

A Spell of Single Blessedness.

My wife has gone away for the summer and left me in full charge of the house. I like it—haven't had such a run of liberty since we were married. I hope to exercise my rights as head of the family. Can't do it when she's at home; she'll not stand it. She has rules, and makes everybody about her toe the mark. But I've got her now, and am having things my own way.

This morning I came home quite early. It was two A. M. I'd been to the club and got caught in the rain. For half an hour I couldn't find the key-hole, which must have got mislaid. I felt for it everywhere, and even got down into the back-yard and dug every brick, but couldn't find it. I was in the act of calling one of my neighbors and asking him who had carried off my front door, when I happened to find it and got into the house.

In the dark I kicked over a spittoon, but luckily didn't get any tobacco juice on my boots. I hung my overcoat and umbrella on a prong of the chandelier, let them drip on the parlor carpet, and went up stairs and turned in with my boots on. I thought it wasn't worth while to pull them off, as I would have to get up in eight or ten hours anyway. If my wife had been at home she'd have had me an hour looking for the bootjack, and I would have lost that amount of rest, which my system so much needed. Besides, she'd have me give a full account of myself, which I don't like to do. I never did believe in praising myself. It's better to let others speak of one's virtues. I can now wear a shirt a week, and it's nobody's business. I don't see how I ever got along with that woman. The idea of having to put on a clean shirt, black my boots and brush my clothes every morning is ridiculous. It is a miracle to me how I ever did it and attend to my other business. I now read the morning paper without being forced to see an impatient woman standing with her dress in one hand, looking very miserable, and finally telling me she wants that paper for a—

Any one, to look at the house now, would know there's no woman about—everything so quiet and comfortable and handy. If I want to do a little figuring I don't have to hunt up a pencil, or pen and ink, but I just sit down to one of the tables and do it with my finger, and there's nobody to be eternally wielding a dusting brush around my head and telling me to get out of the way until the house is cleaned up. These are considerations which every married man should ponder over. But when do we ponder and resolve, what good does it do? That's the question which is now agitating the American people. What good does it do? Not a bit. If these women can't have everything just their own way they swoon into hysterics. As a consequence, we have to pay a fifty dollar doctor bill, and stay in the house all day fanning them, and promising in the end that "we may be happy yet" before they show any disposition to compromise. Our wives are petted too much. And this reminds me that mine won't yield to any other treatment. I undertook to prescribe a more stringent remedy for her one day, but it threw her into a fit more like the "jim-jams" than anything I know of. She broke every plate in the house over my head, and I had to kiss her before she would promise not to do it again. That's what makes me say she's set in her ways.

There, too, are the piano and guitar she kept going from morning until midnight, filling the whole neighborhood with discordant sounds which she called music. Both are as mute as the bird-cage, which was vacated last week by a strategic movement of the cat. The two hundred pots of flowers which she left me to cultivate I don't think will produce much of a crop. They're nearly all ripe now, and there's no sign of a flower yet. I have watered them twice since she left, but it did no good. I reckon they miss her, and are pining away because she ain't here. In this respect they do not resemble me to any alarming extent.

Our kitchen never looked better. The stove and pipe have assumed a beautiful red tint, and the pots are brimming forth a fine crop of beautiful white vegetable mould which I haven't learned the name of, but she'll know when she comes. The dishes don't look quite so clean and bright as they might, but the flies are bad this year, and if I were to wash them every two weeks they wouldn't present a respectable appearance.

Note to the Editor.—Please suppress the article sent you about my "spell of Single Blessedness." The old woman has got back.

THE HISTORY OF THE MOSQUITO.—Mosquitoes immigrated to this country in the year one. They are the smallest fowl that navigate the air. Although not soaring so high as other fowls, they make some fouler some than any other bird ever dreamed of. They are not very devout, although they are birds of prey. They are so tame that they will come up and eat out of a fellow's hand. As songsters they are a success, making some of the sweetest sounds ever heard. We are sometimes constrained to stay awake all night and listen to their strains, even if it's ever so confoundedly straining on us. If any one doesn't like their music he can lump it, and failing to do so, they will lump him, and if he "gets on his car" about it, such a proceeding is foolish, for they are very accommodating and will get on his for him. I like their music better than anything else about them. Many a time have I laid on my downy bed and listened to them as they sang "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming." "We Won't Go Home Till Morning," and such like, till I have been so carried away (and wished I was carried still further) that I've joined in the melody "Shoo Fly" and cheered them by clapping my hands together, in hopes of giving the little suckers an affectionate squeeze.—Danbury News.

ABOUT half the married women in this world are said to wonder who their husbands will marry next time.

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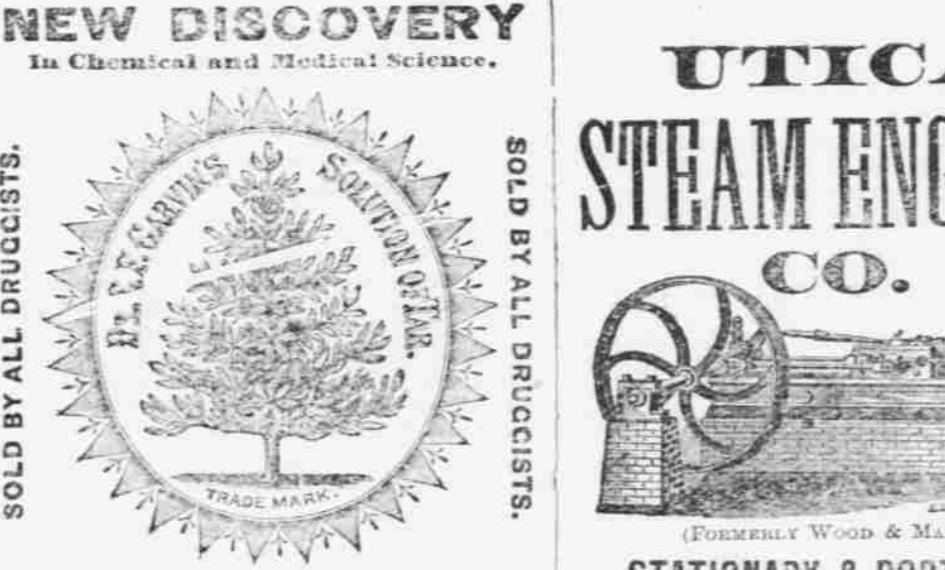
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