

MANNERS Culture and Dress OF THE Best American Society BY RICHARD A. WELLS, A. M. 1893.

page 215.

ADVANTAGES OF WEDLOCK.

"When a man hath taken a new wife he shall not go to war, neither shall he be charged with any business; but he shall be free at home one year and cheer up the wife which he has taken."—DEUT. xxiv, 5.



A MAN who avoids matrimony on account of the cares of wedded life, cuts himself off from a great blessing for fear of a trifling annoyance. He rivals the wiseacre who secured himself against corns by having his legs amputated. In his selfish anxiety to live unencumbered he only subjects himself to heavier burdens; for the passions that apportion to each individual the load he is to bear through life, generally say to the calculating bachelor—"As you are a single man, you shall carry double."

COMPARISONS.

The *Assurance Magazine*, an English periodical, makes the statement, that in the two periods of life, twenty to twenty-five and twenty-five to thirty, the probability of a widower marrying in a year is nearly three times as great as that of a bachelor; at thirty, it is four times as great; at sixty, the chances of a widower marrying in a year are eleven times as great as that of a bachelor. After the age of thirty, the probability of a bachelor marrying in a year diminishes in a most rapid ratio; the probability at thirty-five is not much more than half that at thirty, and nearly the same proportion exists between each period afterward.

BACHELORS.

None but the married man has a home in his old age. None has friends then but he; none but he knows and feels the solace of the domestic hearth; none but he lives and freshens in his green old age, amid the affections of his children. There is no tear shed for the old bachelor; there is no ready hand and kind heart to cheer him in his loneliness and bereavement; there is none in whose eyes he can see himself reflected and from whose lips he can receive the unfailing assurance of care and love. He may be courted for his money; he may eat and drink and revel; and he may sicken and die in a hotel or a garret with plenty of attendants about him, like so many cormorants waiting for their prey; but he will never know the comforts of the domestic fireside.

The guardian of the Holborn Union lately advertised for candidates to fill the situation of engineer at the work-house, a single man—a wife not being allowed to reside on the premises. Twenty-one candidates presented themselves; but it was found that as to testimonials, character, workmanship and appearance, the best men were all married men. The guardians had, therefore, to select a married man.

A married man falling into misfortune is more apt to retrieve his situation in the world than a single one, chiefly because his spirits are soothed and retrieved by domestic endearments and his self-respect kept alive by finding that although all abroad be darkness and humiliation, yet there is a little world of love at home over which he is a monarch.

