



J. Martin, photo. Wanganui. *The Home of the Moa.*

SYMPTOMS OF BEING A CONFIRMED OLD BACHELOR.

WHEN a man is seen buying buttons, that's a symptom.
 When a man is in constant request to stand godfather, that's a symptom.
 When a man at a certain age gives up dancing, and takes to playing whist, that's a symptom.
 When a man treasures an old glove, and has a bundle of small-shaped letters tied, quite yellow with age, which he keeps in a secret drawer, and takes out once a year to ponder over, that's a symptom.
 When a man complains of the noise when children laugh, and turns his head away when a lady brings him the baby to kiss, that's a symptom.
 When a man gives up going to see the shops at Christmas, that's a symptom.
 When a man cannot go anywhere without his umbrella, that's a symptom.
 When a man encases himself in flannel, and will not stir out in summer time without his goloshes, comforter, and great coat, that's a symptom.
 When a man avoids ladies' society, and prefers a cigar, that's a symptom.
 When a man always seizes hold of the seat nearest the fire, that's a symptom.
 When a man late in life gets himself appointed on the Charitable Aid Board, that's a symptom.
 When a man receives no invitations for Christmas Day, but dines by his miserable self, in some cheerless restaurant, that's a symptom.
 When a man neither gives nor receives New Year's Gifts, nor Christmas Boxes, and shuts himself up hermitically for two or three days in his room to avoid the persecution of being dunned for them, that's also a symptom.
 When a man objects to flowers in his room because they are unhealthy, votes music a bore, and thinks that the climate is getting worse and worse every year, that's a symptom.
 When a man gets angry because his visitors will not wipe their feet on the door-mat, and wanders about the room dusting the furniture with his handkerchief, and sweeps his own hearth, and gathers up all the stray pins, and is annoyed if anything is a hair's-breadth out of its place, that's a symptom.
 When a man has lost all taste for plum-pudding and mince-pies, and only sees impropriety in mistletoe, which he wonders any well-regulated mamma can tolerate, that's a symptom.
 When a man thinks everyone is cheating him, that's a symptom.
 When a man does all the shopping himself, and goes to the butcher's regularly to select his own mutton chops, that's a symptom.
 When a man insists upon mixing his own whisky toddy, or brewing his gin punch, in preference to a lady doing it for him, that's a symptom.
 When a man makes a practice of calling every young man who differs in opinion with him an 'impudent young puppy,' and makes a loud outcry against the little respect that's shown now-a-days to old age, that's a symptom.

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