THE WIFE BEATER.

"Laddie," she said at last, placing her hand on Roger's head, "perhaps you are right in what you did. I am only a woman, my boy, and so was a little curious at hearing you say you had struck Katie. You men, with honor are not generally linked upon as a very noble race of men, and—"

"I shall never touch her again. I told her so," interrupted Roger, "and I shall keep my word."

"Of course," assented his aunt, "to my knowing you would doubt your word for a moment. You are exceptional man, my dear Roger, and therefore I say again perhaps you were right, perhaps at the expiration in. I do not excuse your wife from blame. She should have had more sense, for she is by no means only a silly pretty doll."

"No, indeed," cried Roger. "I am very proud of Katie's common sense. She is often clever beside and wiser than two men put together."

"Quite so. All the same Maggie is her fire so grossly misunderstanding your character. She should have been more doubtful, more whether should have stood let your wishes sway—"

"She always omitted her wishes—always," cried the young man wrathfully, rising from his position and pacing up and down the room. "It was only that she did not understand that I would be master, that when I said a thing I meant it. Otherwise she is the sweetest little wife any one ever had."

"Come here, laddie. Put your head on my knee—so. You say you didn't hurt her much. How do you know? She is a terrible little coward, is wee Katie, and dreads pain."

"Most women do," went on Mrs. Crombie. "But it was not only the bodily pain, for I don't suppose for a moment that you did hurt her much. You are not a brute, and, as you say, it was but a tap, slap.

"Take a moment, and please understand I am not pleading for Katie to the least. I am only trying to show you the state of the case from her side of view.

"She had gone on in her foolish, impetuous little way, thinking she was governing her big, brutal, utterly inconsiderate husband, his slaves was stirring up every single opposition in his will, to point out the whole of it one day upon her in cold and bitter justice.

"She was wrong, very wrong; but, Roger, I ask you as a man—a stern one, but I think a just one—are you perfectly without blame?"

There was silence again for some five minutes; then the young man raised his eyes, and they were wet with tears, to his aunt's face, and said: "I am, auntie. I was blind, too, and I have atoned too. Tell me, do you think it is too late? Will Katie hate me now?"

"If I know anything of Katie, she will receive you back with love and tenderness. But, Roger, remember one thing. She can never be quite the same again. A woman never forgets. Do what you will, do what she will, she will always fear you now, always be a little heartbroken, a little uneasy, never sure of you again.

"Men never understand that every true, loving woman builds up an ideal of the man she loves and clings to that ideal despitefully even after the god of brass has plainly shown its feet of clay. There, laddie, I will lecture no more. Goodby."

There was no carriage to meet him when he got out at Allbourne station, two miles from the Towers, and though he was not expect it he felt somehow chilled.

By the time he reached the gates he was really nervous for the first time in his life. He walked into the house and gave a slight shiver as the thought crossed his mind that perhaps it would always be so in the future. No Katie would come flying out to meet him, and he knew that if that should be the case his life would indeed be desolate.

"How foolish I am!" he muttered. "She could not know when I was coming home. She must be in paradise; I will go there."

So he mounted the low, broad staircase on to a little room he had furnished for her with every luxurious trifle love could fancy, and which this had raised paradise.

Katie was lying on a low lounge staring into vacancy. She had been hoping against hope that he would come, but she knew that the train had been in some time.

She looked so slight, so frail, so fearfully ill that a feeling of terror came over him. Was she going to die?

"Katie, my own wifey," said Roger softly.

With a stifled cry she sprang to her feet and held her arms out to him with a yearning look of appeal and love. He staggered her, half fainting, in his arms as he whispered:

"Look up, wee wifey; your big lour has come back to you. Let us forget the past, and with God's help begin afresh."

But not one man in 999 would have acted as Roger did without being either a tyrant or a brute, and not one woman in a thousand as Katie did without feeling insulted beyond bearing and having every atom of love in her for the man who struck her killed forever on the spot.—Argosy.

HOMEMADE IMPLEMENTS.

An Effective Hand Cultivator and an Inexpensive but Useful Chat Crusher.

Following are the directions for making a hand cultivator that was originally illustrated in American Gardening:

Take a piece of oak, ash or some wood of similar firmness 3½ feet long, 1½ inches thick and 4 inches wide; cut a slot in the front end 3 inches wide and 10 inches long, and in the back end a similar slot 8 inches long. These slots are for carrying wheels, which are in this case made of inch pine boards. The front one is to be a foot in diameter, and the other 8 inches in diameter. The teeth of this cultivator are made of two old forks, one a three tined and the other a four tined. These forks had each a time broken two inches shorter than the rest. After the tines are shortened so as to be all of the same length, they are heated and sharpened and shaped, if necessary, to give them the proper angle, about 45 degrees. When inserted in the frame, this can be determined by experiment.

Bore three or three holes in the back of frame, by which the wheel can be raised or lowered to regulate the depth of cultivation. For the handles, 4 inch pine strips cut down to 2 inches to give hand holds can be used, or old plow or cultivator handles that may be on hand will do instead, if not too heavy.

A chat crusher for which special patent is claimed was recently described in The New England Homestead. To make a similar one take three light poles 4 or 5 inches in diameter and four

A HOMEMADE CRUSHER.

6 feet long; also a plank 12 or 14 inches wide. In front two poles 4 to 6 inches across, each pole being notched. This rough crusher will crush lumps even the full size of the lower notch.

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ROBERT BONNER

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The above engraving, from a photo representing Mr. Bonner in the act of driving Sunol to a Putnam nail, which accompanying the shoeing of Sunol, will be sent in the form of a call card, size 3x5, on card, white paper, with wide margin, on receipt of 4 cent stamp for postage, etc.

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