congress contemplates the erection of a building not only for post office purposes, but "for other governmental purposes," and the liberal appropriation insures a structure upon its principal thoroughfare which will be an ornament to the city and in keeping with the other offices of the Government.

The public will await with interest the formulation of the plans by the new supervising architect, Mr. Edbrooke, feeling assured from his high professional standing that they will be entirely worthy of the occasion.

This building and the large building to be erected by the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company for a power-house between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets will when completed effect a transformation in the appearance of the south side of the Avenue, much to its advantage.

## SENTENCED TO DIE.

A Remarkable French Criminal About to Meet His Deserts.

NANCY, May 23.—Meunier, the ex-officer of customs who was arrested May 14 at Landres charged with a number of crimes, was to-day sentenced to death. Meunier is a widower, with two sons. He courted Mile. Jactel, a wealthy young lady, who rejected him because he was poor. Meunier then engaged in a series of robberies, and eventually murdered a priest and the latter's servant. By this crime Meunier appears to have obtained possession of some money, for he renewed his suit, but was unable to soften the heart of Mile. Jactel's mother, who objected to Meunier's children. This so incensed Meunier that he set fire to the Jactel residence and its occupants narrowly escaped with their lives. The ex-customs officer, curious to record, had not been detected in any of these crimes and again renewed his suit. After another interview with Mile. Jactel, who then appears to have been willing to marry him, Meunier smothered his eldest boy and later on shot and seriously wounded the brother of the young lady he professed to love. Mile. Jactel's brother had earned Meunier's hatred by forbidding the proposed marriage. Meunier, when arrested, confessed to all but the murder of the priest and the latter's servant.

## THE POPE INTERESTED.

He Communicates With Cardinal Gibbons About the New Orleans Affair.

PARIS, May 23.—A despatch to the *Figaro* from Rome says that His Holiness, the Pope, has written to Cardinal Gibbons asking the latter to furnish him with details as to the New Orleans dispute, and as to its effect upon the position of Italians. His Holiness, according to this despatch, has also requested Cardinal Gibbons to do his utmost to obtain an equitable solution of the questions which have been raised by the New Orleans lynchings.

## Take It With You.

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