The married flirt is a plant which thrives only in the shadow of city walls. In country places we see little of her and hear less. She exists, to be sure, but in another form a much scandalized and tabooed person.

Once let the married woman in a small town get herself "talked about" and her fate is settled at once. The tide of public opinion runs high and strong in these places where people have but charity, and she must either re-instate herself slowly by an excess of prudence and reserve or drift on and out into defiance and disgrace.

In the large cities, however, all is different. The conduct which in the village wife would cause severe gossip and censure from observers passes without comment in town, or even excites ad-

The country matron who drives out with her neighbor is liable to meet cold glances of her women acquaintances when next they meet; while the woman of fashion speeds by in her cart, with her gallant besides her, whispering compliments in her ear, and society applauds.

While custom has much to do with our ideas of morals, there are certain principles which no custom or country can change principles which form the dividing line between night and morning-between pleasure and license.

I believe a conception of these principles is being born in the soul of every human being. There is an instinct which prompts every woman to preserve her virtue, whether she obeys it or not, and there is an instinct called conscience, which whispers to every wife when she is overstepping the boundary line of discretion in conduct, no matter whether she dwells in country or city.

The married flirt can be classed in three divisions; the born flirt, the flirt made by circumstances or books, and the seemingly unconscious flirt.

The born flirt is a combination of selfishness, sensuousness and love of applause. She feels that the world owes her a "good thing" though the heavens are pulled down to produce it. She lives wholly in her senses, and an hour of solitude or self-communion drives her distracted. Books bore her, and music she cares for only as a cover for conversation. To be looked at, admired, courted, to drive, dance and feast-this is her ideal of happiness.

She finds little to divert her in the stepping stones to her desire. She marsary to her comfort. The latter con sideration is the first to be considered, so she allows the husband to keep at his money-getting while she looks to other men for amusement and diversion. The fact that women dislike her and gossip about her only contributes to her diversion. She construes it as a testimony to her powers. She is pleased with her husband's jealousy, and if she brings up in the divorce court as last she is not abashed or disconcerted, because she is still observed as an object of interest by the public.

The made flirt is a more sensitive, sentimental and vain being. She has read books Ouida in particular wherein the married siren figured as heroine. She talks a great deal about the "subtle power" which some women exercise over men, and is indignant and disgusted if you intimate that she has other than a spiritual and mental attraction for the admirers who flock about her.

She feels that her husband does not fully understand her, and her vanity and idealism lead her to believe and construe as sympathy all the flattering speeches whispered in her ear, and to treasure all the notes and roses sent her by other men. If through these indiscretions she is led into newspaper notoriety or the courts, she is crushed to the earth, and believes herself the most abused and misconstrued woman on earth. If she escapes this experience, she continues into middle life, her lovers growing younger, as she grows olderand ridicule taking the place of criticism on the public lip.

The seemingly unconscious married flirt is perhaps the most dangerous and certainly the most aggravating of all. She looks straight into the eyes of men with childlike trust, and seems not to understand their bold glances or their meaning compliments, but she does.

Perfect mistress of herself, absolutely \$1.75 for a new subscription or a renewal. free from making any misstep, secure in her husband's love and respect, and in public esteem, she yet teases and tempts the admiration of men to leap dangerously near the flame of love, by those dangerous arts of coquetry which are as indescribable as alluring. If any man forgets himself and speaks words to her which no honest wife should hear, she assumes the air of wounded dignity so familiar to us through theatrical representations, and cries, "Sir, how dare you," or she breaks into tears of surprise and pain, and straightway makes the man feel like a brute and an assas-

He leaves her, convinced of her stain-

extracting a promise from him that he ANNIANO will do nothing rash, but let the matter drop right where it is. The husband is indignant at the man, and full of sympathy for his wife, whose seeming humiliation and grief touch him with renewed admiration and pride.

This type of married flirt seldom gets herself gossiped about, though she goes on with her innocent allurements to the end of life. She causes heartache and disappointment, but not absolute disaster and scandal. She takes the perfume from the rose of danger she avoids the thorn; and whatever result comes of her actions she always receives the sympathy of the public and leaves little experience and consequently little the blame and censure for others to bear. ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

LITERARY TOPICS.

"The Reveries of a Bachelor" are not more delightful reading than those dainty word pictures of spinsterhood, which have much of the enduring charm of Miss Mitford's or Mrs. Gaskell's sketches of village life. The interior of the old house where this cheery old maid lives, the quaint, corner cupboard with its array of family china and silver, the before us with photographic clearness; the two cats have their idiosyncrasies made a bad match. described with droll humor; and the village folk live and move as if they were our actual neighbors, they are so thoroughly natural and typical. Absentlike his creed, was a little rusty with tages service." his large, energetic wife, whose mental activity survived her enforced confinement to one room, a room which "had a compound flavor of liniment. camphor, dead air, hot flannel and herbs," and to which "with hen-care, which had no real wing brooding," she nightly summoned her unfortunate grandson, Timmy, and dosed him with boneset tea made from herbs of his own gathering, if there was the remotest suspicion of damp feet; Deacon Thad and his lively son Joe, whom the good deacon called "his rowen crop;" visionary Mr. Craig, the minister, and his intense little daughter, Jessie, who wishes God was a mother, since his fatherhood, alas, does not appeal to her-these and other characters are drawn with felicitous

There is a thread of tender romance running through the book, the strong instinct of motherhood which makes the generous spinster heart yearn to pour out its repressed affection on some abandoned child, some "doorstep baby" companionship of woman. Men are the that she might make her own. The fancy becomes a fact at last, though in ries young, and soon finds that one man a different way than she had planned; cannot satisfactorily cater to her various and thenceforth the story is even more tastes for amusement and pleasure, and attractive. Taken as a whole, the book at the same time earn the money neces- is charming in text and illustrations. Keith; Lee & Shepard, Boston.

> Messrs Lee and Shepard are about to publish a new book by Henry Wood under the title of THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF NATURAL LAW. Its purpose is to outline a political economy which is practical and natural rather than theoretical and artifical, being a study of inherent laws and principles.

this unusually dry subject not only instructive but positively entertaining.

In a series of interviews with members of the last congress, thirty-one out of forty-three remarked that they were readers of the Youth's Companion. For definite and trustworthy information on the questions of the day it is really unique, while the high character of its stories, the wide fields covered by its special articles, and its contributions from the most famous writers in Europe and America are well known. Its programme for next year seems brighter than ever. Some of the important stories are: "The Deserter," by Harold Frederic; a tale of the great mutiny in India, by Sara Jeannette Duncan; several romances of the sea, by W. Clark Russell; tales of the war, and of the frontier in early days. Henry W. Stanley contributes two thrilling narratives but if he does set out at such work there from Darkest Africa, and Archibald Forbes writes of his "Closest Call." Naval battles are described by Admirals, and military life by generals. Then there are articles on choosing an occupation, boys who should not go to college, physical training, recreations of all kinds and many other practical subjects. Another pleasant feature is a charming picture of a young lady of colonial times, "Sweet Charity." reproduced in colors from a painting by Ferris, which is presented to all subscribers who send their

AND SO IT WAS.

They had reached that stage of the engagement where she felt free to amuse herself by exploring his pockets. It so happened that he had forgotten to take out the ticket for his watch, and when she found that she immediately wanted to know what it was.

"That," said he, with as much dignity as he could command, "is a souvenir of the World's Fair."

Chappie Moran - Mitchell will surprise the American.

Tom Allen-I will place my money on Mitchell. Tom Kelly-It will not be a walk over

for either. Bill Clark-Mitchell will give Corbett the battle of his life.

Charley Daly-I incline to think that Corbett will get there, but Mitchell may treat us all to a surprise party.

Jim Cronin-I saw Corbett lick Sulli van and naturally I think pretty well of him. But they say Mitchell is harder than nails and a bad man to beat. I won't bet a cent until I interview both men personally.

Jim Coughlin-I don't think either is going to have a cake walk.

Hugh McManus-It will be a hard fight and it will be hard work picking the winner.

Dave Gideon Corbett, easily.

Billy Madden-Corbett ought to win. Edward Mallahan-I have been a great admirer of Mitchell, though well whose sweet, cold water tempts the everybody appears to dislike his chances wayfarer of a moonlight night, are put in this fight. I look upon it as a sure thing for him to win. Mitchell never

P. J. Donahue Corbett may win, but he will have no picnic.

Billy Edwards Height and reach will whip Mitchell, but he has a good outminded ex-parson Timloe, "whose wig, side chance to overcome these advan-

J. B. McCormick-Mitchell, no matter how well trained hasn't a look-in.

Colonel Bill Harding-Charley will picked a loser, and its too late to begin "Butch" Thompson-I'll have to bet

on Corbett. Al Smith-It's a pudding for the

American. think Corbett has the soft thing he ex-

Steve Brodie-Corbett will win if Mitchell doesn't land one of those Jack Dempsey-Corbett will win in a

Jack Cusack-Mitchell ought to win. Jim Wakely-Corbett in a walk. Ike Thompson-Mitchell.

"Snapper" Garrison-It's the hardest fight I ever heard of to pick a winner. Warren Lewis-Mitchell will do well to stay two rounds.

Jere Dunn-It looks like a good thing for Corbett, but it won't be. Mitchell will get the money.

"King" Kelly-I'm a red-hot Mitchell

W. A. Edwards The greatest surprise of the century is in store for the sporting rounds.

WHAT MITCHELL SAYS.

"I am not figuring to win in two or three rounds as Corbett is," said Mitchell the other day, "but from the way I feel at present it is safe for me to calculate that the American boxer will realize on Mr. Wood has the faculty of rendering January 26 that he has not been a participant in a cake walk. I am at this moment better and stronger than ever before, not excluding the occasion of my meeting with Sullivan in France.

"I do not advise any man to bet on me, because this fighting business is mighty uncertain; but should any friend of mine choose to risk a few dollars on my chances of landing the big prize he may rest assured of getting a run for this

"The more I think the job over the more I am convinced that I shall finish first or the very best second that ever was known."

"Do you look for a long fight?" was asked.

"That's a hard question to answer." Mitchell replied smilingly. "You see, it's this way. Corbett may take it into his head to be rude at the very outset. Of opinion the fight will last more than two or three rounds. Just how much longer depends upon what opportunities are

MONEY IN PRIZE FIGHTING.

Prize fighting is a better business just now than it used to be. At least it is now a more lucrative business to those directly interested than it was a few years ago. Now when two pugilistic champions talk of meeting it is with the fault? Yours; for failing in your duty to proviso that some club puts up a fortune her. to fight for. Sullivan and Corbett fought for a purse of \$20,000 and an outside bet of \$10,000. Corbett when he won bagged a fortune in a single night. The coming battle between Corbett and Mitchell will, all things considered, net the winner nearly \$100,000. In the olden time the gladiators did not get quite so much as this for putting up their "dukes." One of the fiercest fights on record took place in St. Louis on June such cautions quite as often as their 1, 1862. Mike Fagan and Andy Love, were the contestants and they fought Buckingham's Dye for the Whiskers until poor Andy died. The only thing is a popular preparation in one bottle, at stake was glory. When Mike Mcless purity and absolute innocence, and and colors evenly a brown or black. Coole and Pill Davis had their battle she tells her husband all about it, after Any person can easily apply it at home. royal at Rhoads Point, on September 19,

'66, they fought for only \$500 a side and a champion belt that cost about one dollar and a half. When Tom Allen made his American debut in January, 1869, he did not get enough money out of his winnings to dust a fiddle, and when Charley Gallagher put Tom to sleep that same year Gallagher had no trouble at all in disposing of his winnings in a single night. Between these battles other meetings between the smaller fry took place, but there was never a stake up worth trying for. Tom Jennings and Dublin Tricks battled for \$100 a side. and down on Bloody Island, Hank Fitzgerald and John Ahern had a fierce battle for \$25 a side, but there was a dispute over the referee's decision and neither got a cent. Jack Looney, St. Louis' erstwhile champion fought a great fight with Jim Coburn, but Jack only put up \$50 to Jim's \$30. Later these two battled for a princely sum of \$80, and they went seventy rounds at that. In August, 1865, Tom Milan and Jack Eagan, fought for a baggage wagon, horse and harness which they owned in partnership, and after eightyfour rounds the referee declared it a draw. The first fight that ever took place near St. Louis was that of May 18, 1847, between William Edwards and James Johnson. They fought for \$10 a side and Edwards received injuries which resulted fatally. But all of these were prize fights. The pugilists of today appear only in "glove contests" and when they do appear it is only where there is a hogshead of money in sight.

Since the celebrated Bostonian, whose name is still a household word in counbreak the talent this time. I have never tries where such illustrious Americans as George Washington, Daniel Webster, Abraham Lincoln or U.S. Grant were never heard of took to fighting for a living his fists have brought him in. directly or indirectly, three parts of a RELIGIOUS CONGRESSES million dollars at a conservative esti Professor Mike Donovan-I don't mate. Sullivan, like the boy in history. wanted to keep his cake and eat it, but, in spite of his defeat, he closed his books last season with nearly \$50,000 on the right side of the ledger, and, although punches with which he floored Sullivan. he would scarcely be able to make \$10 a week as an actor if he didn't happen to be Sullivan, there is no telling how long the tremendous amount of advertising which he received during his reign as champion will draw crowds to the theatres in which he appears. There is such a general interest in this manly sport that an exponent of it who reaches the top notch finds himself with a splendid stock in trade, even if he doesn't fight much. The show business is open to him. And if he is sensible he usually takes advantage of this broad avenue to comparative wealth.

ADVICE TO HUSBANDS

Years ago I came across a word of advice to husbands, regarding the respect due to wives, part of which I will copy: "Never jest with your wife on any subject that may wound her feelings. Never speak of some virtue in another man's wife, with the desire to remind yours of some fault of her own. Do not be inattentive to your wife in company. Nothing wounds a woman's pride more keenly or tends so much to weaken her love and respect for yourself.

"If you would be sure of a pleasant home and a cheerful wife, pass your evenings at home with her, or take her to share social enjoyments with you. "Never be stern or silent in your own house, and noted for your social

gifts elsewhere." Nothing could be better than this advice, and it is too often greatly needed. For, I ask, does the man fully appreciate the responsibility he took upon himself when he induced the woman with pledges, promises and many kindnesses to go into a life partnership with him? If so, then he should also know that he has taken upon himself a solemn

duty to fulfill those contracts. No punishment is too great for a man who has perjured himself in the intent to course, I should not think of doing so, gain his desires, and in so doing brings unhappiness to one who trusted him. is only one thing for me to do. In my If a man says it was overenthusiasm, then it should be his duty to repair the wrong done his wife by every possible effort.

A man should be careful in his comments to his wife in regard to her religious nature. Does he think she is too conscientious? Has he not learned that if a wife's conscience is sensitive to wrong-doing, he can implicitly trust her.

But beware of making it callous, for there may come a time when she is not worthy of trust. And through whose

A man says: "Oh! I am a rough brute, speak out what I think. I had no intention of hurting." It may be the wife's duty that she, at first, overlooks this lack of refinement, but it is the man's duty that he try to govern that unruly tongue and not tax her forgiveness to often.

But while reading the above can one avoid the question: "Do not wives need husbands?"

Perhaps I may be somewhat behind the age, but we plead guilty to some little sympathy for husbands. The Henry Ward Beecher.

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