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## W.F. STOETZEL.

### 1621 Howard Street

AN INTERESTING QUESTION.

Men or Women?-Which Are the Truest or Most Unselfish Friends.

DISCUSSED BY ELLA WHEELER.

Opinions of Some Wives and Maidens -Men More Ready, But Women More Lasting in Their Friendships.

[Written for the Bec-Copyrighted.] In a room full of ladies I heard this question discussed in all its bearings not long ago, and a great many interesting ancedotes and experiences were related. The majority of unmarried women expressed quite unanimously an opinion in favor of the men. The married ladies were less outspoken, but the greater number of them were not enthusiastic in their faith in man's friendship for woman. Their skepticism might be attributed to various causes. Perhaps they knew the genus homo better than their single sisters did. Perhaps they did not think it wise to encourage the damsels in their dangerous even if true

Many an unmarried girl is blind to the virtues of women because she has not time to study them. Her horizon is bounded by masculine forms, and she is quite content to have it so. By and by, when she concentrates her attention and interest on one man, and the others disappear like setting stars at the rise of the sun, why then she notices the beauty and fragrance of those human flowers-

I heard one young lady, who had fought a single-handed battle with the world and achieved success, declare that the question was not even open to

discussion in her mind. "I think no one is a better judge of who has made her own way in life. I received appreciation and encouragement from men, when women gave me only indifference or neglect. Men predicted my success, while women feared I would fail. Men praised what they termed my courage, while women criticised what they termed my boldness.

Another lady declared that she would invariably go to a man were she in need of friendship or protection in time of

"If I were placed in a compromising situation, for instance," she said, "and wished to confide in some one, and had only my own words to prove my innocence, do you think I would trust myself to the mercy of a woman? No, indeed. And if I had done wrong and needed a confessor and counsellor, surely I would go to a man. Women are too cruel to their own sex.

At this juncture I remarked that a man would always protect a woman against every man but himself. He would defend her from the censorious comments of the world quicker than another woman would-and then spoil it all by compromising her name himself. Hereupon a happy-looking married

lady expressed her opinion. "You have all given your theories," quoth she. "Now listen to my experience. No girl ever possessed more gentleman friends than I. My career was a self-made and self-supported one also. I, too, found men far readier with praise and encouragment than women were. Men proffered advice and aid, while women gave it if asked. Yet as time advanced I found men far more selfish in their friendship than women were. The interest of my most platonic male friends noticeably lessened after my marriage, and in several cases turned into enmity, while women regarded me with increased favor.

'Men whose respect and admiration, unmixed with any tender sentiment, I would have sworn I had won did not hesitate to shrug their shoulders and sneer when I made an excellent marriage, and no longer needed their occasional advice. I really think a man's friendship for an unmar ried woman is always, even if unconsciously to himself, selfish. While she belongs to no one he imagines she be longs in some degree to himself, and re joices in her prosperity When she be-longs to another man all this ceases. Women are less enthusiastic in the be ginning, but their friendship wears

"I don't know how it is in the matter of friendship," a young lady interposed, "but I know when I go into a large establishment shopping I always receive better attention and more courtesy from the salesmen than from the sales-girls If I desire to be directed to another department in the store, I always prefer to ask a man, as he is more willing and affable in his manner.'

A young girl who had once published a little book and sold it on the street to passors-by said: "Men are far kinder-hearted than women. Women looked at me as if I were doing some dreadful and improper act; men looked at me with sympathy and interest. In any time of distress women look at you as if you were lying to them; men wait until they catch you in a lie, and then tell you of it. They forget and forgive a wrong, too, far sooner than women do.

Hereupon I remarked that once upon in a time I asked a favor of a gentleman the presence of two ladies. The gentleman expressed the deepest sympathy ous and the most genuine regret that he countrecould not assist me. Both ladies volun- I tonio

tarily offered the aid which I had not | young, handsome, educated, a thought of appealing for to them. I think if you can once remove all idea of possible rivalry from a woman's mind she makes a better friend than any man living. Tell a woman your successes. and she may show jealousy; but tell her your sorrows and failures, and she is

moved to befriend you. On the contrary, tell a man of your successes and you win his admiring regard; while if you tell him of your

troubles you weary him.
One lady said she thought men were more prompt and agreeable, as a rule, than our own sex in their manner of bestowing favors, and it was because they were educated to business methods. A woman often wounded your feelings from no lack of kind impulses, but merely from her awkardness in dealing with any matter outside of parlor or kitchen. A married lady said she quite coincided with the last speaker in regard to the business methods of the sterner sex. Thereupon she related her somewhat unusual experience.

"I was an artist," she said, "and my studio was in the same building in which an elderly professional gentle-man occupied an office. He obtained an introduction to me, and became greatly nterested in my work. He never once indulged in the least sentiment toward me. His social and business standing excellent, he was unusu-intelectual, and I quite

prized his friendship and valued his advice and criticism. Sev-

eral times he invited me to lunch him at midday, almost the only hour either of us had free from our work for social converse. He was many years my senior, and I saw no impropriety in accept-ing. Well, by and by my prince came and carried me away a wife. I had often written to him of the nice old gentleman who was so kindly interested in my work. Imagine my humilia-tion when a bill was sent in for the lunches to which nice old gentleman had invited me! Surely these were thrifty business methods indeed! I have about made up my mind that a man seldom or never shows a lady who is in no way related or de-pendent upon him, marked and contind kindness, unless he expects some

sort of a return for them." When I pondered over all I had heard, and placed my own personal experiences along with the other tes mony, my conclusions might be classified something as follows:

1. Men are more enthusiastic and ready to espouse the cause of woman than her sister women are. 2. Women, when their interest is

finally won, are more lasting in their friendships. 3. There is an instinctive rivalry between women, which until it is overcome by the bonds of sympathy, is a bar

to true, unselfish friendship. 4. There is an instinctive attraction between men and women which is a bar to safe and unselfish friendship.

5. Men expect more in return for their favors than women do. 6. Men are far more agreeable to approach in any matter requiring courtesy

and politeness. 7. Women are far safer and more reliable friends in the long run. 8. The friendship of men noticeably

decreases after a woman marries. 9. The friendship of women noticeably strengthens after a women marries. 10. A good and efficient man is a bet-

ter friend and advisor than a weak woman. 11. A good and efficient woman is a better friend and advisor than a weak

man. 12. There is no rule which governs the matter.
ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

#### TEXAS BRIGANDAGE.

A Lone Star Man's Account of the Border Outrages.

A special dispatch to the Globe Demo-

crat says: Not since the days of the Cortana raid, years and years ago, has the Texan side of the lower Rio Grande existed under such a reign of terror as now. Brigandage reigns supreme. Business is paralyzed, and United States mails get through when they can. Hanchmen stay close at home, and labor in the fields even is accompanied by unusual hazards and in no man's house is a light mails home, to be seen after dark. County officials have telegraped the state government for aid. Governor Ross himself does not know what to do. Sheriffs and United States marshals are powerless and the bandits are once more, in fact as they were once in song and in story. 'The Kings of the Border." Manuel Guerro, a merchant who is rated at \$20,000, and who has shops in both Roma and Rio Grande City. Starr county, is on his way to Nev York. He was seen by a reporter and gave the following account of

"You must first understand." he said "the conditions of the country. It is hilly. The Rio Grande runs through one long ravine, densely covered with chapparal and cactus. It is sparsely settled and it offers a shelter impregnanable to hundreds of desperadoes. They have always infested the country to greater or less extent. If they killed a man in Mexico they stepped across into Texas. If in Texas they steppee across into Mexico. They had a practically unlimited field in which to work. Hitherto they have been disorganized Now they are under a leader who is at once the most competent and dangercountry. de ous man on the frontier of either His Suerrante.

daring and unscrupulous scoundrel. He is a native of this country and knows it well. He has risen to fame in the past three months through methods peculi-arly his own. He has not gone in for highway, mail or train robbery. He has learned the methods of Italian brigands, and follows them exactly. His system includes capture, Violent mistreatment and heavy ransom or death. His first victim was Senor Berreno. This gentleman was found near his home, knocked down, beaten, bound hand and foot, and tied on a horse, then driven for a day and night through the brush. During all this time he was blindfolded and given neither water nor food. On the arrival at the robbers' headquarters, of whose loca-tion he is entirely ignorant, he was held for twenty-one days, until I myself paid the \$1,000 ranson demanded for his release. He was half starved, kicked, lashed and burned daily during all this time, and was in hourly dread of losing his teeth, it being a favorite threat of Suerrante to extract them all, and send them as presents to his friends. I paid the money because I knew it was a matter of life or death with him. It has since been refunded me. Berrena was seventy years of age and the exposure and brutality to which he was subjected have since resulted in his death. Owing to the fact that I have a little

it, I have been expecting the levying of an assessment. "I left Roma five days ago under the guard of six armed men, who escorted me as far as Pena Station, on the Mexican National railway. By Associated press dispatches of this morning I see that the expected demand has been made upon me since my departure, also upon Senor De Onacio Garcia, of Rio Grande city. They want \$15,000 from him and \$8,000 from me. My part of it, at least, they are not likely to get. The governor has of course promised the aid of the state troops, but I don't see the good that they can do, owing not only to the difficulty of the country and Seurrante's secure hinding place, but the fact that nearly all of the poorer classes are in league with the band and purosely hide their den and cover up their tracks. I estimate that some twentyfive men belong to the gang.

money and Sucrrante's friends knowing

"Suerrante is a magnificent rascal. who spends his ill-gotten gains very freely, and is uniformly kind to the poor. They have, consequently, invested him with a good deal of romance, and many of them serve him and are ready to join him at any moment. have no hesitency in predicting a des-perate battle in the region within the next month, and I am by no means sure that Suerrante will get the worst of it He has been extending his operations into Mexico, and I understand that authorities and soldiers on the other side of the river are on the qui vive. He may be caught between the two fires and he may not. He is a very smart

Senor Guerra states that he will continue his northern trip, though he is extremely fearful of the destruction of his property during his absence. The widely spread information of the depredations has caused intense excitement throughout this portion of the state and volunteers for clearing out Starr and Hidalgo counties of the bandits are numerous.

#### Well-Drilled Ants.

Youth's Companion: Ants appear to have for their motto, "In union there is strength." They set the best regulated human committees a model in this re-spect, maintaining a wonderful degree of drill and decipline, by means of which they are enabled to accomplish tasks which before hand seem quite out of the question. A traveler in Central America witnessed the following instance of this trait:

The ants, which were of a very minute size, carried a dead, full-grown scorpion up the wall of our room from floor to the ceiling, and thence along the under surface of a beam to a considerable distance, where, at last they brought it safely into their nest in the interior of the wood.

During the latter part of this achieve ment, they had to bear the whole weight of the scorpion, together with their own in their inverted position, and in this way to move along the beam. The order was so perfect that we could not detect the slightest deviation from an absolute symmetry, either in the arrangement of the little army of workmen, or in their movements. No corps of engineers could be drilled to a more absolute perfection in the performance of a mechanical task. Ac-

must have been 500 or 600 of these in telligent little creatures at work. Besides those engaged in the labor o transportation, no others were seen. A single one was sitting on the sting at the end of the scorpion's tail, as if sta-tioned there to overlook and direct the whole proceeding, all the rest, without

an exception, were at work.

cording to a rough calculation, there

Food makes Blood and Blood make Beauty. Improper digestion of food ne-cessarily produces bad blood, resulting in a feeling of dullness in the stomach acidity, heartburn, sick headache, and other dyspeptic symptoms. A closely confined life causes indigestion, consti pation, billiousness and loss of appetite. to remove these troubles there is no remedy equal to Prickly Ash Bitters. It has been tried and proven to be a specific.

Give the hens a variety of food. Throw them a lock of early cut hay occasionally. They seem to prefer June grass or red-top.

### WITH THIS RING I THEE WED toenth centuries, of many investments made in this

The Curious Bits of History Attached to the Wedding-Ring.

ORIGIN OF AN HONORED CUSTOM.

The Ues of the Ring-An Interesting Sketch in the Popular Science Monthly by D. R. McAnally.

Of all the ornaments with which vanity, superstition, and affection have decorated the human form, few have more curious bits of history than the finger-ring. From the earliest times the ring has been a favorite ornament, and the reason for this general preference shown for it over other articles of jewelry are numerous and cogent. Ornaments whose place is on some other portion of the apparel, or in the hair, must be laid aside with the clothing or head-dress, are thus easily lost and often not at once missed. Pins, brouches, buckles, clasps, buttons, all sooner or later become defective in in some part, and are liable to escape from an owner unconscious of the defect in the mechanism. The links of a necklace in time become worn, and the article is taken off to be mended; the spring or other fastening of a bracelet is easily broken, and the bracelet vanishes. With regard to ornaments fastened to parts of the savage body, mutilization is necessary, the ear must be bored, the nose be pierced, the cheeks or lips be slit, and, even after these surgical operations are completed, the articles used for adornment are generally inconvenient, and sometimes, by their weight or construc-

In striking contrast with decorations worn on the clothing, in the hair, round the neck and arms, or pendent from the ears, lips and nose, is the finger-ring, the model of convenience. It is set-dom lost, for it need not be taken off; requires no preparatory mutilation of the body, is not painful, is always in view, a perpetual reminder, either of the giver, or of the purpose for which it is worn.

The popularity of the ring must

tion, are extremely painful.

therefore, be in large measure due to its convenience, and that this good quality was early learned ma-be inferred from the Hebrew tradition which attributes the invention of this ornament to Tubal-Cain, the "instructor of every artificer in brass and iron. The barbaric lover, in choosing a token for his mistress, was doubtless actuated like the lover of to-day, by the wish to be kept in remembrance, and the prov-erbial saying: "Out of sight, out of mind," being as true in savage as in mento which should be always in view. never laid aside, not in danger of being lost-which, in short, should become a part of herself, mutely reminding her of him, and presenting a silent remon-strance when her affections went For the purposes of a love-gift he could find nothing more suitable than the ring. And when the agonies of courtship finally settled into the steady troubles of matrimony, it was not remarkable that this token of affection should remain on the finger of the bride, or be removed, to be succeeded by another of a similar kind.

The USES OF THE FINGDR-RING have been many and diverse. Origi nally purely for ornament, it became a signet for kings and a warrant for their messengers; to civil officers it was an emblem of office, and to ecclesiastics an idispensable portion of the episcopal costume. It was once worn by physicians to prevent contagion, and by pa tients to cure disease, the timorous wore it as a charm against evil spirits, and the ambitious clung to it as a talisman, giving the wearer success over his enemies. But as a love-token, and

a symbol of marriage, the use of the ring is so general, and of so long standing, as to dwarf into insignificance its employment in all other directions. At what period it came into play as a recognized factor in the marriage cere-mony it is impossible to say. The Hebrews used it in very early ages, and probably borrowed the custom from the Egyptians, among whom the weddingring was known-a circle, in the language of hieroglyphics, being the symbol of eternity, and the embodiment of the circle readily symbolizing the nypothetical duration of wedded love. The Greeks used wedding-rings, so did the Romans, both putting them on the fore-finger-by the way, a practice followed by the mediaval ers, many of whom whom sent the virgin's ring on forefinger. In the east, where the popular estimate of a woman is low, the use of the wedding ring has not been common, though occasionally the favor ite wife of an oriental monarch would receive from her master a ring as a mark of his favor. The conclusion, therefore, is safe that, with increase of respect for the institution of marriage. come also increased respect for and use of the ring as a token of the alliance.

During a part of the middle ages his respect showed itself in a peculiar way, custom demanding that the wedding ring should cost as much as the bridegroom could afford to pay; and there are records in Germany and France, during the fourteenth and fif-

direction by grooms eager to conciliate their brides and be in fashion. The revulsion made the ring what we now have, a plain gold circlet; though, by a compromise, the ring may be as costly as fancy dictates or means

permit. The materials of which wedding rings have been composed are as diverse as the nations which have used the ring. The British museum has rings of bone and of hard wood, found in the Swiss lakes; on one of the bone rings is traced a heart, giving antiquaries reason to believe that the ring was a pledge of affection, if not a wedding ring. The same museum has rings from all parts of the earth—of bone, ivory, cop-per, brass, lead, tin, iron, silver, gold, and some of a composite of several of these metals. One ivory ring, from an Egyptian tomb, bears two clasped hands; an iron ring, having the design of a hand closing over a heart, once graced the hand of a Roman matron; while the inscriptions on many others make it certain that they were wedding

The use of many different materials in the construction of these wedding rings does not indicate capricious changes of fashion, for it should be remembered that museums and collections of antiquities comprise specimens of many ages and of widely separated lands, but there is no doubt that fashion has sometimes had an influence in determining the style and material of the For instance, during the latter part of the sixteenth century a fashion for some time prevailed in France of

consist of several links fastened together in such a way as to seem but Sometimes there were three, two links having graven hands and the third a heart, the union of the three in the proper position clasping the hands over the heart. During the palmy days of astrology there was quite a fashion in Germany of the wedding rings engraved with astronomical and astrological characters, the horoscopes of both the contracting parties being sometimes indicated in the setting of the ring, that being also the golden age the quack doctor, wedding rings were often made with a cavity to contain medical preparations or charms to preserve or restore health or avert evil. After the crusades had set Europe in a flame a practice became common in France, Germany and England, of wearing rings the settings of which was a tiny fragment of wood from the true cross, and many of these rings are still preserved in the cabinets and museum of Europe. Ass-hoof rings were, in the seventeenth century, very popular among the Spanish peasants as a cure for epilepsy; and such a ring, made, it was said, from the hoof of the ass which carried Christ into Jerusalem, was used in a wedding in a country church near

But when the ring was not plain, pre-

cious stones of some kind constituted the settings; and when the selection of the stone was in question, the dominance of fashion was absolute. fourteen century, a Italian writer on the arts set forth the vir-Italian writer tues of the various gems, indicating also the month in which it was proper to wear particular stones in order to secure the best rssult. The idea took, and for some time it was the fashion in several Italian cities to have the precious stone of the ring determined by the month in which the bride was born. If in January, the stone was a garnet, believed to have the power of winning the wearer friends wherever she went. If in February, her ring was set with an amethyst, which not only promoted in her the quality of sincerity, but protected her from poison and from slan-derous tongues. The blood-stone was for March, making her wise, and enabling her with patience to bear domestic cares; the diamond for April, keeping her heart innocent and pure so long as she wore the gem. An emerald for May made her a happy wife; while an agate, for June, gave her health and protection from fairies and ghosts. If born in July, the stone was a ruby, which tended to keep her free from jealousy of her husband; while in August, the sardonyx made her happy in the maternal relation. In September, a sapphire was the proper stone, it preventing quarrels between the wedded pair; in October, a car-buncle was chosen, to promote her love of home. The November born bride wore a topaz, it having the gift of making her truthful and obedient to her husband; while in December the turquoise insured her faithfulness. Among the German country folk, the last named stone is to the present day used as a setting for the betrothal ring and so long as it retains its color, is believed to indicate the constancy of the wear-

From Italy this fanciful notion spread to France, and France bridegrooms would sometimes insure themselves against a bad matrimonial bargain and, as far as they could, guarantee to their brides a variety of good qualities by presenting twelve rings, one for each month, with occasionally one or two extra as special charms. However, this extravagance in the number of rings used at weddings is not a solitary instance, for the use of several rings at the marriage ceremony has often been known. Four rings placed on her hand her marriage could not keep Mary Stuart faithful to Darnley; and the annals of European courts record many instances similar, both as to the rings and to the result. The Greek church uses two rings, one of gold, the other of sil-

Portugal, three rings are placed, one at a time, on the

FINGERS OF THE BRIDE, as the words, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy

Ghost," are pronounced. Fashion has also determined, not only the style of the wedding ring, but the finger on which it is to be worn; and so capriciously has custom varied, that the symbol of matrimony has traveled from the thumb to the fourth finger, where it now reposes. In the time of Elizabeth, it was customary, both in England and on the continent, for ladies to wear rings on the thumb, and several of her rings now shown in the British, museum from

their size, must have been thumb-rings. That the practice of wearing thumb rings extended to the case of married ladies and their wedding rings, is amply attested, not only by allusions in contemporary literature, but by the portraits of matrons of that age, a great many, where the hands are shown, dis-playing the wedding ring on the left thumb. In the time of Charles II., the ring seems to have found lodgment on forefinger, sometimes on the middle finger, occasionally on the third finger also, and, by the time George I. came to the throne, the third finger was recog nized as the proper place for it, not universally, however, for William Jones in his treatise on rings, declares that even then the thumb was the favorite place for the wedding ring, and gives in-stances of the ring being made of large size, and, although placed on the third finger at the ceremony, immediately afterward removed to the thumb.

An English work on etiquette, published in 1732, says it is for the bride to choose on which finger the wedding ring shall be placed. It further states that some prefer the thumb, since it is the strongest and most important member of the hand; others, the index finger, because at its base lies the mount of Jupiter, indicating the noble aspirations; others, the middle finger, because it is the longest of the four; and others, again, the fourth finger, because a "vein proceeds from it to the heart."

The "British Apollo," however, de-

cides the proper place for the ring

THE FOURTH FINGER not because it is nearer the heart than the others, but because on it the ring is less liable to injury. The same authority prefers the left hand to the right. The right hand is the emblem of authority, the left of submission, and the position of the ring on the left hand of the bride indicates her subjection to her husband. A curious exception to the rule placing the ring on the left hand is, however, seen in the usage of the Greek church, which puts the ring on the right hand.

As the symbol of matrimony, it is not strange that many of the superstitious fancies which have arisen in connection with the wedding should cluster about the ring. Dreaming on a bit of wedding cake is common among American young ladies but they should be informed for the dreaming to be properly done the piece of cake thus brought into service should be passed through the wedding ring, for so it is done in Yorkshire Wales, and Brittany, in which localities the custom has been observed from time immemorial. The Russian peasantry not only invest the cake with wonderful qualities by touching it with the two rings used in the ceremony, but deem that water in which the rings have been dipped has certain curious beneficial properties.

In many country districts of Great Britain it is believed that a marriage is not binding on either party unless a ring is used; hence, curtain rings. the church key, and other substi-tutes, including a ring cut from a finger of the bride's glove, have been mentioned as devices to meet an emergency, when a ring of the proper kind could not be procured in time. In parts of Ireland, however, there is a current belief that a ring of gold must be used, and jewelers in the country towns not infrequently hire gold rings to peasants, to be returned

after the ceremony.

Blessing the ring gives it no small share of sanctity, and old missals contain explicit directions as to the manner in which this ceremony must be carried out. In the church performed in the villages of England, the ring is frequently placed in the missal, the practice being, no doubt, a relic of the blessing once thought indis-pensable. The German peasant women continue to wear the wedding ring of the first husband, even after a second marriage, and a recent book of German travels mentions a peasant wearing, at one time, the wedding rings of four "late lamenteds." An instance is known of a woman of German birth, who, after the death of her husband in a western state, had the misfortune to lose her ring. She at once bought another, had it blessed and wore it instead of the former, deeming it unlucky to be without a wedding ring. Among the same class of people, steal ing a wedding ring is thought to bring evil on the thief, while breaking the emblem of marriage is a sure sign of speedy death to one or both of the contracting parties.

What the Professor Found.

San Francisco Argonant: Recently at a certain college examination a certain professor determined that he would make it impossible for any copying to take place under his supervision. Accordingly he kept a sharp watch upon the candidates. At last he noticed a man look from side to side to satisfy himself that no one observed him,

ver; while in some districts of Spain and | plunge his hand into his breast pocket and, drawing something out, regard it long and steadfastly, and then, hastily replacing it, resume his pen and write with increased energy. The professor succeeded in getting behind the man un-perceived, and then, waiting until he was repeating the suspicious action, he sprang forward and seized the hand in the very act of grasping the suspected object. "Sir," said he, "this is the fourth time I have watched you doing this. What have you in your hand?" The man hesitated to reply, and this, coupled with his evident confusion, confirmed the professor's suspicions. must insist, sir, on seeing what it is you have in your hand." The man reluctantly complied, and, drawing his hand from his pocket, revealed the source of his inspiration-the photograph of a

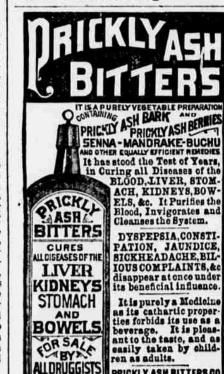


duced into this market. They impart that graceful figure and fine form which any well dressed lady would be justly proud, especially when obtainable without injurious tight lacing, etc. Indorsed as the

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