

FARMER'S WIFE DESCRIBED

xxxxxx Pudica mulier in partem juvans
Domum, atque dulces' liberes
Sacrum vetustis extruat lignis focum
Lassi subadventum viri:
Claudensque textis cratibus taetum pecus,
Distenta siccet ubera.

Her chief characteristics are affection & devotion; for these qualities predominate in every worthy woman. Affection for her husband & her children -- devotion for the salvation of her own soul, & for the salvation of those whose destiny is intrusted to her supervision.

According to King Lemuel: "Her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, & flax, & worketh willingly, with her hands. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. With the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor & needy. She is not afraid of the snow, for all her household are clothed. She maketh herself coverings and clothing. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it. She looketh well to the warp of her household, & eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up and call her blessed, and her husband, he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but she excelleth them all. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own work praise her in the gates."

According to the Apostle, she adorns herself in modest apparel; and not with embroidered hair or gold, or pearls or costly array, but with good works.

And according to the poetry above quoted; the poet having gratified her name as king Solomon did, Prov. 12.4. with a very desirable adjective), "She manages the house & the sweet children, Piles the sacred hearth with dry wood just at the approach of her weary husband; and shutting up the fruitful cattle in the well-fenced yard, she milks the snowy burden from their distended udders." Such is the beautiful picture of a farmer's wife, drawn with so much accuracy by one, who lived in the same sphere, i.e. King Lemuel's Mother; softened with so much humility by the apostle; & embellished with so much affection by the Poet.

Although modern customs and improvements have now rendered some of the above duties ascribed to the wife obsolete, & others supererogatory; yet the most of the above qualifications are as much requisite now as ever. She is still industrious, frugal and prudent. She is skilled in all that is necessary, & is willing to perform with diligence whatever is required to make the farm prosperous & lucrative. She is dignified; loves that which is natural, admires that which is substantial, and avoids that which is artificial. In other situations, woman is so liable to be vain of her acquirements as to become contemptible; and so inclined to affectation as to render herself ridiculous; but in the position of a farmer's wife; she is not only induced, but desires to cultivate all that is worthy of commendation.

Her position is a comfortable one; for it procures her all the necessities of life, and not it's extravagances; all it's advantages without it's uncertainties; it's leisure without it's idleness; & it's pleasures without

it's temptations.

She brings her children up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord. "As is the mother, so is the daughter (Ezek. 16.44)." This profound proverb contains a vast & comprehensive truth. Hence it is that her daughters are so worthy of approbation, so versed in all that is useful & amiable, so ~~discreet~~ prudent in their actions, so discreet in their conversations & so courteous in their behavior. They are only reflexions of their mother.

She ~~labors~~ is ~~not~~ indefatigable in her exertions for the welfare of her children. ~~She~~ For it is in her hands to determine their destiny. She it is who implants that peculiarity of charcter by which they are distinguished in after years. The mighty intellects which have illuminated the earth, -- Homer, Virgil & Milton, illustrious in song; Demosthenes & Cicero Wondrous in eloquence; Alaxander & Buonaparte tremendous in War; Cincinatus & Washington models of perfection; the bad, the good, the wise, all were once helpless infants in their mothers' arms & each received from his parent that principle which actuates his motives, by which he afterwards astonished and admiring world.

She enjoys great variety of recreations and prospects. The gratitude of her children; the pleasure she realizes in their amusements, health, and advancement; the agreeable conversations with her worthy neighbors, the useful leisure devoted to instructive reading; the hebdomadal appearance of the Ploughman; fraught with things new, entertaining and profitable; the self-satisfaction of a well-conducted house, where everything is in order, neat & prosperous, the ~~pleasant~~ livening ride, or pleasant walk to the village church where the soul instructing truths are opened to the mind; & all the unnumbered entertainments blessings of domestic life to ameliorate the arduousness of her occupation, and render it the most eligible for securing the benefits of this existence; & the happiness of the life to come. As Aurora with ~~irradiated~~ countenance advancing spreads her enlightened mantle over the dark & sleeping world, As the oriental clouds with gorgeous colors decked raise their golden summits above the glowing horizons, and as with flowing melody the joyous birds attest their gratitude, rising refreshed with fervent minds and buxom step she hastens to behold the ascendance of that glorious orb of rolling liquid, beaming gold. <

Perhaps as the genial day advances, she perambulates her ample fields, selecting a bunch of flowers from the rich variety of indigenous growth, which Flora has scattered with most lavish wealth, and surveying the ~~delightful~~ scenery of luxuriant verdure and variegated floriage. While ambrosial breezes cool her brow & waft her hair aside, -- thence going among the leafy branches mingle Aeolian tunefulness, with the murmurs of the gurgling waterfall to delight her listening ear. And when the sun has performed his course, and the glimmering landscape fades upon the sight, "when nothing is heard but the drowsy hum of the nocturnal insects, and the distant strain of the whip-o-whill, then beside her window seated in meditative silence, she contemplates the starry heavens, the vastness of their magnitude. the immensity of their distance, the celerity of their motion, the infinity of their number & the omnipotence of their Maker. Then like the rose its beauteous corols closing, so close her eyes in gentle sleep. And so also when the day of dissolution comes, satisfied with the past, confidant of the future through the merits of her davior, [?] full of composure & resignation she will close her eyes in death. S.L.D. Pensivius (Mendon) Filius Agricultoris.