

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

COUNTRY WOMEN.

The Rev. O. G. Wheeler, of South Hero, Vt., delivered the fourth lecture of the Methodist lecture course, at Academy Hall, last evening. His subject was "Country Women," and he said he thought the small audience would be gratified that he had chosen a brand-new subject. It was not through lack of respect for his metropolitan sisters that he had chosen this subject, but because, being a countryman himself, he was better acquainted with country women. Following this thought he read a fine poem, the title of which was, "My Mother." This was followed by several other poetical effusions about girls. Starting with them when they were small, at a time when they stood on the same plane with boys—when the boys respected them not, but would fight them as they would with other boys—he kept them company through the joys and sorrows of the sweet sixteen age till that romantic period was finally extinguished by marriage. His verses told of black-eyed girls, and girls with orbs of blue, of raven tresses and blonde ringlets—both equally fatal to the stronger, though apparently softer sex. His relation of the way in which young men hugged and kissed the girls, carried their fans for them, held the buffalo robes around them, held their hands and looked mooney, was all very nice, but there were very few who heard him who did not understand all about these things, and some of his audience began to fear that the reverend gentleman was himself getting a little moon-struck in his declining years. However, he soon reached the serious portion of his discourse, which proved the announcement he made at the outset, that he had an important purpose in view in selecting this subject.

The country women, he said, if a wife, was the hardest-working woman in the globe. She does three times as much work as her husband does. It is singular that he, who is her abject worshipper before marriage, should make her such a drudge immediately after that consummation. And yet he claimed to support her, and girls were taught that their ultimate destiny was to get married in order to have a home and there be supported. What was this support? How many wives have money that they feel they can do what they choose with? How timidly they ask for a dollar! It is a common thing for a mother to ask her daughter to "tease" (pat) to buy her (the mother) a new calico dress, or to ask her son to take a basket of eggs to go to the store and barter them for some necessary, but not to let his father know it. A woman feels actually compelled to steal from her own party in order to buy articles she stands in need of.

But the beauty, majesty and magnanimity of man is most apparent when he dies. Then an administrator presents himself with his commissions, and orders the widow to bring forward her spoons and other effects to be inventoried. The result is, the wife is "given one-third" of the property she has helped to accumulate. How would the man feel if the tables were turned upon him? Supposing the wife dies first, and an administrator comes next day and orders him to bring out his spoons, and takes two-thirds of his property—how would he feel? The law seems to assume that the man is not capable of living upon one-third of the estate as is the woman. But it is claimed in excuse for the injustice to woman that the widow might marry again and squander the property. Men never do such things! Of course we never heard of a man's marrying a young girl for a second wife; to assist him in enjoying the property the first wife wore herself out in helping to accumulate.

Mr. Wheeler would put the man and woman upon the same platform. He would let the woman vote if she wanted to. It was strange that in a country where men worshipped girls they would keep a law upon their statute books which allowed them to rob wives. He had but little respect for such an unjust law, and if he were a woman he would turn the government upside down, unless he was given his rights.—*St. Albans (Vt.) Messenger.*

I've been thinking much about the Grangers lately; and have decided (and who is there that can say, I shall prove a false prophet) that the broad-minded, sensible, liberal, brother-and-sisterhood of grangerism is the ladder on which Woman is to rise to fair play and the ballot,—after all the fuss that has been made, and has, as yet, apparently amount to so little. There is no "thus far shalt thou come and no farther" in all their platform. Side by side, shoulder to shoulder, the woman speak, vote and act with the men; and no wonder they are a success, and are already a power in the land.—*Aileen Shamrock, in Woman's Journal.*

MARRIAGE QUARRELS.

People talk of lovers' quarrels as rather pleasant episodes,—probably because they are not quarrels at all. She pouts, he kisses; he frowns, she coaxes. Its half play, and they know it. Matrimonial quarrels are another thing. I doubt seriously if married people ever truly forgive each other after the first falling out. They gloss it over; they kiss, and make up; the wound apparently heals, but only, as some of those horrible wounds given in battle do, to break out again at some unexpected moment. The man who has sinned and said cruel things to a sensitive woman never has her whole heart again. The woman who has uttered reproaches to a man can never be taken to his bosom with the same tenderness as before those words were spoken. The two people who must never quarrel are husband and wife. One may fall out with kinsmen, and make up, and be friendly again. The tie of blood is a strong one, and affection may return after it has flown away; but love once banished, is a dead and buried thing. The heart may ache, but it is with hopelessness. It may be impossible to love any one else; but it is more impossible to restore the idol to its empty niche. For a word or two, for sharpening of the wits, for a moment's self assertion, two people have often been made miserable for life; for whatever there may be before, there are no lovers' quarrels after marriage.

At a recent marriage of a young lady, the following good advice was given to the bride and her husband: Never talk at but to each other. Never both maintain anger at the same time. Never speak loud or boisterously to each other. Never reproach each other in presence of others. Never find fault or fret about what cannot be helped. Never repeat an order or request when understood. Never make a remark at the other's expense. Neglect everybody else rather than each other.—*Margaret Fuller.*

MAKE HOME PLEASANT.

"The demon of dullness which is allowed to reign at home, has more to do with driving young men into vicious company than the attractions of vice itself."

There is nothing truer than this, yet a great many women either do not see, it or are too indolent to care. How easy it would be to make home attractive! What a delightful task! Boys must have something lively and interesting to keep their intemperate, restless spirits within bounds. I have often wondered why people do not have reading clubs at home for the amusement and benefit of the children; there is no better way to give a child a taste for literature. I will remember that it was thus that I first learned that books were worth reading; and the thought of many evenings spent in this way in the "old home" often comes back to me fraught with sweetest memories. Most boys are fond of music and there are but few who cannot sing a little. This is another pleasant way to pass the time that would hang heavily on their hands. It is so natural for people to turn to reading or music for companionship when the day's work is done, and they should be important items in every household and every child should feel that he or she has a part to perform that no other can do. There are other means of amusement, but none more improving and agreeable than these. And as long as they exist, there is no excuse for young men being forced from home on account of dullness.—*Ladies Column, Pulaski Citizen.*

Wait.—Wait, husband, before you wonder audibly why your wife don't get along with the household affairs "as your mother did." She is doing her best, and no woman can endure that best to be slighted. Remember the long, weary nights she sat up with the little babe that died; remember the love and care she bestowed upon you when you had that long spell of sickness. Do you think she is made of cast iron? Wait—wait in silence and forbearance, and the light will come back to her eyes—the old light for the old days.

Wait, wife, before you speak reproachfully to your husband when he comes home late, weary, and "out sorts." He worked hard for you all day, perhaps far into the night; he has wrestled, hand in hand, with care and self-honesty and greed, and all the demons that follow in the train of money making. Let home be another atmosphere entirely. Let him feel that there is one place in the world where he can find peace and quiet and perfect love.

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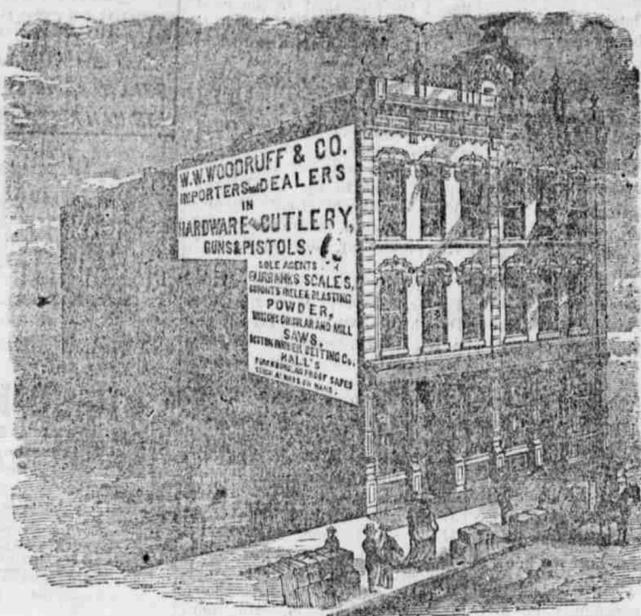
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