

Can Women Workers Support more than Themselves.—

A curious statement was copied from the *Springfield Republican* not long since, to the effect that the best test of the difference in capacity between a man and a woman lay in the fact that a man who supported himself was considered to be doing nothing, while a woman who supported herself was thought to be doing a good deal. Surely this is a very unfair statement of the class who work for money. As a rule women begin this kind of work because they have others besides themselves to support: while the number of women who assist in the support of the family, in addition to the work they do in caring for it, is greater than those who are supported without such work. There are very few men dependent on the labor of their hands who wholly support wife and family, while there are many women who support the family and give it all the care it receives besides. More young girls stay at home and do nothing, than young men, undoubtedly; but that is the fault of their parents, who encourage independence in one and repress it in the other. Where boys and girls start out together, one is as likely to make headway and achieve rewards as the other, provided the chances and compensations are equal; in fact, if a man does not marry it is rarely that he ever takes upon himself any responsibilities outside of himself, while even a moderately successful woman, working with the disadvantage of inferior pay, can never be satisfied to work for herself alone, but adopts a child or works in societies if she has not relatives who need her aid. Individual cases may be considered exceptions, but hundreds of them could be cited by any one conversant with the history and habits of women workers. It is a common remark that a woman left penniless with a family manages to support and keep it together, while in the case of a poor man left with children upon his hands, they are nearly always scattered, and the family broken up. Married women frequently conceal the extent to which they aid in the actual support of the family, because it is considered more "respectable" for the man to be the responsible head of the house. It is true that the lot of supporting a family more frequently falls upon uneducated than educated women, because of these last other duties are expected, and they have been and are excluded largely from the sources of money-making open to men. Sons are forced into business which daughters could only enter at the sacrifice of every social relation. Notwithstanding this, it is a pleasure to note the energy and ability which women show who have never been trained, who have had no business experience outside family life, when thrown at all this disadvantage upon their own resources. If a true census could be taken throughout this world, it would be discovered that there were more figureheads among men, more actual workers among women.

We ask our readers to look back over the recent numbers of Demorest's Monthly Magazine, and ask themselves whether they could afford to be without a single copy that has been issued, and if this is true of the past we are safe in promising that it will be specially true of the future; our arrangements and expectations for the successive numbers of this Magazine are such as to justify us in promising a great advance both in literary excellence and the beauty of illustrations, and if we have given more than we promised our readers during the past year, then certainly the future numbers of this Magazine will be of ever-increasing value. Our art department will be better than ever. Already our artists are at work on several costly, beautiful and artistic novelties, which we will place before our readers during the next few months.

We shall spare no expense or pains to make Demorest's recognized everywhere as the very best Family Magazine published.

Renewals of Subscriptions for 1884.

To those interested in making up clubs for Demorest's Monthly Magazine, we are prepared to send, on application, by return mail, circulars, cards, and blanks for renewal of subscriptions for 1884. We endeavor to supply all in advance, but may have overlooked some of our interested friends.

A Holiday Present

That certainly surpasses all others for the same amount of money.

We do not venture much in saying that a year's subscription at two dollars to Demorest's Monthly Magazine combines more permanent interest and real satisfaction to all parties concerned than it is possible to secure in any other way. It has so many points of interest and gives so much valuable information on just the subjects that are likely to arise in the minds and experience of most of the individuals and families of our country, that the amount of only two dollars bears but a small proportion to the value of the material furnished in a whole year's issue of this Magazine.

We might give a long list of subjects that are being constantly brought before the readers of this Monthly, any one of which would make ample returns for the amount expended, and when so much of Art, Literature, Fashion, Topics of the Day, both of political and domestic interest, can be found beautifully and lavishly illustrated in this highly successful Magazine, we are more than justified in saying that our subscribers get more for two dollars than they can procure in any other way.

A Fine Picture.

The February number of our magazine will contain a splendid steel engraving of Gabriel Max's celebrated painting "A Farewell Token." A young Christian martyr is seen standing amid wild beasts in a deep pit, which is walled in, while at her feet lies a white rose that has been thrown her by lover or friend as a farewell token. This is one of the most graphic productions of this noted painter, showing wonderful force and beauty, and bringing vividly to view a scene often witnessed in the early days of Christianity.

Good Words.

Mrs. G. W. N. writes:—"Your book is invaluable; the 'Women Items' and 'Current Topics' I could not live without, and Jennie June in her department is inimitable. She is doing a wonderful work in the world, *practicalizing* it (if I may coin a word). The entire tone is good and elevating."

A clergyman at the West says in a recent letter:—"A dear relative of my wife subscribed for your magazine and had it sent to her. I cannot express the pleasure we enjoy in receiving it, for to a poor clergyman's family, where income is too small to afford literary treats, such a gift brings rare and valued pleasure. Not only is it enjoyment, but it brings refinement, intellectual stimulus, and much profit to our home; in its combined beauty and usefulness, its art and other treasures, I must also frankly admit that I have found for myself soul-inspiring and elevating suggestions which I have put to good use in the pulpit, while my wife is helped in many ways, and her outlook enlarged by its varied stock of information. I feel it a duty to bear my testimony to the good work it does, and to the wide difference in its character and purpose from what I had always supposed, and I wish every home in the country could be brightened and helped by its influence."

"Respectfully, H. C. G."

D. L. says:—"Allow me to say that I am perfectly delighted with your 'Monthly Magazine.' While visiting at the house of a friend, several months ago, I chanced to pick up a copy of it, and as I read I became more and more interested; it seemed to fill a want which I have long felt. Since that time I have procured a copy every month, and it is my intention, when I return to New York, to become a regular subscriber."

Swindlers.

You should be on the lookout for all kinds of traveling swindlers, prominent among whom are the *bogus* book peddler and subscription agent. The latter is, probably, the meanest of the tribe, his victims being generally needy persons who desire to enrich their homes with a magazine or family paper. This impostor avers that Shark & Grabem are the authorized agents for a particular territory, and have contracted with the publisher for ten, fifteen, or twenty thousand copies each month, and are thus enabled to take subscriptions at half price, and give one or more chromos, of large dimensions, in addition. He is generally supplied with current copies of the leading publications, which he has purchased from some newsdealer, and will leave one number on payment of the reduced price, or one-half, the other half to be paid on delivery of the second number; and that is the last seen of the self-styled "subscription agent," the magazine, or the money.

Subscription swindling was common in years past, but direct communication with the publishers through the facilities offered by the modern postal system is so easy that these swindlers meet with but little success unless some special inducement can be offered to the expected victim, who parts with a dollar, often more, sometimes less, because the opportunity is at his door of obtaining, as he thinks, a two or four dollar magazine for half the publisher's price. This inducement and the oily, lying tongue of the applicant, blind them to the fact that if the publisher could afford to sell his magazine for less money, he would immediately put it on his publication, that all the world should know it, and not send out a special fraud to undersell him in his own market.