

**WITH
DOUBLE PIPE**

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With Double Pipe by Owen Seaman

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OWEN SEAMAN

**WITH
DOUBLE PIPE**

WITH DOUBLE PIPE.

10-11-12

TO
MY SISTER ETHEL
FOR HER
COMING OF AGE
THESE
TWENTY-ONE SETS OF VERSE
AS FROM A PLAYER THAT PLAYETH UPON
A DOUBLE PIPE
NOW IN LIGHTER, NOW IN DEEPER 'MODE.'

MAY 17TH, 1888.

*My thanks are due to the Editors of the Cambridge
Review and Oxford Magazine for allowing me to
republish many of these verses.*

I have made a few proper emendations.

O. S.

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WITH DOUBLE PIPE.

I.

A Plea for Trigamy.

I've been trying to fashion a wifely ideal,
And find that my tastes are so far from concise
That, to marry completely, no fewer than three 'll
Suffice.

I've subjected my views to severe atmospheric
Compression ; but still, in defiance of force,
They distinctly fall under three heads, like a cleric
Discourse.

My *first* must be fashion's own fancy-bred daughter,
Proud, peerless, and perfect—in fact *comme il faut* ;
A waltzer and wit of the very first water—
For *show*.

B



But these beauties that serve to make all the men
jealous,
Once face them alone in the family cot !
Heaven's angels incarnate (the novelists tell us)
They're *not*.

But so much for appearances. Now for my *second*,
My lover, the wife of my home and my heart :
Of all fortune and fate of my life to be reckon'd
A part.

She must know all the needs of a rational being,
Be skilled to keep council, to comfort, to coax ;
And, above all things else, be accomplished at
seeing
My jokes.

I complete the ménage by including one other
With all the domestic prestige of a hen :
As my housekeeper, nurse, or, it may be, a mother
Of men.

Total *three* ! and the virtues all well represented ;
With fewer than this such a thing can't be done ;
Though I've known married men who declare
they're contented
With one.

Would you hunt during harvest, or hay-make in
winter ?
And how can one woman expect to combine
Certain qualifications essentially inter-
necine ?

You may say that my prospects are (legally) sun-
less ;
I state that I find them as clear as can be :—
I will marry *no* wife, since I can't do with one less
Than three.