WILLCOX & CIBBS.

## A Glimpse of Paradise.

A WOMAN'S LETTER.

lask your congratulations, my dear ----, that I have discovered, a little late in the day, to be sure, the one thing needed to complete my circle of domestic comfort! You smile-fancying you could suggest many desirable additions to my sum of human felicities; but possessing "health, pence, and competence;" the dearest nest of a home; and sixfeet-and-an-inch of "a husband who never refuses his wife anything," what more could reasonable woman ask?

And here, by way of episode, let me whisper a secret, for the special edification of our mutual friend, your Mr. ---- Never refuse your wife anything she has set her heart upon; never try to convince her that she "does not need it;" or that you "cannot afford it." Don't get into an argument on the subject, or rest assured she will get the best of it. On the contrary, assent cheerfully to her suggestion (even although at first glance it may appear somewhat startling); discuss the style and quality of the desired article, and good-naturedly compare tastes. Then, if you really cannot afford it, you may say, "My dear, you shall have it, soon; but, just now, our taxes must be paid, you know." (The wise husband never says "my taxes." It makes a woman realize her partnership in the domestic firm, to be allowed an interest in the taxes !) Or, you may speak of a certain debt to be paid; or a horse, or some fine cows to be bought; or a new garden fence to be made; or a henery; or you need a mowingmachine, as workmen are so scarce; or whatever it may be that really interferes; and the dear, reasonable woman cheerfully defers (only defers, you see; the equally reasonable husband does not require her to renounce) her pet scheme, In process of time, either the wife discovers that she can do very well without the once-coveted article, or the husband himself will have the pleasure some fine day of saying, "Now, wife, if you really want that article we were speaking of, I think we may afford it.

This is the result of my observation of husbands and wives (first suggested by a capital little magazine story, which the author would do well to republish), now extended over a quarter of a century. The "arguing husband" is the one whose wife, be he able or unable, always gets the things she wants, reasonable or unreasonable. "The husband who never refuses his wife anything," always has a wife who is willing to wait until he can afford to gratify her wishes. This may seem paradoxical, but the study of human nature, of which most wives have a fair share, will explain the apparent mystery, which really is no mystery at all.

Now to return from this long detour. Probably I am not so smart as many women, for, somehow, I can never quite overtake my work; but a small mountain of that feminine incubus, needle work, rests always on my "chest," and, although piece after piece is abstracted, still the year rolls on, the seasons come and go, and other and perhaps heavier pieces take their place. So I never can feel that I have leisure, for a pleasant book, for instance; or a bit of fancy-work; a walk with a friend, or a drive with my good husband, or a frolic with my grand-children, because I must finish this, or I must begin that. It is

"Stitch, stitch, stitch, whilst the cock is crowing And stitch, stitch, when the stars shine on

But I see you grow impatient to learn what is this wonderful addition to our menage, which by affording this coveted leisure, makes a happy woman of me? "A seamstress, perhaps," you suggest-or another "help" in the kitchen? Neither of them, my dear, but a "Willcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine!"-nothing more, nothing

Now I am aware, that here I come full against a host of prejudices and prepossessions in your mind. I know that you rest under the delusion, often expressed, that "There is but one Sewing Machine, and Wheeler and Wilson are its makers;" therefore I entreat you to be patient, whilst I tell you why I vote (as women may vote on the Sewing Machine question) for "the Letter G."

First, this machine is so simple and so quiet. I confess to a poor development of the organ of 'constructiveness," or whatever it may be, that gives a good head for machinery. You remember, when I took my first watch to pieces, I could not put it together again (and never heard the last of it in the family since). Now I can see right through this little gem of a machine, while the complicated affairs, such as yours and others, with their racket,

set my head in a whiri. Again, this little darling, unlike most other muchines, the human included, never goes the wrong way; but with the sweetest little humming song. goes on right all the time. It snaps at you, to be sure, with a pretty show of petulance, when you set the tersion wrong, and drive with too loose a rein; and it bites off the thread if reined up too tight, and thus prevents a clumsy operator from spoiling her work. Then, if you make a crooked seam, as a novice is tolerably sure to do occasionally, you have only to stop the machine and take out the sewing; and WILLCOX & GIBBS.

when you learn the trick, you can wind the thread back on the spoot without breaking, and so eco nomize in material. And one thing more, a skilful but unusually candid operator on the "W. and W." machine admitted, in my hearing, that the "Letter

G" made the stronger seam. The truth is, I always stand in awe of one of these pretentious machines; but the Willcox & Gibbs seems just the thing for a household pet; and I intend teaching my little grand-daughter to use it, Her mother has a Wheeler & Wilson, and woe betide the unlucky urchin that ventures meddlesome

fingers about it. This charming little machine was, therefore, the one thing lacking to my perfect domestic satisfaction; and I wonder now how I have gotten along so many years without it. Certainly, I was "one of the foolish women," to decline the offer you tendered me, of a first-class new machine at half-price! Such opportunities occur only once in a decade, I fear; for, sad to tell, this darling, this gem of a machine, which has opened up such vistas of future ease and elegant leisure, which I can no longer keep house without, is only borrowed for a season!

In a few weeks my invalid friend to whom the machine belongs may reclaim it, and then, alas for

My husband says I shall have a machine, and I know he means what he says; but he has already told me about our taxes, which, since the war, have been enormous, to be sure, though yearly lessening. I am thankful to say, So I don't like to worry him about it. I wish I knew a way to get one, all by myself; but what can a woman do? I should feel so proud to earn and own a "Letter G."

MANSFIELD, Pa., Sept. 28, 1808.

HICH-HEELED BOOTS.

How familiar to every city housekeeper who spends her summers in the country is the autumnal reaking-in of her servants on her return! Most servants are a little wayward after a season of rest, and some cannot bear rest at all. The modern seamstress, if she be one of those

> Sewing at once, with a double thread, A shroud as well as a shirt,"

s a servant of this class: for no other gives her mistress so much trouble as she. Upon such a servant, a summer spent in idleness has the same effect that a month in clover has upon a fickle horse. In either case a fracas may be expected on the first call to work; and when Miss Double-thread gets in such a mood your dress is spoiled in the making, or for want of its timely completion you are unable to meet your appointments, and so your plans, for a week or a month, are frustrated, to the great disappointment of yourself and others.

We believe, however, that, with all their imperfections, the Double-thread family have been of use in

their day. In the mechanic arts, original perfection is unknown; both origin and progress must here precede the finished and perfect result. This is at least the general rule, and to this rule the Iron Scamstress constitutes no exception. In her case, there was first the idea, (two threads), crudely embodied in the complex, and for a time impracticable, instrument of Lowe. Next followed a Trio of inventors, born of the same faith, and wedded to the same idea, who, aiming at nothing higher, succeeded in so improving his invention as to adapt it to practical use in the work-shop-and in the hands of those house keepers endowed with super-feminine skill. Third and last comes a bolder genius-of original conceptions, a more simple faith, and a higher aim. He regardlessalike of the opinions and prejudices, of others, goes back to first principles. He asks himself, Why is it that all sewing machines invented are so often out of order? investigates, and finds the their complicated mechanism. Again The traces the cause of that complication to the use of an extra thread; and again he inquires. Is an extra thread necessary? Reflection answers, No: at least not if a reliable stitch can be made without it. Again he asks himself, Can this be done? He thinks it can; and setting himself to work, he at length succeeds in the invention of a new stitch-made of one thread only, yet as secure as any made of two. The "under-thread," now no longer necessary, is cast aside, and with it go all its resulting complications. He constructs an instrument embodying the principles thus discovered; and that instrument is now rapidly superseding the older ones. Thus has the Iron Seamstress grown to her pre

sent estate; and thus have the Double-thread family -as the introduction to a better class-performed an important part in these results. Nor is it to be denied that they have been practically useful, both in the workshop and in families where the requisite skill is possessed. But for general household use, they are too complicated, noisy, and troublesome.

A lady correspondent, who has had much experience with this kind of help, and who is therefore competent to judge, has favored as with a written statement of her experience in these

"I formerly had in my employ, at different times, four of these Double-thread seamstresses, each for a period of one or more years; and I have to confess that my experience with each was nearly the same, and not altogether satisfactory. When my husband was at home to help me out of my difficulties, I managed, usually, to get along pretty well; but when he was absent, and especially when Miss Double-thread had been idle awhile, I was often in trouble; and that trouble was sometimes rendered doubly vexatious by the exalted opinion Miss Doublethread entertained of herself, and the provoking way she had of showing it.

"It offended her to be even suspected of the slightest imperfection:-For, 'Wasn't she acknowledged to be first-class?' 'Wasn't she admitted to the bes seciety?' Aye, 'Was she not a Double-thread? Who then should say a word disrespectful of her ladyship?' 'Was she ever known to rip?' 'Hadn't she beautiful face-alike on both sides?' 'Didn't the tailors employ her 7-and the collar manufacturers. and the shirt manufacturers?-and the shoemakers?-and the manufacturers of hats and caps :

Who then should presume to doubt her superiority : "Again, getting on her high-heeled boots, and raising her voice to a higher pitch, she would break out thus:- 'Who could show such a record as her'sall glorious within and without?-or sport so many lewels, in 'premiums' of gold, and silver, and brass?'-Or, soaring yet higher, 'What seamstress had ever been decked, like her, with ribbons and garters imperial? with legions of knightly honors-

lirect from the Emperor's own right hand?' "Her virtues thus established, objections would be disposed of in a manner equally conclusive:- What if she did have "fits" sometimes? Hadn't she a right to indulge in that luxury as well as other ladies?' Or, What if she did break a few needles daily-and snap the thread occasionally-and confuse things generally? Surely no one should think to complain of these little failings. Had not other first-class seamstresses the same?' Or, 'What if she hadn't any joint in her elbow, and so had to work with a stiff grm, and a covered needle to match it? If this were WILLCOX & CIBBS.

a fault, she, like thousands of her kin, was not without good company!' And, Lastly, 'Why should she be expected to consult the feelings of mistress or others? Did they consult hers? and were not her rights as sacred as theirs? They had gone their way all summer, while she was left in waiting, and she would have her way now-long enough, at least, to teach mistress the art of self-government under provocation-though it did cost the peace of the usehold

"With these exalted ideas in her head, it was often, as you will readily believe, a difficult task to keep Miss Double-thread at her work; and what work she did, was sometimes so badly done that I was obliged to take it all out-a distressing job-and do it over by hand. And these difficulties were so frequent and troublesome that, as a choice of evils, I did a large portion of my sewing in those days by hand, without calling on Miss Double-thread at all.

"Of course my patience was often sorely tried, and as often I wondered if there could be no remedy. At length relief came, in the person of Miss Willcox-Gibbs, a young seamstress of singular virtues and rare accomplishments, but so unassuming that I, like many others, was at first inclined to doubt her qualifications. After a little delay I concluded to give her a trial; and the result was so satisfactory that I soon discharged Miss Double-thread, and invited Miss Willcox-Gibbs to occupy her place, which she has done ever since to my entire satisfac-

"The name and fame of the Misses Wilcox-Gibbs (they are now a numerous family) are already spread far and wide, and they have little need of recommendation from any source; yet my Miss Gibbs has been such excellent help, and I feel under so great obligation to her, that I esteem it a privilege as well as a duty to speak a good word for the family. I have already influenced several of my lady friends and acquaintances to make the exchange that I did, and the result has in every instance been equally satisfactory. Indeed it could not well be otherwise; for the Misses Gibbs are all alike, and what is perfection with me, must also be perfection with others. It is not so-with the Misses Double-thread. There may be a general family resemblance, but in action and temperament they differ as widely as servants of different nationalities. In fact, you never know, when you select a Double-thread seamstress, what you are getting-till you have proved her.

"But the Misses Willcox-Gibbs, as I said before, are all exactly alike-at least they are so personally; the only difference is in their dress. You certainly could not distinguish them by any difference in size, form, features, or action; in capacity or disposition; by the quality of their work, nor yet by their coice? In the faculty last named they are quite peculiar; indeed, their conversation is always in a whisper, and so low as not in the least to disturb the conversation of others.

"While on the subject of changing seamstresses, I want to add that the practice is becoming quite common in the circle of my acquaintance; and I am told that a very considerable portion of the applications received for the services of the Misses Willcox-Glbbs are from ladies who have previously employed. one of the Misses Double-thread.

"As to my own experience with Miss Willcox-Gibbs, I can say that, as soon as she was fairly settled in her new home she went right to work, and in a few days had our wardrobe in complete order: and it has never been otherwise from that day to this, a period of nearly seven years. In all that time she has not given the slightest occasion for reproof. Nor has she had one 'fit!' Indeed, I am not aware that she has ever been ill for a moment. Certainly we have had no doctor's bills to pay for her, which is a fact of some importance in her favor as compared with any seamstress of the Double-thread family that I have ever employed. The amount of bills we paid for our Miss Lock-stitch, on account of surgical aid and medical advice, was truly frightful. I don't know the exact sum, but I think it exceeded the value of all the work she ever did for us.

"I have, however, somewhat more to say of Miss Willcox-Gibbs. She minds her own business, has no company, and is always ready for duty. Whenever we intend making a journey I scarcely have to let her know it-and every garment needed is found ready at the appointed time. So also on our return, the same watchful eye and ready hand go almost intinctively to work, and the family wardrobe is again put in order-often long before our other servants get fairly broken in.

"Miss Willcox-Gibbs has also a peculiar faculty for making friends. If, on being introduced at a new place, she happen to meet with a cold reception -as she sometimes does, on account of the preju dices which those in the interest of the Misses Double-thread are active in disseminating-it never disconcerts her, and she never fails to dispel that prejudice on a very slight acquaintance. Her quiet, lady-like, and winning way of receiving and treating strangers, has the effect to put every one at ease in her company. She is also a great favorite with chil-When not otherwise employed, she often amuses them by making frocks and aproas for their dolls; and no matter how roughly they use her, she never gets out of temper, or becomes otherwise unfit for instant service when her mistress calls.

"She is also on intimate terms with the feeble and the aged, who find in her an agreeable companion and a sympathizing friend. She never has any difficulty with the other servants, and I doubt if she has an enemy in the world. Even the Misses Lock-stitch, and all the other members of the Double-thread family-though professionally her rivals, are personally her admirers if not her friends. My own Miss Lock-stitch used often to say:- 'What a charming fittle scamstress Miss Willcox-Gibbs is ! If she only had another string to her bow-so that she could g into first-class society-how delighted I should with her company !' And though I did not then ap preciate her admiration of Miss Willcox-Gibbs, no being acquainted with her myself. I could not help saying, in a half-joking way, 'Never mind, my dear, you may see the day when you will wish that you had one string less to your bow !"

TO THE LADIES-A NEW IDEA.

Did you ever dream that the drudgery of sewing would one day become the cheerfulest pastime? Did you ever believe that a little polished scamstress would step into your sewing-room, and, with scarcely a breath of noise, make up your entire wardrobe? Did you ever think that a sewing-machine would do all your work, even in the hands of your servant girl, without the complaint of "out of order," "useless," which is so often, and too justly, made of sewing-machines generally? Any one who will watch the operation of the Willcox & Gibbs machine for ten minutes, while, in the hands of a little girl, it throws off the most delicate hems and fells in absolute perfection-cuts its triumphs in beautiful letters, figures, and wreaths, in rich embroidery and fashionable braid-now sewing in a sleeve or sewing on a skirt of your dress, and now flashing over yards of seam with but the flutter of a swallow's wing-will cerWILLCOX & GIBBS.

tainly get a new idea of the practicability and real benefit of a family sewing-machine,

Spare the Women.

OVERWORKED WOMEN .- "An overworked woman s always a sad sight-sadder, a great deal, than an overworked man, because she is much more fertile in capacities of suffering than a man. She has so many varieties of headache-sometimes as if Jaci were driving the nail that killed Sisera into he temples, sometimes letting her work with half her brain while the other half throbs as if it would go to pieces, sometimes tightening around the brows as if her cap-band were Luke's iron crown-and then her neuralgias, and her backaches, and her fits of depression, in which she thinks she is nothing, and those paroxysms which men speak lightly of as hysterical convulsions, that is all, only not commonly fatal ones so many trials which belong to her fine and mobile structure, that she is always entitled to pity when she is placed in conditions which develop her

Every word true as preaching. It is a sad sight to see an overwerked woman; but its sadness is increased by the fact that her toils might be alleviated, and her burdens lessened, if men would but consider. Why should our mothers, wives, and daughters be compelled to labor day after day, and not unfrequently night after night, doing up the sewing of the family, when a comparatively trifling outlay would purchase a machine with which all this tedious, health-wasting work could be done in a fourth of the time, and in a better manner? We have in our family, and have had for years, and always intend to have, a neat, noiseless, simple sewing machine, that never gets out of order, may be operated by a child, does its work with almost inconceivable rapidity, and in the best possible manner; never misses a stitch, uses but a single thread, and promises to last for a century. We tried one of these machines first. After using it a while we were foolshly persuaded to believe there were better kinds. We exchanged our old machine for one of the better kind, and this for a second, said to be as uperior one, and this second superior one for a machine declared to be best of all, and wound up our trading operations by going back to our first love, and ordered the Willcox & Gibbs Noiseless Sewing Machine, the one above all others which we would recommend for family purposes.

Unfortunately Born with Nerves.

The "busy hum of labor" is a poetical idea enough, but unfortunately some of us are born with nerves; and I confess that the monotonous whir, whir, whire of a Sewing Machine in the house has sometimes sent

WILLOOX & QIBBS. '

be remedied without impairing its usefulness. This I find Willcox & Gibbs have succeeded in doing. I have lately been making trial of one of their "Silent Sewing Machines"\_the name attracted me\_"Bilent" I find that one can easily listen to reading while operating it. This seems to me a great gain on all that have preceded it. My dressmaker, who has had ten years' experience with Sewing Machines, gives this her unqualified preference. I myself have owned one of another make for eight years, which, in my indement, does not approach this in utility. For all the reasons above stated I give my hearty preference to the "Willcox & Glbbs Silent Sewing Machine,"-

The Family Sewing Machine.

Stout pants for boys, delicate runling for girls, men's overcoats and ladies' trimmings should not now be the weary work for ladies' fingers, and need not be; for the steel sinews of the Sewing Machine will turn weary days of work into a morning's pastime. But a small share of this work is generally done on the sewing machine, because of the lack of ability to make the machine do it. It makes little difference how complicated a machine for a workshow is: for there operators make it a business to learn and manage them. But the machine for the family should be of the simplest and most perfect mechanism. We are led to make these remarks in justice to a comparatively new machine, which has gained great favor among us on account of its quiet, prompt, rapid, and real business ability to do all our work, and with astonishing neatness and perfection; it is the Willcox & Gibbs .- Northwestern Christian Advocate.

Ters is indeed an age of invention, of progress, and of improvement. One mind conceives a new idea; another grasps the idea and makes it practical; but the highest state of perfection is rarely ever reached by the first or second effort. Many trials, difficulties, and discouragements must be encountered and endured before complete success can be attained. A forcible illustration of this truth is the gradual development of the wonderful LETTER "G" from the first crude idea of sewing by machinery. For a long time two threads were deemed essential in the construction of sewing machines. Hence the necessary complications of every production. But finally it occurred to one of the most thoughtful of our modern inventors that one thread had ever been regarded as sufficient for hand-sewing. Then from analogy he reasoned that one thread alone ought to be employed in a machine supplying the place of hand labor. Acting upon this theory, he soon achieved a success altogether unprecedented in the history of sewing machines.

The first invention was not more remarkable or meritorious than this last, while its results were far less valuable to the world. The first established that machine sewing was possible. The last demonstrated the practical utility of sewing machines for general family use. The first was composed of many parts, and required a skilled operator to manage it. The me out of it. I have often wondered if this could not last is a perfect marvel of simplicity, and can be WILLOOX & GIBBS.

used with the greatest freedom and success by a mere child. The first was capable of but a small range of plain stitching. The last embraces almost. the entire scope of household sewing. The first was poorly constructed and liable to frequent disorder. The last is the very perfection of muchanism.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, in a letter to the inventor of the Self-Sewer, says :- "I have the Wheeler & Wilson, the Grover & Baker and the Willcox & Gibbs Sewing Machines in my family. "I use the Willcox & Gibbs most frequently, thinking it far superior to either of the others."

Fanny Fern, writing to a friend, says:- "My dressmaker, who has had ten years' experience in the use of Sewing Machines, gives the Willcox & Gibbs her unqualified preference.

"I have myself owned one of another make for eight years, which in my judgment does not approach the Willeox & Gibbs in utility."

Rev. Oliver Crane, of Carbondale, Pa., speaking of the merits and demerits of the various Sewing Machines now before the public, says: "My wife would not accept one of any other patent as a gift, if she must receive it upon condition of giving up the Willcox & Gibbs."

"WE have used a Willcox & Gibbs sewing machine for more than two years, and like it better and better. We never fail to recommend it when the opportunity offers. It is like a true and tried friend-always on hand and ready when we want to use it." Rev. HENRY ASTON,

Cutchogue, L. L.

"FOR SIMPLICITY AND EASY MANAGEMENT, I consider the Willcox & Gibbs the best machine for family use." MRS. J. C. HAND.

No. 830 Pine street, Philadelphia.

"MY RECOMMENDATION of the Willcox & Gibbs Sewing Machine has ever been of the strongest JAMES M. BATES, :

Secretary Am. Ex. Fire Insurance Company.

in my family gives unalloyed satisfaction JAMES EDWARDS, Barrie, Canada.

"THE WILLCOX & GIBBS SEWING MACHINE IS fault.

"THE WILLCOX & GIBES SEWING MACHINE in use

less; runs beautifully, giving every satisfaction." E. A. SCIWERKROP. Washington, D. C. "Mrs. Reid says that the Willcox & Gibbs Sewing

Machine is certainly the best beyond comparison," Rev. H. A. REID. Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

"WE would be giad to know that one of Willeox & Gibbs admirable Sewing Machines was in every family in the Union." Rev. J. B. PITMAN.

Baptist Church, Matteawan, N. Y.

"THE WILLOX & GIBBS IS THE BEST MACHINE IN Mr. D. L. DE GOLIA.

"THE least we can say of the Willcox & Gibbs noiseless Family Sewing Machine is:-It is just what we want-and that we say heartily."

Rev. J. M. FERRIS. Grand Rapids, Wisconsin.

INIMITABLE

## CHRISTMAS

OF INTRINSIC WORTH.

Any really first-class Sewing Machine presents peculiar advantages to the seeker of articles, not costly, but beautiful and valuable, for BRIDAL or HOLIDAY PRESENTATION, but of all the Standard Machines-and there are many which merit the appellation-the one most certain to prove entirely satisfactory is the

## WILLCOX & GIBBS.

An experimental trial solicited.

The remarkable simplicity of the Willcox & Gibbs improved Fami'y Sewing Mackine, the noisclessness of its movements, the speed, ease, and accuracy with which a child may successfully work it, and the large range of sewing to which it is pre-eminently adapted, have already established for it an enviable distinction among the PIRST-CLASS SEWING MACHINES OF THE AGE.

Note .- So well assured am I that a thorough trial of the Willcox & Gibbs' Family Sewing Machine cannot fail to convince even the most skeptical that it is beyond all question "the best Machine in the world," I freely offer to all who will receive them, the gratuitous use of Machines for one month.

D. S. EWING.

No. 720 CHESNUT STREET.

The Willcox & Gibbs latest improved Family Sewing Machine is the most wonderful instrument for Sewing ever invented-Simple, Silent, and Complete. Its stitch is more clastic than the "LOCK;" more reliable than the "CHAIN," and far more beautiful than HAND SEWING. This Stitch has proved the fact that two threads ARE NOT, as was once supposed, NECESSARY TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PERFECT AND DURABLE SEAM.

PRINCIPAL DEPOT,

No. 720 CHESNUT STREET.