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THE GALLIC PARADOX

As the time approaches for Andre Gide's American readers to seize upon his new novel, "The School for Wives," it may not be inappropriate to note that M. Gide has never yet yielded to the French preoccupation with the domestic triangle. "French women generally are not unfaithful to their husbands," he believes. "Literature and the stage draw a certain picture of French life, but it is not a typical one. The French mind loves paradox, and faithlessness in the marital relation is a paradox exactly to the Gallie taste. The typical married couple in France—and I speak now of the great masses of middle class people, who make France what it is—is one with the wife utterly loyal to her husband and with the husband considerate of and attentive to her. I doubt if any country has more happy or successful marriages than mine. The independence of married women has not spread with us to any great extent. From what I observe, it must be much more frequent with you in America. I have never seen America."