pelting-drop! drop! drop! and he seized ha spotlessness of a virgin reared in the sanctity of a respectable home! Will a buzzard dare to WHAT CONSTITUTES THE NOBLE He replied: THE CHOOSING OF A WIFE. Royal, a chaplet of diamonds that appen and wrote: MAN? "You can put on natural flowers. If very rainy day and a contentious we peared to them exactly like the one man an court a dove? s very chic at this season. For ten they were looking for. It was worth alike. DIVINE DIRECTION ESSENTIAL. THE REV. DR. TALMAGE BEGINS FEMALE SCOFFERS TO BE AVOIDED. francs you can get two or three magnifi- about forty thousand francs. They But the majority of you will marry and have What constitutes the noble man And fitly measures life's brief span! If Soloman had been as prayerful at the becent roses." HIS SERIES OF SERMONS ON right to marry, and as your religious teacher could have it for thirty-six thousand. ginning of his life as he was at the close, how wish to say to these men in the choice of a The breath of fame? She was not convinced. Then they begged the jeweler not to much domestic infelicity he would have avoid "THE MARRIAGE RING." wife first of all seek divine direction. About A titled name? ed. But prayer about this will amount to noth "No-there is nothing more humiliat sell it for three days. And they made thirty-five years ago when Martin Farquhar Tupper, the English poet, urged men to prayer Some creed believed? ing unless you pray soon enough. Wait unti-you are fascinated and the equilibrium of your ing than to look poverty stricken among a condition that they would give it back a lot of rich women." Some deed achieved! Ministers Chided for Neglecting The idle pomp of kingly power? The emptly, trappings of an hour? before they decided upon matrimonial associafor thirty-four thousand francs if the soul is disturbed by a magnetic presence, and then you will answer your own prayers, and you will mistake your own infatuation for the voice tion, people laughed. And some of them have lived to laugh on the other side of their mouth. But her husband exclaimed: Kindly Advice Regarding the first was found again before the 1st of "How foolish you are! Go and find your friend, Mme. Forestier, and ask February. Let those who prize the crowd's behest Choice of Life-time Com-The need of divine direction I argued from the The need of divine direction I argued from the fact that so many men, and some of them strong and wise, have wrecked their lives at this juncture. Witness Samson and this woman of Timnath. Witness Socrates pecked of the historical Xantipp. Witness Job, whose wife had nothing to prescribe for his carbuncles but allopathic doses of profanity. Witness Ananias, a liar, who might perhaps have been cured by a truthful sponse, yet martand slaves to folly's train confessed, Loisel possessed eighteen thousand of God. If you have this prayerful spirit you will surely avoid all female scoffers at the Christian religion, and there are quite a number of them in all communities. It must be told that through the only influence that keeps women from being estimated and treated as a of God. panions. Enjoy a day Of sordid sway, her to lend you some jewels. You are francs, left him by his father. He bor-intimate enough with her for that." Or glory won On Marathon, Not All Fitted for Marriage-Prayer for She uttered a cry of joy. "It is true. I had no thought of it." He borrowed, asking a thousand france of one, five hundred of another, Or Burmah's gold with ease attained, Or widened realms ignobly gained. Divine Direction Essential-Artificial The next day she went to her friend five louis here, three louis there. He slave-aye, as a brute and a beast of burden-Women and Coquettes. But grander far than power or pelf and told her of her distress. is Christianity, since where it is not dominant she is so treated; yet there are women who will so far forget themselves and forget their gave notes, took up ruinous contracts, have been cured by a truthful spouse, yet mar-rying as great a liar as himself—Sapphira. Witness John Wesley, one of the best men that over lived, united to one of the most outrage-The soul's cominion over self, Mme. Forestier went to her lookingdid business with the userers, with A heart aglow glass, took from it a large box, opened it, and said to Mme. Loisel: The Women of To-Day the Best Ever every kind of lenders. He compromis-For others' woe, The high-born thought, God that they will go hear lecturers maligu ed the whole end of his existence, risked Known-When a Wife is Bravest. Christianity and scoff at the most sacred thing: ous and scandalous of women, who sat in City The grandly wrought Resolve attuned to exalted end; "Choose, my dear." his signature, without knowing even if of the soul. A good woman, over-persuaded by her husband, may go once to hear such a tirade against the Christian religion, not fully Road chapel making mouths at him while he She first saw bracelets, then a string he could do so honorably. and appalled preached. Witness the once connubial wretch-edness of John Ruskin, the great art essayist, Special to the Kansas City Times. These noble manhood e'er attained. of pearls, then a Venetian cross of gold by the distress of the future, by the BROOKLYN, N. Y., Jan. 10.-The Rev. T. De knowing what she is going to hear; but she and precious stones of admirable work black misery that was to strike him Who thus fulfills his Maker's trust, and Frederick W. Robertson, the great preach-Witt Talmage preached this morning in the Brooklyn tabernacle the first of his series of will not go twice. A woman, not a Christian, but a respecter of religion said to me. "I was In simple love of virtue, must, Hia name enshrined er. Witness a thousand hells on earth kindled manship. She tried on the neckless be- down, by the prospect of every kind of by unworthy wives, termagants that scold like sermons on "The Marriage Ring," the subject fore the glass, hesitated, could not dephysical privation, and every kind of a March northeaster; female spendthrifts that put their husbands into fraudulent schemes to persuaded by my husband to go and hear an By all his kind, cide to leave them, to give them up. being "The Choice of a wife." infidel lecturer once, but going home I said to him: 'My dear husband I would not go moral fortune, he went for the new Enwrenthed upon In the series will be treated the following subjects of the greatest importance to every person: "The Choice of Husband and Wife," get money enough to meet the lavishment of She still asked: him: necklace, placing on the counter of the The escutcheon Of tree ranown, complete his days again though my declinature should result in domestic expenditure; opium eating women-aboxt 400,000 of them in the United States-"Have you nothing else?" merchant thirty-six thousand francs. our divorcement forever.' " And the woman parth and Heaven's conspiring praise. - W. H. Kister, Chicago Current. "Oh, yes. Look! I don't know what you want." "Clandestine Marriages and Escapades," "Duties of Husbands and Wives," "Duties of When Mme. Loisel brought back the who will have the drug though it should cause was right. NO BUTTERFLIES OF SUNSHINE. If after all that Christ and Christianity have parure to Mme. Forestier, the latter the eternal samnation of the whole house-Wives and Husbands," In Matters of Religion hold; heartless and overbearing, and namby Suddenly she discovered in a black said with a galling manner: Should the Wife Go With the Husband, or the THE DIAMOND NECKLACE. pamby and unreasonable women; yet married; married perhaps to good men. These are the done for a woman she can go again and again satin box a superb set of diamonds, and "You should have returned it sooner, Husband Go With the Wife?" "The to hear such assaults, she is an awful creature Ways of Women," "Costume and Morals," "Competent Housewifery," "Sensible Young Womanhood," "Women Who Will Pass Life her heart began to beat with an immodfor I might have wanted it." and you had better not come near such a reek-ing lepress. She needs to be washed and for women who build the low club houses, where BY GUY DE MAUPASSANT. erate desire. Her hands trembled as she took it up. She fastened it about She did not open the casket, which the husbands and sons go because they can't three weeks to be soaked ig carbolic acid, and She was one of those pretty, charmstand it at home. On this sea of matrimony, her friend was in dread of. If she had "The Modern Novel and Woman," "Boarding-house and Hotel Life," and "Treatment of Manservant and Maidservant." where so many have wrecked, am I not right for a whole year fumigated, before she is fit for ing girls, born as though through a misher throat over her high dress, and seen the substitution, what would she decent society. While it is not demanded that a woman be a Christian before marriage, she in advising divine pilotage? take of destiny, among a family of stood in ecstasy before herself. have said? Would she not have taken ARTIFICIAL WOMEN AND COQUETTES. clerks. She had no dot, no hopes; there Then she asked, hesitating, full of ag-Especially is devout supplication needed be-cause of the fact that society is so full of artimust have regard for the Christian religion or her for a thief? The hymn sung this morning was: "The was no way of her becoming known, unshe is a bad woman and nnworthy of being ony: Morning Light is Breaking. The Darkness dorstood, loved and married by a rich your companion in a life charged with such ficialities that men are deceived as to whom "Could you lend me this, nothing but Mme. Loisel became acquainted with Disappears." An organ solo was rendered by Prof. Henry Eyre Browne, who selected the irst sonata in D minor by Ritter for his musistupendous solemnity and vicissitudes. they are marrying, and no one but the Lord and distinguished man: and she allowed this?" the horrible life of the indigent. She What you want, O man! in a wife is not a knows. After the dressmaker and the milliherself to be married to a petty clerk at ner, and the jeweler, and the hair adjuster, and the dancing master, and the cosmetie art, "Oh, yes, certainly." became resigned of a sudden, heroicalbutterily of the sunshine, not a giggling cal theme: the Ministry of Puolic Instruction. She threw herself on her friend's nonentity, not a painted doll, not a gossiping gad-about, not a mixture of artificialities ly. It was necessary to pay this fright-SAMSON'S CHOICE OF A WIFE. neck, kissed her passionately, then fled ful debt. She would pay. They dishave completed their work, how is an unso-She dressed simply, according to her After expounding a passage of scripture Dr. Falmage took for his text: Judges xiv., 3: which leaves you in doubt as to where the phisticated man to decipher the physiclogical means, but was unhappy as a person of with her treasure. missed their servant; they changed their humbug ends and the woman begins, but an bierogivpics, and make accurate judgment of no defined position; for women have no 'Is there never a woman among the daugh-The date of the fete arrived. Mme. lodgings; they took a mansard under earnest soul, one that can not only laugh when who it is to whom he offers hand and heart. estate nor race, their beauty, grace and charm taking the place of birth and ters of thy brethren, or among all my people, you laugh, but weep when you weep. There will be wide, deep graves in your path of life, That is what makes so many recreant hus-Loisel was a success. She was prettier the roof. that thou goest to take a wife of the uncir-umcised Philistines?" Dr. Talmage said: bands. They make an honorable marriage contract, but the goods delivered are so differ-ent from the sample by which they bargained. than any-elegant, gracious, smiling and Every month it was necessary to pay and you will both want steadying when you family. Their innate shrewdness, their mad with joy. All the men looked at her, asked her name, sought to be pre-"Samson, the giant, is here asking consent notes, to renew others and obtain time. come to the verge of them, I tell you! When of his father and mother to marriage with instinct of fashion, their subtility of The husband worked in the evening They were simply swindled and then backed your fortune fails you will want some one to mind, are their only hierarchy, and make the daughters of the poor the one whom they thought unfit for him. He sented to her. All the attaches of the in making up the accounts of a mertalk of treasures in heaven, and not charge out. They mistook Jezebel for Longfellow's was wise in asking their counsel, but not wise in rejecting it. Captivated with her locks upon you with a bitter, "I told you so." As cabinet wished to waltz with her. The chant, and at night he often did copying Evangeline, and Lucretia Borgia for Martha far as I can analyze it, sincerity and earnest-Washington. squals of the greatest ladies. at five sous a page. minister noticed her. the big son wanted to marry a daughter of Aye, as the Indian chief boasts of the scalps ness are the foundation of all worthy wife-When she sat down to dinner before one of the hostile families, a deceitful, hypo-She danced with frenzy, with passion, And this life went on for ten years. hood. Get that and you get all. Fail to get he has taken, so there are in society to-day the round table covered with a threecritical, whining and saturnine creature, who, that and you get nothing but what you wish many coquettes who boast of the masculine hearts they have captured. And these women, At the end of ten years they had paid intoxicated with pleasure, thinking of afterward made for him a world of trouble till you never had got. day-old cloth, opposite her husband, nothing in the triumph of her beauty, back everything-everything at an usurshe quit him forever. In my text his parents forbade the banns, practically saying: "When there are so many honest and beautiful maidthough they may live among rich upholstery BEAUTY IS BUT SKIN DEEP. who as scon as he described the soupin the glory of her success, in a kind of ious rate, and at compound interest. Don't make the mistake that man of the are not so honorable as the cyphrians of the street, for these advertise their infamy while tureon declared joyously: "Ah! good Mme. Loisel now appeared to be an cloud of happiness made of all this homext made in letting his eye settle the question ens of our own country, are you so hard put soup and boiled meat! I know nothing age, of all this admiration, of all these the former profess heaven while they mean n which coolest judgment directed by divine old woman. She had become strong, for a lifetime partner that you propose conju-gality with this foreign flirt? Is there such a bottor than that-" She dreamed of wisdom, are all important. He who has no awakened desires, of this victory sc hard, rough, and a wretched househell. There is so much counterfeit womanreason for his wifely choice except a pretty fine dinners, of glittering silver-plate, of hood abroad it is no wonder that some cannot complete and so sweet to the hearts of keeper; shabby looking, with skirts learth of lilies in our Israelitish gardens that face, is like a man who should buy a farm betell the genuine coin from the base. Do you tapostrios peopling the walls with byyou must wear on your heart a Philistine askew, and red hands. She spoke in a realize that you need divine guidance when I cause of the dahlias in the front dooryard. women. gone personages and strange birds in the midst of a fairy forest; she dreamed histle? Do you take a crab apple because She left about 4 in the morning loud voice and scrubbed the floors. But Beauty is a talent, and when God gives it He remind you that mistake is possible in this imthere are no pomegranates? Is there never a intends it as a benediction upon a woman's face. When the good princess of Wales disportant affair and, if made, is irrevocable! Since midnight her husband had slept in at times, when her husband was at the IMPOSSIBLE TO BREAK THE YOKE. of exquisite dishes served in wonderful a little deserted salon with three other office, she took her seat near the winpintos, of whispered compliments listen-

the pink trout or a chicken wing. She had no fine toilets, no jewels, and they were all she cared for, she thought hersalf fit for such things. She wished and sought after.

ed to with a sphinx-like smile as she cat

She had a rich friend, an old school- marked by the other women who wrapmate at the convent, whom she would ped themselves in rich furs. no longer go and see, so much did she grieve on her return. And she wept whole days from grief, despair and distreps.

gentlemen whose wives were amusing dow, and thought of that evening long ago, at that ball, when she was so hand-

some and so feted. What would have happened if she had in, a quiet, every day garment; its pov- not lost that necklace? Who knows? erty-stricken look contrasted with the Who can tell? How odd life is, how to please; to be envied, to be attractive, elegance of her ball costume. She felt changeable! What a little thing will it and wished to flee, so as not to be re- ruin you or save you!

Now one Sunday, as she was taking a

woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines?

NO EXCUSE FOR THE SELECTION. Excuseless was he for such a choice in a and and amid a race celebrated for female oveliness and moral worth, a land and a race of which self-denying Abigail, and heroic Deborah, and dazzling Vashti, and pious Esther, and glorious Ruth, and Mary who hugged to her heart the biessed Lord, were only magnificent specimens. The midnight folded in their hair, the lakes of liquid beauty in their eyes, the gracefulness of spring morning in their posture and gait, were only typical of the greater brilliance and glory of their souls. Likewise excuseless is any man in our time who makes life-long alliance with any one who, because of her disposition or heredity, or habits, or intellectual vanity, or moral twistification, may be said to be of the Philis-

The worst predicament possible is to be un-happily yoked together. You see it is impossible to break the yoke. The more you pull apart the more gallant the yoke. The minister might bring you up again, and in your presence read the marriage ceremony backward, might put you on the opposite side of the altar from where you were when you were united, might take the ring off of the finger, might rend the wedding veil asunder, might tear out the marriage leaf from the family Bible record; but all that would fail to unmar-ry you. It is better not to make the mistake But men and than to attempt its correction. women do not reveal all their characteristics till after marriage, and how are you to avoid committing the fatal blunder? There is only one being in the universe who can tell you whom to choose, and that is the Lord of paradise. He made Eve for Adam, and Adam for Eve, and both for each other. Adam had not a large group of women from whom to select his wife, but it is fortunate, judging from some mistake which she afterward made, that

nounted from the railtrain last summer, and saw her radiant face I could understand what they told me day before that, when at the great military hospital where are now the vounded and the sick from the Egyptian and he other wars, the princess passed through, all the sick were cheered at her coming, and those who could be roused neither by doctor r nurse from their stupor, would get up on their elbows to look at her, and wan and wasted lips prayed an audible prayer: "God bless the princess of Wales! Doesn't she look eautiful?" But how uncertain is the tarrying of beauty in a human countenance. Explosion of a kerosene lamp turns it into scarification, and a scoundrel with one dash of vitriol may dispel t, or time will drive his chariot wheels across that bright face, cutting it up in deep ruts and gullies. But there is an eternal beauty on the face of some women whom a rough and ungallant world may criticise as homely and though their features may contradict all the laws of Lavater on physiognomy, yet they have graces of soul that will keep them atractive for time and glorious through all ternity.

Now, one evening her husband came home with a proud manner, and holding in his hand a huge envelope. "Here," he said, "here is something

for you.

She quickly tore open the paper, and drew from it a printed card bearing the e words:

The Minister of Public Instruction and Mme. Georges Ramponneau beg M. and night comes on, as if they were asham-Mme. Loisel to do them the honor of passing the evening at the hotel of the Minister on Monday, January 18.

Instead of being enchanted, as her up to their room. It was ended for her. husband had hoped, she threw the invitation on the table with rage, and muttered:

that?"

this is an opportunity, and such a fine one. I have had great trouble in getting it. Every one wants one; they are much sought after, and are given to but few of the clerks. You will see all the official world there."

She looked at him angrily, and declared with impatience:

"What do you want me to wear if I should go there?"

He had not thought of that, he stammered.

"Why, the dress you wear to the theater. It seems to me a very good one_"

He was silent, stupefied, distracted, when he saw his wife weeping. Two large tears rolled slowly down from the corners of her eyes towards the corner of her mouth; he stammered: "What is the matter? what is the

matter?" But with a violent effort she con-

troiled her grief, and answered calmly, as she wiped her cheeks:

"Nothing. Only I have no dress and consequently can not go to this fete. Give the card to some colleague whose wife is better fitted out than I." He was greatly distressed. He an-

swered:

"Come, Mathilde. How much would it cost, a suitable dress, which you could also wear at other times, something very simple?"

She reflected a few moments, making up her accounts and thinking also of the sum she could ask for without drawing on herself an immediate refusal and a frightened exclamation from the frugal clerk. At last she answered with hesitation:

"I don't know exactly, but it seems to me that with four hundred francs I could do it."

He became somewhat pale, for he had put aside just that sum to buy a clasp of her necklace, and that you gun and give himself some shooting are having it repaired. That will give the following summer on the plain us time to return it." of Nauterre, with some friends who were going to shoot larks there, on Sundays.

However he said: "Well, I wild give you four hundred francs. But do your best to have a handsome dress."

The day of the fete was at hand, and jous. Her toilet was ready, however. Her husband said to her one evening. What is the matter with you? Come,

days."

Loisel held her back.

themselves very much.

~nos

"Wait then. You will catch cold outside; I will call a cab."

He threw over her shoulders her wrap

that he had brought for her to go home

But she would not listen and rapidly descended the stairs. When they were in the street they found no carriage, and they began to look for one, crying after the coachman whom they saw in the distance.

They went towards the Seine in despair, shivering. At last they found on the quay one of those old noctambulist

coupes that are seen only in Paris as the ed of their wretchedness during the day. He took them to their door on the street of Martyrs, and sadly they went

And he was thinking that he must be at the ministry at 10 o'clock. She took off her wraps that she had

"What do you want me to do with thrown over her shoulders, before the glass, in order to see herself once more and all on your account." "Why, my dear, I thought you in her glory. But suddenly she utter-would like it. You never go out, and ed a cry. She had no longer the neck-

lace about her neck! Her husband, already half undressed,

asked: "What is the matter?" She turned towards him in a fright: "I have-I have-I "ave no longer

Mme. Forestier's necklace!" He stood up distracted: "What!-

How!-It is not possible!" And they looked in the folds of her dress, in her pockets, everywhere. They did not find it.

He asked: "You are sure you still had it when you left the ball?"

"Yes. I touched it in the Minister's vestibule." "But if you had lost it in the street, They were very like."

we should have heard it fall. It must be in the cab."

"Yes; it is probable. Have you the number?"

"No. And you, did not you look at 500 francs." it?"

"No." And they looked at each other in consternation. At last Loisel dressed himself again.

"I am going," he said, "over the track that we went on foot, to see if] can not find it again."

just as she was, without the strength without fire, without thought.

Her husband came back about seven. He had found nothing.

He went to the Prefecture of Police. to the papers, to offer a reward, to the the cab companies, finally everywhere where a suspicion of hope impelled him.

of fright before this frightful disaster. Loisel came back in the evening,

with his face pale and sunken; he had discovered nothing.

"You must write to your friend," he said, "that you have broken the

She wrote as he dictated. At the end of a week they had lost all

hope. And Loisel, five years older, declared "We must think how to replace the

jewel." Next day they took the box in which Mme. Loisel seemed sad, restless, anx- it had been kept and went to the jewel-

er's, whose name they found inside. He consulted his books. "It was not I, madame, who sold that

you have been very queer for three necklace; I must have furnished the casket."

walk in the Champs-Elysees to rest herself from her week's work, she suddenly saw a woman walking with a child. It was Mme. Forestier, still young, still beautiful, still attractive.

Mme. Loisel was moved. Should she go and speak to her? Yes, surely; and now that she had paid, she could tell her everything. Why not?

She went up to her. "Good morning, Jeanne."

The other did not recognize her, being astonished at being addressed so familiarly by this poor woman. She stammered:

"But-madame!-I don't know-you must be mistaken."

"No. I am Mathilde Loisel."

Her friend uttered an exclamation: "Oh!-my poor Mathilde, how changed you are!

"Yes, I have had many a hard day since I saw you; and many miseries-

"On mine-how so?"

"Do you remember that set of diamonds that you lent me to go to the fete at the minister's?"

"Yes, well?"

"How! Why you brought it back to me.

"I brought you back another just like it. And for ten years we have been paying for it. You can understand that it was not easy for us, as we had nothing. At last it is done, and I am very, very glad."

Mme. Forestier stopped.

"You say you bought a set of diamonds to replace mine?"

"Yes. You did not notice it, ch?

Mme. Forestier, much moved, took her hands in hers.

"Oh! my poer Mathilde! But mine were false. It was worth at the most

The Private Bill Nuisance. In the senate, recently, Mr. Dolph, of Oregon, called attention to the constantly-increasing number of private bills before congress, and to the extent to which they absorb time which should be devoted to general legislation. During And he left. She remained dressed the first fifty years of the government the total number of such bills introduced to go to bed, overcome, on a chair, in the house of representatives was 8,777, while in the forty-eighth congress alone no fewer than 8,630 were introduced. Many of these bills are meritorious, but by far the greater number are not, and it is a well-known fact that more of the latter class than of the former receive favorable consideration She waited all day in the same state at the hands of congress. It would be to the advantage of all persons having equitable claims upon the government if some tribunal were established to investigate the same; and by this means, also, the innumerable jobs and steals which are now smuggled through congress under cover of private bills would be deefated. The private-bill nuisance has attained such formidable dimensions

that this or some other plan for its abatement must be adopted in the near future.-Chicago Times.

No Poetry in His Soul.

"I wish you would follow the suggestion of this poet when you call to-morrow," said a young lady to her brother. "What does he suggest?"

"He says, "Drink to me only with thine eyes.

"Thanks, awfully, but I must decline. I don't like the taste of salt water, sis." THE WOMEN OF TO-DAY.

tines.

The world never owned such opulence of womanly character or such splendor of womanly manners or multitudinous instances of wifely, motherly, daughterly, sisterly devotion as it owns to-day. I have not words to express ny admiration for good womanhood. Woman s not only man's equal, but in affectional and religious nature, which is the best part of us, she is 75 per cent his superior. Yea, during the last twenty-five years through the increased opportunity opened for female education, the women of the country are better educated than the majority of the men; and if they continue to advance in mentality at the present ratio, before long the majority of the men will have lifficulty in finding in the opposite sex enough ignorance to make appropriate consort. If I am under a delusion as to the abundance of good womanhood abroad, consequent upon my surroundings since the hour I entered this life until now, I hope the delusion will last until I embark from this planet. So you will understand, if I say in this course of sermons something that seems severe, I am neither cynical nor disgruntled.

NO LACK OF THE BEST.

There are, in almost every farmhouse in the country, in almost every home of the great own, conscientious women, worshipful women, self-sacrificing women, holy women, innumer-able Marys, sitting at the feet of Christ, innumerable mothers helping to feed Christ in the person of his suffering disciples; a thous-sand capped and spectacled grandmothers Lois, bending over Bibles whose precepts they aave followed from early girlhood, and tens of housands of young women that are dawning upon us from school and seminary, that are going to bless the world with good and happy homes, that shall eelipse all their predecessors a fact that will be acknowledged by all men except those who are struck through with moral decay from toe to cranium. More inexcusable than the Samson of the text is that man who amid all this unparalleled munificence of womanhood marries a fool. But some of you are abroad suffering from such disaster, and to halt others of you from going over the same precipice I cry out in the words of my "Is there never a woman among the text: daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines.

WHEREIN MINISTERS HAVE NEGLECTED.

There are thousands of American pulpits. among them this pulpit, guilty in the fact that on some of the subjects on which men and women need practical advice they have been silent or teaching them only in forceless circumlocution. About the choice of a lifetime companion, a question in which so much time and all of eternity are involved, what almost universal silence in the church so that there are not ten people in this house who have ever heard a discourse upon this theme; and the first one I have ever heard is the one I am preaching. We leave to the flippant novel, or the spectecular play, or the jingle of the doggerel rhyme, that which ought to burden the most tremeuduous sermon a minister ever preaches, from the day when he takes ordinaion to the day when in judgement he meets his God. And so, in this course of sermons, I am going to hitch up my best team to the whiftletree and put the coulter of the plough clear up to the beam, and go straight on from fence to fence, however many nests of moles and scrpents may be ripped up by the furrow and however many alarmed people may cry 'Whoa !"

NOT ALL DESTINED FOR MARRIAGE.

That marriage is the destination of the human race is a mistake that I want to correct before I go further. There are multitudes who never will marry, and still greater multitudes who are not fit to marry. In great Britain to-day there are 948,000 more women than men, and that I understand is about the ratio in America. By mathematical and inexorable law, you see, millions of women will never marry. The supply for matrimony is greater than the demand, the first lesson of which is that every woman ought to prepare to take care of herself, if need be. Then there are thousands of men who have no right to marry, because they have become so corrupt of character that their offer of marriage is an insult to any good woman. Society will have to be

it was Eve or nothing. There is in all the world some one who was made for you, as certainly as Eve was made for Adam. All sorts of mistakes occur because Eve was made out of a rib from Adam's side. Nobody knows which of his twenty-four ribs was taken for the nucleus. If you depend entirely upon yourself in the selection of a wife there are twenty-three possibilities to one that you will select the wrong rib. WHAT & MAN MAY CAPTURE.

By the fate of Ahab, whose wife induced him to steal; by the fate of Macbeth, whose wife pushed him into massacre; by the fate of James Ferguson, the philosopher, whose wife entered the room while he was lecturing and wilfully upset his astronomical apparatus, so that he turned to the audience and said: "Ladies and gentlemen: I have the misfortune to be married to this woman;" by the fate of Bulwer, the novelist, whose wife's temper was so incompatible that he furnished her a beautiful house near London and withdrew from her company, leaving her with the one dozen dogs whom she entertained as pets; by the fate of John Milton, who married a termagant after he was blind, and when someone called her a rose the poet said: "I am no judge of colors, but it may be so, for I feel the thorns daily;" by the fate of an Englishman whose wife was so determined to dance on his grave that he was buried in he sea, by the fate of a village minister whom I knew whose wife threw a cup of hot tea across the table because they differed in sentiment-by all these scenes of disquietude and domestic calamity we implore you to be cautious and prayerful before you enter upon the connubial state, which decides whether a man shall have two heavens or two hells-a heaven here and heaven forever, or a

hell now and a hell hereafter. A FEW NOTEWORTHY BLESSINGS.

By the bliss of Pliny, whose wife, when her husband was pleading in court, had messengers coming and going to inform her what impres sion he was making; by the joy of Grotius, whose wife delivered him from prison under the pretense of having books carried out lest they be injurious to his health, she sending out her husband unobserved in one of the bookcases; by the good fortune of Roland, in Louis' time, whose wife translated and composed for her husband, while secretary of the interior-talented, heroic, wonderful Madame Roland; by the happiness of many a man who has made intelligent choice of one capable of being prime counseler and companion in brightsays: "Well, well, you are the greatest wo-man I ever saw. I thought you would faint dead away when I told you." And as he looks ness and in grief-pray to Almighty God, morning, noon and night, that at the right time, and in the right way, he will send you a at her all the glories of physiogmony in the court of Louis XV, on the modern fashion good, honest, loving, sympathetic wife; or if she is not sent to you, that you may be sent to her

At this point let me warn you not to let a question of this importance be settled by the celebrated matchmakers in almost every community. Depend upon your own judgemen divinely illumined. These brokers in matri-There is another time when the plainest wife is a queen of beauty to her husband. She has done the work of life. She has reared mony are ever planning how they can unite impecunious innocence to an heiress, or celibate women to a millionaire or marquis, and that in many cases makes life an unhappiness. her children for God and for heaven, and though some of them may be a little wild they will yet come back, for God has promised. How can any human being, who knows neither of the two parties as God knows them, and who is ignorant of the future, give such direc-She is dying and her husband stands by, tion as you require at such a crisis. They think over all the years of their compan-SOLOMON'S UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE.

Take the advice of the earthly match-maker instead of the divine guidance, and you may some day be led to use the words of Solomon, whose experience in home life was as melancholy as it was multitudinous.

One day his palace with its great wide rooms Him now. The lips of bolh of them tremble as they say good bye and encourage each other, about an early meeting in a better world. The breath is feebler and feebler and steps. and great wide doors and great wide hall was too small for him and the loud tongue of a woman belaboring him about some of his neglects, and he retreated to the housetop to get relief from the lingual bombardment. And while there he saw a poor man on one corner the mouth and see if there is any vapor gather-ing on the surface. Gone! As one of the of the roof with a mattress for his only furnineighbors takes the old man by the arm gently and says: "Come, you had better go into the next room and rest:" he says: "Walt a mo-ment; I must take one more look at that face and at those hands!" Beautiful! Beautiful! ture, and the open sky his only covering. And Solomon envies him and cries out: "It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop than with a brawling woman in a wide And one day during the rainy season, 'the death. That is an autumnal sunset. That is

water leaked through the roof of the palace a crystaline river pouring into a crystal sea. toned up and corrected on this subject, so that and began to drop in a pail or pan set there That is the sole of human life overpowered by

WHEN A WIFE IS BRAVEST.

There are two or three circumstances in which the plainest wife is a queen of beauty to her husband, whatever her stature or profile. By financial panic or betrayal of business partner, the man goes down, and returning to his nome that evening he says: "I am ruined; I am in disgrace forever; I care not whether I It is an agitated story he is tellive or die.' ng in the household that winter night. He says: "The furniture must go, the house must go, the social position must go," and from being sought for obsequiously they must e cold shouldered everywhere. After he cases talking and the wife has heard all in si-ence, she says: "Is that all? Why, you had othing when I married you, and you have oncome back to where you started. If you hink that my happiness and that of the chiliren depend on these trappings, you do not know me, though we have lived happily toether thirty years. God is not dead, and the national bank of heaven has not suspended payment, and if you don't mind, I don't care a What little we need of food and rail ent the rest of our lives we can, get, and I ion't propose to sit down and mope and groan. Mary, hand me that darning needle. And, ohn, light one of the other gas burners. And, Jimmy, open the register for a little more heat. Fanny, fetch your father's slippers. I leclare! I have forgotton to set the rising for ose cakes !"

GRANDEUR OF SELF-SACRIFICE. And while she is busy at it he hears her amming Newton's old hymn, "To-morrow." "It can bring with it nothing

But He will hear us through:

Who gives the lilies clothing

No creature but is fed;

Yet God the same abiding

For while in Him confiding

I can not but rejoice."

And He who feeds the ravens

Will give his children bread.

"Though vine nor fig-tree either

Their wonted fruit should bear;

Though all the fields should wither

Nor flocks nor herds be there;

His praise shall tune my voice;

The husband looks up in amazement and

plates are tame as compared with the super-

of Arc, Marie Antoinette and La Belle Hamil-

ton, the enchantment of the court of Charles

THE LAST GLORIOUS HOURS.

ionship, the weddings and the burials, the ups

They talk over the goodness of God and his

faithfulness to children. She has no fear about going. The Lord has sustained her so

many years she would not dare to distrust

Are you sure of it? Just hotd that mirror at

My friends, I hope you do not call that

and downs, the successes and the fillures

II., are nowhere.

iman splendors of that woman's face. Joan

Will clothe His people, too. Beneath the spreading heavens

Then they went from jeweler to jew-And she answered: -Morning Journal. "It worries me to have no jewels, not eler, seeking for another necklace like a stone, nothing to put on. I shall it, consulting their recollections, both At least four incorporated towns in Colorado make a wretched appearance. I had al- of them ill with grief and despair. are at an altitude of over nine thousand feer most rather not go that evening." They found in a shop of the Palais aboe the sea.

it shall realize that if a woman who has sacri-ficed her honor is unfitted for marriage, so is any man who has sacrificed his purity. What right have you, O masculine beast! whose life ing about this and that, the acrimonious and that is a queen's corona-tion. That is heaven. That is the way my father stood at 82, seeing my mother depart at 79. Perhaps so your father and mother werk. has been loose, to take under your care the | petulant words falling on his ear in censeless | I wonder if we will die as well.