

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

CANADIAN IDEALS

"My father always wins." The words spoken in the high penetrating voice of a lad of twelve or thereabout obtruded themselves upon my waking dreams as I progressed homeward the other day, and I began vaguely to speculate as to whether it was tennis, bowling or cricket in which his esteemed father was such a whirlwind. The next sentences were enlightening:

"Did your father ever do a dirty trick to win? Mine did. He doped a horse." Pride in his father's cunning evidently swelled high within him as it had done in his father when in the bosom of his family he had crowed over his cleverness in winning his bet. And yet the words "a dirty trick," the brutal frankness of the child was appalling.

This little incident set me to thinking upon Canadian ideals and I thought I would ask you what ideals you are setting before the children in your homes.

Let us hope that it is not the standard of unscrupulous knavery that this man was holding up before his boy, or success achieved through sharp business practices, or even the accumulation of wealth through any means however honest.

This is the great danger of this country and this age. So often we hear it said in a tone of unbounded admiration, "Six years ago he wasn't worth five hundred dollars and now he is worth more than a hundred thousand," or, "He was a fool to throw up a good thing like that. If he had stayed with it a few years longer he would have been wealthy."

Over and over again we hear good respectable citizens making the implication, if not the bald statement, that the acquisition of property or money is the final standard of success.

Who can blame the next generation if they grow up into hard little materialists with no reverence for high moral standards and no love for the fanciful and beautiful in life?

As a protest against this drift of the times there has arisen a body of social workers who are trying to stem the tide by teaching the old Christ doctrine, that whoso would be greatest among us he must be the least—the one who serves.

Their work is not the immediate alleviation of poverty, but the education of the people to see the economic conditions which cause poverty and to remove them.

While you mothers away off in isolated sections of the country may not be able to engage actively in this movement, you can contribute far more than the widow's mite to the cause by teaching your children that he only is great who serves mankind most generously and unselfishly—that the public official who uses his high office to exploit the people instead of in their service is a traitor to his country and that it should be their ambition when they grow up not to see how much they can succeed in grabbing for themselves, but to see how far they can assist in uplifting the community in which they live.

I am sorry that Wolf Willow's card arrived too late or I would very gladly have struck out the sentences she asked to have withheld. Unfortunately the paper had gone into print.

Will the mother of the little girl who wrote for Santa's address please tell her for me that I have handed her inquiry about Santa Claus over to Dixie Patton, who is an authority on things pertaining to children, and who, I believe, is answering it in this number of Young Canada Club.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

NO COOK CARS IN THIS DISTRICT

Dear Madam:—"Another 'Mere Man'" should take pains to verify his statements before rushing into print. He would have us believe that every threshing rig in Saskatchewan carries a cook car. I have lived in this district for four years, and during that period I have never met a farmer's wife who had not to provide the meals for threshers. None of the threshing rigs here have cook cars.

I am,

Yours, etc.,

A. CAMERON.

Last Mountain, Sask.

MEN AND MORALITY

Dear Miss Beynon:—The letter from "A Mere Man," which appeared in The Grain Growers' Guide for October 1, has been well and ably answered, but I have just a word more to say about the advice he gives mothers in the closing part of his letter, where he advises them to "devote themselves and their time to teaching their children purity and morality."

Mr. Mere Man, do you not know that this is exactly what every true mother is doing and has been doing for ages? I must admit that all mothers are not true ones, of course. But what of the fathers? What have they been doing in the meantime? We all know too well that by their wise(?) and intelligent(?) voting they have made and upheld laws which have allowed and sanctioned every subtle device and allurements that could be invented by the Evil One to tempt our children into impurity.

These awful temptations confront our children as soon as they leave the home nest, and often before, for Satan hungers and thirsts for the souls and bodies of the

daylight quite unabashed and proud of his power. When we realize that we are not capable of ruling this world (as we should soon learn), then will One arise who will see every soul has a fair show to accomplish that which is best for him. So, dear editor, I hope you will pardon me if I trespassed on your good nature, but it does make one wrathful to think that by co-operation, organization, women's franchise, referendum and recall, etc., we will accomplish the evangelization of our race. So, dear readers, just be patient and wait until He appears to judge the world in righteousness.

A MERE MAN.

I have a theory that the Creator intended us not to sit down and wait for an angel to descend from heaven, but to use every power He has given us for the uplift of the community. "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

F. M. B.

WOMEN DON'T WANT TO RULE THE WORLD ALONE

Dear Editor:—I notice you have this page titled the Country Homemakers,

Meditation

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Part of a poem in "Good Housekeeping" which is a sign of the times

After the ball last night, when I came home,
I stood before my mirror, and took note
Of all that men call beautiful—Delight,
Keen, sweet delight possessed me when I saw
My own reflection smiling on me there.
Because your eyes, through all the swirling hours,
And in your slow good night, had made a fact
Of what before I fancied might be so;
Yet knowing how men lie, by look and act,
I still had doubted. But I doubt no more.
I know you love me, love me. And I feel
Your satisfaction in my comeliness.

Beauty and youth, good health and willing mind,
A spotless reputation, and a heart
Longing for mating and for motherhood,
And lips unsullied by another's kiss—
These are the riches I can bring to you.

But as I sit here, thinking of it all
In the clear light of morning, sudden fear
Has seized upon me. What has been your past?
From out the jungle of old reckless years,
May serpents crawl across our path some day
And pierce us with their fangs? Oh, I am not
A prude or bigot; and I have not lived
A score and three full years in ignorance
Of human nature. Much I can condone;
For well I know our kinship to the earth
And all created things. Why, even I
Have felt the burden of virginity,
When flowers and birds and golden butterflies
In early spring were mating; and I know
How loud that call of sex must sound to man
Above the feeble protest of the world.
But I can hear from depths within my soul
The voices of my unborn children cry
For rightful heritage. (May God attune
The souls of men, that they may hear and heed
That plaintive voice above the call of sex;
And may the world's weak protest swell into
A thunderous diapason—a demand
For cleaner fatherhood).

Oh, love, come near;
Look in my eyes, and say I need not fear.

young. And this is the help women get from men in teaching the children purity. Is it any wonder that intelligent women are tired of such a farce and are demanding, in no uncertain tones, something better? Too long have men expected women to furnish the moral capital with which to keep humanity from sinking into utter degradation. Too long have men shirked their duty in regard to this all important theme.

Yours for a square deal,

"PROGRESSIVE."

MAN CANNOT SAVE THE WORLD

Francis Marion Beynon:—Seeing so many of your women readers think me a horrible ogre, I beg to defend myself. In the first place, I am a good Canadian and my wife seems to think her husband O.K., so ease your minds, all ye readers.

It seems to me as though in our anxiety to remodel this wicked earth we have left out the Divine power in our too great activities. For nearly six thousand years sinful man, as well as his sinful wife, have been endeavoring to rule and govern this world and what success he has made I leave you to judge. And at these last times the beast is walking around in open

which is a very good name, and as we so often hear it repeated, "It's the homes that make the nation." So the women have quite an important part to play, although by some people they don't get very much credit, for we find there is more than one Wolf Willow in the world.

Now, as I am a farmer's wife you may expect my husband is a subscriber to The Grain Growers' Guide, and he plunges into it quite deeply, and I think most always reads the Homemakers' letters, and in this he gets ahead of me as I don't get reading them all and I expect I miss quite a lot of good information, but when my husband finds anything very special or interesting he calls my attention to it, if I have not already seen it, and in this way my attention was called to the very excellent letters of November 5. When I read Wolf Willow's letter I put Wolf Willow down for a bachelor, although she says she is a woman. I am like the old Scotchman, "I ha my doubts."

Wolf Willow's remarks and statements appear to me more like the remarks and statements of a bachelor, and an old rusty one at that, who would need the sweetening influence of a humble little woman to sweeten him up and help him get some

of the rust off, and his eyes opened to better things, so that he may have a broader mind and a better understanding of what real living is.

I like a broad mind and an unselfish heart, that lives and lets live, and doesn't want to keep the whole cheese, when it does not all belong to him, but is willing to give the other half to those to whom it belongs.

Now the men have had the whole cheese long enough and a little too long. It's about time they would give the women their share in government and law making. Why should we blame the women for asking for a vote after waiting all these years, and seeing the way things have gone and how they are going? No wonder they would want and ask for a part in managing the affairs of life, and to help to make the laws they have to abide by.

And woman is not at all greedy or domineering about it, she just wants a part in it, not the whole. In her good sense she realizes that would not be good either. They don't want to judge and make laws all by themselves, so that the Harry Thaws won't get the fatted calf and the women get it where the chicken got the axe. This is what we women have been advocating all the while—that it takes both sexes to rule right, so it will not be one-sided.

But then Wolf Willow seems to think women are not quite so good as the men by the way she talks of one scheming for revenge on the other one that has done her harm. Now I suppose it would be a very bad thing to give beings like this a vote.

It may all be too true in some cases about the scheming and revenging, but this shows the greater need of the grace of God in the heart.

But then are the men any better in this respect? I am afraid not, perhaps not quite so good. Now let us get our proof for it. Just take a trip to the jails and penitentiaries and also the asylums of our land and see which sex has the majority in those places, in spite of the fact that we have been told there are many more women than men in the world.

And now may we ask why are there so many less men in the world than women? One reason is the result of war; another one is the low sinful degraded life so many of our men live.

And before we forget let us make a visit to the different churches and religious institutions and there find out which sex is in the majority. And having found this out could we judge then which would be the most capable of voting. We could say much more on this, but time and space won't permit as there are a few other things we want to speak of, and one is, why do men in general live in a lower tide of life than what women in general do? Is it not because there is so little expected of the men, while so much is expected of the women? Therefore, man's moral standard is dragging in the mud, which should not be, for the great Law-giver gave us one standard for all, male and female alike.

We don't like to say anything bad about the men, but sometimes we can't very well help it. But then we are very much pleased to say they are not all alike any more than women are all alike, but we have a goodly number of noble, high-minded men whom we esteem very highly and our country is in great need of many more men of this stamp. What we women want to do is to help such men to make laws and to lift up the moral standard, so that it will be easier for the good to be good, and harder for the bad to be bad. But I must not say too much on this or my letter will be too long. If I come to your page again I will perhaps say more on this subject; but just now I want to tell Wolf Willow that ambition is not sin and it's a wrong statement that ambition cast Lucifer out of heaven into hell. It was his sinful rebellious nature making war on God's throne that gave him the tumble down into hell. No, ambition is not sin; only when used in sin or in a sinful way. There is the good and righteous ambition and what we need is more of it.

Yours for the uplifting of the nation,
(MRS.) J. W. HANNAH
Rouleau, Sask.

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