

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

A FEW HINTS ON THE "NEAR SIDE" OF WOMAN'S RIGHTS.

To the Editor of THE HOME JOURNAL.

I WAS so deeply impressed by Pere Grinator's extraordinary "hints on the off side of woman's rights," which appeared in the last issue of THE HOME JOURNAL, that I feel impelled to offer a few hints on the "near side" of the same subject.

Pere Grinator says he "believes in woman's rights—consistent rights and in perfect equality of the sexes." But, notwithstanding this magnanimous avowal, he thinks the "female yearning seems to reach too far?" Now, if he believes in perfect equality of the sexes, how can it be possible for female yearning to reach too far? If there were, indeed, perfect equality, "cheap female labor" could not drive "poor man" out of employment—perfect equality would pay the same wages for female work well done that inequality now pays to man. Pere Grinator gives the impression of claiming for "poor man" all those avocations which pay good, living wages; and to relegate to females all those which pay indifferent or poor wages.

He says it is "quite the fad" to employ females in place of men and boys in many occupations. The fad consists in the employer being able to pocket a larger amount of the gross earnings of his business by employing women than he could do by employing men; and as "these same females do the work quite as capable as men," the selfish employer sees no reason why he should not profit by cheap female labor to augment his own bank account. If Pere Grinator and others like him would make a firm stand for the "perfect equality" of which they idly talk, they would have nothing to fear from cheap female labor—female labor would be able to command its own price.

Women do not work for small wages because they wish to do so; nor yet because of any unholy desire to crowd out "poor man"—necessity has driven women, step by step, into the better paid fields and avenues over which men, for so many centuries, have held undisputed sway. To-day, women are brave enough, broad enough and grand enough to go out to work and earn, independently and honestly, by the toil of brains and hands, the livelihood for which in past generations they were wholly dependent for on men.

Yes, partly to gratify her love of dress, she will go into offices and fill clerkships; thus honestly providing herself with those things which too many of her unfortunate sisters (under the cruel restrictions which bounded "woman's sphere" in past ages) accepted from men under questionable circumstances. It is a most flagrant injustice to say it is because they "rather like it," or simply love of dress which sends women out of their homes to contend side by side with men in the battle of life. More often, it is the mother's love doing brave battle for her helpless babes; it is the daughter's love nobly striving to smooth the thorny path of a dear mother's declining years; it is the sister's love providing food and raiment for younger, orphaned children or seeking to bring comfort into the sick chamber of some beloved invalid; it is the fond

wife cherishing the wasting months of a consumptive husband; or, most piteous sight! it is the crushed heart of the abused wife and dauntless mother, putting forth her feeble efforts to provide her little ones with the necessities of which the saloons rob them.

As to women "unsexing" themselves by mingling at their work with men who "swear, talk vile" (why is it necessary for men to "talk vile"?) and use the "vile weed," I admit that these things, one and all, are abominations to every true woman, but I have never seen a man so lost to the teachings of his mother and his own innate manhood, as to "swear and talk vile" in the presence of women. As a "little leaven makes the whole mass fit for use," so the presence of woman acts as a moral restraint on any true man; and, if it does not, the employers of such unmanly men should turn them out. In this advanced age, "woman's sphere" is bounded only by her own individuality. Then, why, if woman must own her own living, should she confine herself to one line of occupations any more than man? Since all men were not born Napoleons, Shakespeares, Bacons nor Washingtons, neither were all women born seamstresses, cooks, chambermaids nor scullions.

When more women have "grown into public life," the laws will be more equitable; there will be but one code of morals, one wage scale and equal justice to all—male and female alike. The woman who errs will no longer be stoned whilst her betrayer is received into the "best society"—he will share her punishment. When women have gained a position which will give them a voice in the affairs of the nations and government, there will be no longer any fear of cheap female labor injuring "poor man"; we will teach our sons to regard their sisters as equals, and that if it is good for women to be pious, decent and virtuous, it is equally good for men to be so. Women are willing and eager to "support themselves to the bitter end," as how many thousands have done, are doing and will continue to do? We only ask a fair show and equal pay, and we promise faithfully not to drive the poor men to imitate the dreadful example set by Othello.

Begging pardon for occupying so much space,

Respectfully,

CATHARINE D.

In speaking of modern men, Mrs. Langtry says: "I really believe men grow more and more indifferent to the attractions of the drawing room. I fancy the marriage de convenance in a few years hence will become the vogue. The fashionable club man will refuse to lay siege to a girl's heart, to make love to her in the old traditional way, and courtship, as our ancestors understood it, is falling into absolute impotency. The old folks will arrange the whole affair, and when the lassie has been selected, the trousseau composed, the wedding tour sketched out and the contracts as to allowance, 'nights off,' club privileges, rights of the mother-in-law, etc., been duly signed by the agents of the contracting parties, why then the man will make his appearance on the scene and go through his part of the ceremony with the repose and reserve power of the accomplished gentleman. The fact is this marriage business has been in a sense marred by too much tawdry

sentiment. It has lost its dignity. Ninety times out of ten neither party has any confidence in it. It's the thing to do—hence the girl desires to do it. She has been carefully educated to the notion that the man she is about to wed is no better than he should be, but he is the best man available; that he may possibly behave himself, but if he should exhibit signs of restiveness in double harness then she should at once proceed to kick over the traces herself, in order to get even with him."

At a recent wedding, the bride gave each of her six bridesmaids an exquisite embroidered handkerchief, each one containing the initials of the recipient. The handkerchiefs were carried at the wedding, and the bridesmaids agreed to carry them to each other's weddings when they shall occur. The last one to wed or who remains in single blessedness is to receive all the handkerchiefs.

The following will be found a simple and most effective invention for keeping down the skirt of a cyclist in a high wind. Make a pair of stirrups with broad, black elastic; sew them on a short length of black tape, in which make a buttonhole lengthwise, and fasten on to a button sewed at the hem of the skirt, about one yard apart. The foot, being slipped through the loop, effectually keeps the skirt neat and in a place, even in the highest wind.

In an article describing the Queen's Drawing Room, held on May 10, the London Daily News has the following item which will be of interest to Canadian women: "The Baroness Macdonald of Emscliffe presented two Canadian ladies, who wore very handsome and tasteful dresses. Miss Sanford's was entirely composed of cream colored satin covered with lovely pearl embroidery; the train was fastened on with a large mother-of-pearl butterfly, and a cluster of smaller butterflies were arranged upon one shoulder. Down one side of the train large bows were disposed, with butterflies hovering above them. The lovely goodyear bouquet consisted of green orchids and foliage to match. Mrs. Sanford's gown was in richest silver grey satin, the whole front of the skirt, the bodice and the sleeves being covered with a superb silver and grey pearl embroidery. Some lovely old lace bordered the bodice round the shoulders. The train was in velvet of a soft, pale shade of old rose lined with white moire. The beautiful bouquet carried with this dress was made of white orchids and pink roses."

"Not a few marriages are the result of a panic on the part of the woman," declares one who has had the courage of her convictions, and who has chosen to remain single rather than marry simply for the sake of being married. "In the early part of her girlhood a woman is apt to think all she has to do is to wait and amuse herself in the interval, that the future holds the fairy prince who is sure to present himself sooner or later, and that he will be all that she would have him be. She has made up her mind what he is to be like and what must be his various qualifications, and she even chooses mentally the color of his eyes and his general appearance. She is