

custody you will find a square hole in Ben's left ear, which was made by a conductor's punch."

Armed with this description the Sheriff returned to the jail, found the hole in my ear and immediately set me at liberty.

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### "THE WIFE" UNDER FEMININE GLASSES.

DOROTHY DIX BITTERLY SARCASTIC UNDER THE GUISE OF A  
"STUDY IN NATURAL HISTORY."

The Wife—This docile domestic animal is to be found in all parts of the globe, where she is most useful in assisting man to till the soil, carry on the arts and commerce, and raise Cain generally. Indeed, so widely is she distributed throughout the civilized world that almost every man possesses one, and while he is frequently miserable with her, he is wretched without her.

Although, however, the Wife is found among the fauna of every country, it is interesting to note that she is still held in varying degrees of esteem in different lands. In Africa she is a slave, in Asia a plaything, in Europe man's companion, while in America she is his boss. In Africa and Asia she is also driven four-in-hand abreast, while in Europe and America she is driven tandem.

The Wife belongs to the Cat family (genus *caterwaulis*), and betrays her hereditary traits in many ways. When she is young she is kittenish, a trick that she sometimes forgets to abandon after she gets old enough to know better. She is amiable as long as the fur is rubbed the right way.

She purrs with contentment when she is well fed. She gets her back up at anything that displeases her, and frequently administers a sly scratch when you are least expecting it.

In appearance the Wife differs greatly, not only in different latitudes, but in the same environment. She is found both tall and short, dark and fair, and fat and thin—in short, with such varying characteristics that in selecting one a man has only to gratify his tastes.