

to remember always the nice flirt of the fan, were pleasant, for they were "proper."

So fine a creature must needs be full of activity, else its glory will not be seen. Such splendor was never meant to be confined within the narrow sphere of the home. So women of quality, zealous for their country's weal, step into the arena of politics, strut through the lists and throw down the gauntlet at the feet of some other Amazon marked by the opposite party patch or party hood. Of course the home life may suffer but great issues are at stake. Popery must be kept out of England, for a fish diet would play havoc with complexions, and Mr. Froth, whom Clarinda now ogles with so much satisfaction, would look so strange in an unbecoming skull cap, to say nothing of the breach of modesty confessing innocent liberties would involve. Thus we find female patriots forsaking domestic cares and giving their time and influence for the public weal. "Female Associations" are formed, each member pledging the use of every available weapon and the contribution of a quota of worthy followers.

The matter of supreme importance to women is the point of place. Their highest ambition is to be seen and spoken of as women of quality, especially by members of the sterner sex. Every art possible is put in practice to captivate the hearts of men, not that men's hearts are valuable possessions in themselves, but captured hearts show skill and daring. They are prized as the Sioux brave prizes his rows of scalps. All arts, save one—the art of listening—she practises. But why should women listen when she has a tongue? In calm and storm, it is in constant motion, as the aspen leaf is ever quivering. It is its nature. The business of other people, the marriage of a friend or foe, the christening of a neighbor's child, hair arrangement and ribbon adornment,—all these are topics of absorbing interest. Criticism of the appearance and actions of others, spiced with invective and censorious cynicism, fills in any pause in the conversation. A remark concerning another woman's age is never out of place, provided she is not young.

Action is a very important part of oratory and the cultivation of nice movements is as necessary to a woman of quality as freedom of speech. The proper glancing of the eye, flirt of the fan or movement of the limb are fine arts and sometimes give results.