

INTENTIONLESS ATTENTION

Causes Many Attractive Girls to Become Old Maids

Dorothy Dix Says Men Should Declare Their Intentions at First and Settle Down to Business.

How much is it worth to be a man's steady company by the year A Long Island woman has been doing some figuring on the subject, and she estimates that a thousand dollars per annum is no more than fair compensation. For twenty years she was wooed by a dilatory Romeo, who courted and courted, but never named the wedding day, and finally espoused another.

Now the forsaken Juliet asks the courts to award her, at the rate of a thousand dollars a year, for the time she wasted her sweetness on the desert air, and when you take into consideration the wear and tear on hope, and the strain on faith and affection involved in a long engagement, to say nothing of the damage done a susceptible heart, it doesn't seem a cent too much. Being engaged is a luxury one should be willing to pay for, and it's the greatest pity that when Cupid renders his little account, so many men always dispute the bill.

As a matter of fact courtship is like a great many other things in life—the more you have of it, the less it is worth. It is only when it comes in small and explosive packages that it is really of any value, and there are many signs that indicate that women are beginning to perceive that the linked sweetness long drawn out of the long engagement isn't worth the price they have to pay for it. There is yearly an increasing number of breach of promise suits, and it looks as if the suit of the future would be required, in sporting parlance, to either put up or shut up.

In our sentimental age it is impossible to return to the good old custom that prevailed when a man who asked permission to visit your daughter was required to file a declaration that he meant business and was going to begin active operations right away. Nevertheless every thoughtful person knows that there ought to be a time limit on engagements, and that it is a wise parent who calls for a breakaway when there is no immediate prospect of the wedding being pulled off.

Nothing else is so trying on a girl as a long engagement. It bunches all the other woes and worries of her sex, without any of their ameliorations.

She is a grass widow without alimony, a wife without a bill payer, a maiden with no further opportunities of conquest. She has made a compact with fate in which she has signed, sealed and delivered herself over without getting anything in return for it. It is a pie-in-the-sky promise from a man. A long engagement is the suicide of happiness for a girl, and anybody is justified in keeping her from committing that particular form of hari-kari if they can.

American society, so far as men are concerned, is run too much on the open door policy anyway. We need a little more home protection. Any man with a decent coat and half-way decent manners can get an entree into any house he chooses. This has produced a class of social freebooters—men whose attentions are without intention, and who simply use the parlors of their feminine acquaintances as a kind of free club, where they are electric lanned, and cool drunk in summer, and steam-heated in winter, and entertained at all times without money and without price.

So far as married women are concerned this makes little difference. If a woman of mature years hasn't aplomb enough to rid herself of undesirable visitors, she deserves to suffer for her stupidity. It is another matter where young girls are concerned, and many a young woman who started out with bright prospects of bellidom owes her collapsed social boom to the man whose attentions were without intention. Debtors suffer most from this polite plicity of time and opportunities. People who take things they have no right to, and for which they never intend paying, seldom have any scruple about helping themselves to the best, and it is invariably the most attractive of the season's buds that the man who never makes good selects as the victim of his prohibitive devotion. He fills up her dance cards at balls, he camps perpetually on her father's parlor chairs, and he manages to establish an air of proprietorship that is none the less real because intangible. He hasn't the faintest idea in the world of marrying her himself, but he keeps every eligible man away.

We often wonder why such and such a girl, whose beauty and wit render her unusually charming, is drifting into old maidhood when her less attractive sisters are marrying well all about her, and establishing themselves in life. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the answer is because she has been silly enough, or unfortunate

enough, to permit herself to be monopolized by some man whose attentions were without intentions. The manning mamma has been much derided in the public prints, but in real life the mother who knows her business is the most useful possession any girl can have, and her first care should be to see that her daughter does not get side-tracked into one of these social pockets.

The matter is all the worse when, as is often the case, the girl is pretty and charming, but poor and of a humbler rank in society than the man whose attentions to her are without intention. Sometimes, if he is extra honorable, he will tell her that he is not a marrying man, and then feels free to monopolize her society, careless of the fact that he is keeping other suitors away, and filling her heart and mind so full of himself that when the honest man does come who asks her hand in marriage she will have nothing but the lees of affection to give him.

The man whose attentions are without intention has had things his own way long enough, and if the Long Island woman can establish the precedent that a woman is entitled to compensation for the time and smiles and sympathy and conversation she spends on the man who never makes good, she will be a benefactress to her sex.

BIG FELLOWS ON THE MAT

Pugilists Take to Wrestling as Test of Prowess.

New York, July 9—Gus Ruhlin and Bob Fitzsimmons in a Græco-Roman wrestling bout attracted 2500 people to Madison Square Garden tonight. Ruhlin was, both cleverer and heavier than the Cornishman and won two falls in succession with a quarter of an hour's rest between them.

In the boxes around the wrestling platform was a gathering of men whose faces were always a familiar sight at the ringside when boxing was in vogue in this city. Several noted characters were in evidence, among them being Tom Sharkey, who has taken to the wrestling game recently, and Terry McGovern, who acted as timekeeper. Charlie White was referee.

There were three preliminary bouts between lesser lights before Fitzsimmons and Ruhlin made their appearance. When Fitz jumped on the platform the crowd cheered. Ruhlin followed him and also got a warm welcome. His weight was announced at 195 pounds and Fitzsimmons was said to weigh only 160.

When they faced each other the spectators cheered as Fitzsimmons in trying for hold swung his right as if he were going to fight. He repeated these tactics a couple of times, to the intense amusement of the onlookers. Ruhlin dropped and remained on the defensive three times and twisted quickly, the third time getting Fitzsimmons underneath for a rolling fall. They got up again and Fitzsimmons ducked with his old time cleverness when Ruhlin's big arm tried to encircle his man and the movement made many remember the last meeting between the two big fellows.

With Ruhlin again on the defensive Fitzsimmons got a strangle hold but only for a few seconds, as Ruhlin broke it cleverly. Fitzsimmons got a body hold and brought Ruhlin to the mat. Ruhlin got on top and secured a half Nelson and a body hold. Ruhlin then had Fitzsimmons in a bad place and finally threw him. First fall for Ruhlin. Time, 14 minutes 34 seconds.

A breathing spell of 15 minutes was then allowed.

When they came together again they sparred as if for an opening at the old game and occasionally slapped each other on the neck and shoulders. After

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five minutes of this kind of work Fitzsimmons got a back body hold, and put Gus to the mat, but only for a moment. He repeated this twice over and secured a strangle hold, which Ruhlin broke easily.

Ruhlin was too heavy for Bob, who essayed a backhammer hold, but was unsuccessful and they got to their feet again. Fitzsimmons, with a body hold from the back gave Ruhlin a flying fall and Gus knelt on the mat in defense. Fitzsimmons secured a neck hold and a quarter hold, but both rolled over and nothing came of it and they got up once more to their feet.

Fitzsimmons then got a throttle hold on Ruhlin and tried to pull him over, but Ruhlin stood close and fell on Fitzsimmons and with a combination lock pinned Fitzsimmons' shoulders to the mat, gaining the second fall and the match. Time 12 minutes, 37 seconds.

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