

[CONCLUDED FROM FIRST PAGE.]
 peace to pardon all the past,
 and the hardest heart that
 was ever locked in the breast
 of selfish man will soften to
 her charms, and bid her live,
 as she had hoped; her years in
 matchless bliss, love, loving
 and content—the soother of
 the sorrowing hour, the source
 of comfort, and the spring of
 joy.

[For the Dwight Star.]

WHAT IS AN OLD-MAID?

BY MINNIE MYRTLE.

Never be afraid of becoming an old maid, fair reader. An old maid is far more honorable than a heartless wife; and single-blessedness is greatly superior, in point of happiness, to wedded life without love. "Fall not in love, dear girls, beware!" says the song. But we do not agree with said song on this question. On the contrary, we hold that it is a good thing to fall in love, or get in love, if the loved object be a worthy one. To fall in love with an honorable man is as proper as it is for an honorable man to fall in love with a virtuous and aimable woman: and what could be a more gratifying spectacle than a sight so pure, so approaching in its devotion to the celestial? No: fall in love as soon as you like, provided it be with a suitable person. Fall in love, and then marry; but never marry unless you do love. That's the great point. Never marry for a home or a husband. Never degrade yourself by becoming a party to such an alliance. Never sell yourself, body and soul, on terms so contemptible. Love dignifies all things; it ennobles all conditions. With love, the marriage-rite is truly a sacrament. Without it, the ceremony is a base fraud, and the act a human desecration.

Marry for love, or not at all. Be an old maid if fortune throws not in your way the man of your heart; and though the witless may sneer and the jester may laugh, you still have your reward in an approving conscience and a comparatively peaceful life.

For well-to-do old bachelors we have no sympathy. They ought to be taxed nine-tenths of all they are worth to support women and children.

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