

Prizes in the Matrimonial Market

If there is any part of a newspaper which no reader can resist it is that "coy corner" in which the matrimonial advertisement blushes, without any fear of being unseen; and certainly this corner provides more amusement within a narrow compass than any comic paper that was ever published.

Here, for instance, is an advertisement of a would-be benefactor who values cleverness in a woman above all merely physical fascinations:

"A Kismetish bachelor desires the acquaintance of a clever woman; object, matrimony. So many have asked what I mean by 'clever'; well, it's this: Remove the C, She is my 'lover'; Remove the L, She's good as 'lover'; Remove the R, It's 'Eve'; God bless her!

If you, too, are a temptress, please send some literary fruit to "Open Eyes."

Alas! the advertiser's quest for a "clever wife" seems doomed to be long if not fruitless, for many weeks later this advertisement appears:

"A Kismetish bachelor is still seeking that clever woman; object, matrimony and education.— Open Eyes."

Here, too, is a happy idea for rewarding our gallant soldiers on their return from South Africa:

"Army officer, captain (thirty), now in Philippines, big, brave, handsome, lovable fellow, of excellent family, and very popular; his friends think he should marry, but he exhibits great indifference, supposed to be due to reluctance to assume expenses of an establishment; prudent business man, worth £2000, result of his own efforts; entirely without his knowledge they seek a wife for him. Requisites: Spotless character, generous nature, musicalship, and a sound income of not less than £2000 a year.—Address, with confidence, 'His Counselor.'"

It is surely one of the strangest of life's ironies and woman's oversights that this gentleman should be reduced to advertising for a wife: "An honourable, gentlemanly man, distinguished appearance, with a nature filled with the highest elements conducive to human happiness, owning controlling interest in an incorporated stock company; healthy, good habits, heart full of love and tenderness, amiable disposition; genial, unselfish, artistic temperament; fond of home, art, literature, and music; wishes to marry genteel, opulent woman with parallel characteristics. Correspondence and pictures kept inviolate.—'Refinement.'"

In the following advertisement there is a curious blending of the tragedy of wealth and reckless impulse:

"Life is lonely in spite of the burden of riches.' A college graduate takes this unusual method of finding some beautiful, refined lady, not over twenty five, upon whom to bestow his wealth. Matrimony. 'Eli.'"

Again, what lady of matrimonial instincts would not be dazzled by this glittering, if condescending, offer:

"A coronet, title, towering position, and a kind husband are offered to a lady of means sufficient to suitably entertain the highest society in the land. References.—'Incognito.'"

The mingled attractions of a towering position and a kind husband, with an environment of the highest society in the land, ought to prove irresistible.

This offer, too, is almost equally tempting: "Attractive-looking, English-speaking nobleman (count), descendant of illustrious ancestors, with a clean past and a limited income, wishes to marry lady (not Hebrew) of refinement, with income of not less than £2000 a year; must be willing to reside chiefly in Europe, where high position at Court awaits her. 'Sincerity.'"

Here is quite a novel matrimonial bait offered by a gentleman, who deliberately and in cold blood invites his future mother-in-law to live with him:

"Cultured gentleman, affectionate, retired with £2000 a year, middle-aged, but well preserved, Agnostic, desires to marry pretty girl, seventeen to twenty-five, reared amid refined surroundings; respectable, graceful figure, small mouth, preferably musical; daughter of refined widow, fond of mother, desiring to support and keep her mother, quite acceptable. Address, etc., 'Truth.'"

Ladies who have set their hearts on seeing the Paris Exhibition may possibly be attracted by this advertisement:

"A gentleman, thirty-eight years of age, wishes to marry immediately;

ladies possessed of independent means (not less than £3000) invited to exchange photos; correspondence strictly confidential; advertiser has ample income, and intends going to Paris Exhibition.—Address —"

Even lawyers have their matrimonial chances, and are invited to combine their professional duties with a desirable partner:—

"A well-born woman, appreciating books, art, music, travel, owning valuable properties somewhat entangled, would marry lawyer; wealth, position indispensable.—'Telemachus.'"

One good lady justifies herself in advertising for a husband by the pathetic plea that she "finds herself alone in this country." Another finds her chief attraction in the fact that she is "substantial if not beautiful," and hopes that her rotundity of charms will "turn the scale" in her favour; and a disconsolate bachelor is driven to matrimony through "being tired of life's frivolities." Poor man!

Things Worth Knowing.

That ink stains can readily be removed from white goods by rubbing a cut lemon over the stain, then rubbing on salt and placing the goods on the grass under a strong sunlight. If the stain is of long standing it may be necessary to apply more than once.

That a strong solution of salt and water as hot as can be borne applied to the eyes is very effective in many cases of sore eyes and readily allays inflammation.

That salt is a most excellent dentifrice, hardening the gums, cleansing the teeth thoroughly and sweetening the breath.

That a layer of salt laid on the ink stain in a carpet will gradually absorb the ink. After the first layer becomes saturated with the ink it can be removed and a second and third layer applied until the ink is all removed and the carpet full restored to its original condition.

That chloride of lime dissolved in hot water and strained through a fine cloth and then carefully diluted so as not to be too strong, is a sure and safe solution for the removal of mildew from all white goods. This solution is also excellent for bleaching unbleached cotton, or for bleaching underwear that has grown yellow because of its being washed poorly, or because of its being stored away unused for some time. Wet the goods thoroughly before putting into the solution, and allow it to remain in the solution for a few hours or over night.

That oxalic acid will remove iron rust from all white goods without injury to the fabric. Wet the goods before applying.

That when the works of a sewing machine get gummy they should be thoroughly oiled with kerosene oil. Kerosene is also excellent for rubbing over the table and woodwork of the machine, largely restoring the machine to its original brightness and beauty. MARION LINWOOD.



No Royal Road to Learning.