

THE AMERICAN GIRL.

MRS. LESLIE WRITES ABOUT HER AND ABOUT OTHER TYPES.

The Leading Traits of the Maidens of Various Lands Contrasted—The American Girl Said to Be a Un with a Fire Tipped Wand.

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HO can help being fond of young girls? I don't mean in the way young men are fond of them, but as an observer of human nature and of Vanity Fair may well be. There is a certain freshness and sweetness and grace about them like the charm of flowers, butterflies and birds, and besides this a graciousness and attractiveness like that one feels in all frisky, confiding, fond young creatures like kittens and lambs and suchlike helpless, frolicsome and trustful creatures.

For myself, I am devoted to girls wherever I may be, and I have been, I believe, in most parts of the habitable globe. Everywhere I have found girls, and everywhere there have been many traits of identity and some of difference. All were nice, and I do not know that if I could I could tell which I like the best.

Our own girls certainly have the most charming, also, as a rule, they have the most beauty. But the question is, are they so far at least as the great cities go—are not they more young women of the world than girls *par excellence*? There has been a great deal said both at home and abroad upon this subject, but it is one that is always coming up again, and we should not blink the discussion of it.

In the American girl not enough a girl, or is she too much of a girl? It is certainly true that the American girl accepts, in fact assumes, responsibilities that no other girl in the world would dream of doing, and the consequence is that she sometimes appears lacking in that modest humility and timid appeal to her elders which is one of the charms of certain other girls; foreign, in fact, are apt to mistake her calm self assertion for boldness and want of self respect, and acting upon this mistake, they sometimes meet with rebuffs so startling that they rush into another mistake and set down the American girl as a shrewd, a sharp tongued and sharp tempered vixen, and please themselves by saying that no man in his senses would venture to marry her.

In fact, the American girl is for him a sour grape. And yet how could we wish this freedom of action and speech or this capacity for self defense and aggressive warfare less, when we consider that these very traits are the foundation of American character, and that these very girls are to become the mothers of the men of the future?

An American girl fought through two years of the Revolution and gained among her associates a reputation most honorable to her modesty as a woman, although no one suspected her sex to the last. Grace Darling was an American girl, and more than one or two others have emulated her noble courage under similar circumstances. American girls have taken their fathers' places in command of ships, in the conduct of flight from Indians, in the saving of burning houses; in fact, I don't need with a little research one could find an American girl in nearly every position of trust or of command which a man of her age and physical ability could fill. Shall we, then, desire to see her watered down to the level of the shrinking and blushing *ingenue* which is the French ideal of girlhood?

But on the other hand, the girls who are called to fight in the ranks, or to "man" lifeboats, or rescue their helpless mothers from Indians, or to save burning buildings, are a very small proportion of the whole, and this very courage and ability are apt in private life to make a restless and uncontrolled and perhaps assuming character. Our Grace Darlings in city society are very apt to get the name of being "fast" or "mannish" or "loud," just because they have such an amount of surplus energy and force of character. Besides this our girls have another splendid quality which is apt to lead foreigners to make mistakes about them. They are not afraid of men, because they feel themselves perfectly competent to control any circumstances in which they may be placed and to meet any attack that may be made. They are Unas who meet the lion with perfect tranquility, because they know they can lead him whither they will. The lion's instinct generally leads him to the same conviction, but in case he is stupid and don't see it the American Unas is quite capable of converting her lily stalk into a wand of white hot steel and giving Master Lion a lesson he does not soon forget. There is I suppose no girl in the world so perfectly capable of taking care of herself and doing it well as the American girl. In her womanly virtue she is next to the Irish girl, who as is well known, is the most virtuous of her sex, and in judgment, coolness and knowledge of the world she is by far her superior.

In fact, I think we may honestly claim

that the failings of our American girls are simply what the French call "les fautes de leur virtus"; that is, the somewhat troublesome excess of unemployable strength.

Daisy Miller has passed into a proverb. But is she a type? I never have forgiven Mr. James for those traits in his portrait, and yet there is a great deal of truth in the innocent audacity, the fearlessness and the simple carelessness of public opinion that stamp his heroine, and one cannot but feel a certain tenderness for the poor child, although one is so provoked at her, or rather at her author.

But fascinating as every one allows the American girl to be, her English cousins are dangerous rivals. The stately growth and clear complexion, the well calm eyes and baby mouths, the well developed figures and honest simplicity of manner are in the eyes of many men more attractive than the independent vivacity of the American. Two types of maidenhood are not unlike the natural scenery amid which they have been perfected; the fragrant breath of western prairie, the graceful freedom of virgin forests, the sparkling rush of mighty rivers and the fearless beauty of airy waterfalls seem to have tempered the clay and infused the blood of the American girl, while her passive English cousin reminds one of stately parks and well ordered gardens, lawns of velvet and meads knee deep in clover (where placid king horses as they were posing for Sir Edwin Landseer's picture).

In sauntering around England—and one can see neither a country nor its people except in sauntering—the predominant idea one receives is of long and patient culture. Every foot of arable ground has been turned over and over through a thousand years of husbandry; the grass is not so much grass as the elaboration of man's energies and the chemist's skill; the trees that shaded Elizabeth and the second Charles have been preserved and cared for to the last days of Victoria; everything, in fact, bears the mark of man's zealous improvement of natural advantages, and the girls are no exception to the rule.

These of the land, country—whose fathers and mothers and ancestors for hundreds of years have been cultivated as assiduously as the grass, and the corn lands, and the trees, and show the effect of cultivation just as blood horses and Devon cows show it; the clear skins, the bright eyes and clean cut features and shapely limbs show breeding long and careful; and the conventional ideas, the narrow range of thought, the value of precedent and the importance of precedence, all show breeding too. They show the training of the mind in long established formulas and the molding of manners to long established traditions, so that the English lady is born artificial, and as a rule grows up in the same condition.

Of course there are exceptions to this rule, even among young girls, but these variants as a rule are neither understood nor admired in their own meridian; what is spontaneous independence of thought in an American girl is set down as suspicious eccentricity in an English girl, and in fact the latter never can possess that charm of unconsciousness which marks the vagaries of our own lassies; there are too many warning voices upraised, there is too much Saturday Reviewing for the English girl to step one foot outside the beaten track without knowing it, while our own girls follow their impulses very much as the wind does and generally come to a little harm.

But each type of girl has her charm, and we would not if we could change either for the other. There is charm in diversity and harmony in contrast.

Crossing the channel or the narrow seas, we come upon more girls and thoroughly new types, and yet are not prepared to set them in a place of inferiority.

The French girl is in a condition of slow transition; the *jeune fille* of the century spent her infancy in the house of her foster mother, and her girlhood in a convent, whence she was summoned at sixteen or seventeen years old to be presented to her affianced husband. Perhaps she liked him and perhaps she did not; nobody insured and nobody cared; the alliance was arranged by the parents on both sides, and the *jeune fille* at least acquiesced without choice or opinion.

In those days there was no such thing as a French girl, for she was repressed almost out of existence, and only began to live, and generally not very wisely, after her marriage. But the slow, sure tooth of time has eaten away the remnants of tradition in France and done more than the many revolutions in setting the young women free. Liberty, that is to say the French idea of liberty, is in the air, and the women breathe it, as well as fathers and brothers. Women, even young girls, begin to realize that they are individuals and possess souls and minds as well as bodies, and the knowledge emboldens them to think, to speak and to act as once they never would have dreamed of doing.

Convents are a good deal out of fashion nowadays, and Adele ventures to form the opinion that Gustave is more to her than Adolphe, even though the former be a *bon parti* and the latter not. The *jeune fille* has looked over the fence at least, and the lock is often preparatory to leaping, but the process of emancipation is sometimes a timid and hesitating one, and the French girl of our own day will never acquire the freedom of the American maiden, nor is it desirable that she should, for she cannot in one or two generations be trained to use it with discretion. Liberty of speech and action must be based upon deep convictions of right and wrong; there must be a moral law to replace the lost of conventionality and tradition before it is safe to throw them aside, and perhaps in no country outside of America can a child be born into that atmosphere of self government and self protection that gives her peculiar nature to the American girl.

But turning for a moment to another great division of Christendom, let us

glance at the German girl, who differs materially from each of those already mentioned. Of course we all know that the Teutonic damsel is trained to housewifery from her cradle; that even frauleins of high degree are forced to go through a course of pickling and preserving, of confectionery and cake making; are taught to look after the house linen and watch the movements of the servants with a diligence unknown to most housekeepers. But this utilitarianism is not to me the predominant trait of the German girl—I mean the daughters of the nobility, what we would call the society girls of Germany; the most salient point in the characters of such as I have met has been their pride.

We speak of Spanish pride, of English hauteur and of Russian arrogance, but to my mind not one of them equals the self respecting, all dominating and perfectly spontaneous pride of a German girl in her sixteen quarters of nobility, and her firm conviction that no merit, no education, no natural gifts or acquired advantages can in any way fit a person not "well born" to stand upon an equality with herself, or above all to aspire to her hand. To make a *mesalliance* is in the mind of the German fraulein a little worse than to join the Mormons and become a thirteenth wife would be for an American, and so far as the former has strength and individuality of mind, they show themselves in draping around her fair white shoulders the mantle of heraldic honor, which is to her the most valuable of all human possessions.

But the subject grows upon one so vividly that it becomes a hopeless task to exhaust its ramifications, and it must be dropped unfinished with only this one word in which I am sure every keen student of mankind will join:

Long life to the girl, *par excellence*, for she is the just opened bud of the fairest flower in all this fair world.

MRS. FRANK LESLIE.

The new fall fashions did fair to be the prettiest and most elegant of any that have ever been seen, both in color and make. The prevailing colors for early autumn will partake of the coloring in nature, and be russet, faded reds and purples, with warm browns and yellows. The new fall woollens are seen in those colors and in mixtures and also changeable effects. There is a pretty serge with the warp of pale blue, like the autumn sky, and a rich yellow, like the poplar leaves, for the wool and the



OWNERS FOR FALL WEAR.

tones blend and mingle so that in one light it is blue, in another yellow, and altogether a delicate charm. Trimmed as this was, with four narrow silk pinked ruffles around the bottom and a draped corsage of silk bearing the same shades, and with a ruffled sleeve bordered with three of the finest ribbons, it was most beautiful.

I saw one exquisite costume for the promenade made of faded fawn cashmere which was sublime. Around the bottom of the rather long skirt were two self plain hemmed ruffles, headed by a rose plaiting pinked on both edges. There was a short wrap of the same material, with a ruffle five inches deep of cashmere embroidered in exactly the same shade and headed by a pinked out rose plaiting; the front laid in a plait, with long tabs, and the back gathered into a short Watteau plait. Plaits and pinkings and much accordion plaiting will be seen on all the fall costumes.

Another beautiful dress for a young lady was of lilac and gray striped tulle; the skirt was quite plain, with lace drapery across the bust and down the left side. I saw this same design in several other colors and materials.

A Southern Beauty.

Miss Carrie Cochran, daughter of the eminent southern jurist, Judge John Cochran, who died when she was an infant, was introduced in Washington society last season by her aunt, the beautiful



tiful wife of Representative Oates, of Alabama. She is quite tall, has quantities of hair so dark that it is almost black, well defined brows, clear cut features, fine dark eyes and complexion of the loveliest pink and white. She is a highly accomplished girl and is quite agreeable in conversation.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

Programme for the Gun Club's Tournament—The Warpage Games To-day—Fine Sport Promised.

O'Connor Disputes Hanlan's Right to Challenge for the World's Championship.

The Irish Cricketers Complete Their Victory—Champion Corbett Will Defend His Title.

ENERGIOUS praise must be accorded by all who love the gun to those who first suggested the celebration of the close of the season of 1892 with a tournament at the traps. The season has been a good one, both of Victoria's clubs having held their own well with the crack shots of the North Pacific coast, and there is enough enthusiasm at home to carry the tournament through triumphantly. The date decided upon, the 23rd of the present month, will suit the convenience of all, and there is every reason to expect that fully 25 or 30 competitors will present themselves when that day arrives. The Tacoma Rod, Gun and Rifle Club, who entertain the United States hospitably on the occasion of their last visit to the Sound city, will be here. So will the Seattle shots, and those of the Vancouver, Westminster, Ladner's Landing, Burrard Inlet and other British Columbia clubs.

The grounds of the Union Gun Club at Moseley Point, on which the tournament will be held, are being levelled and put in the best possible condition, and the firing will be upon the well-known Blue Rocks, which both rise and break well. The entrance fee has been placed at \$3.50 for the series of five events, inclusive of the cost of the birds, and it is expected that the day will be sufficient to dispose of the entire programme. On the 30th, a team shoot will very likely be held, the visitors being from the evening. There was no special feature in the play. The Irishmen began their second innings, but had only made ten runs, with the loss of two wickets, when rain put an end to the play. The Canadians left for Philadelphia to play the U. S. team.

A GREAT SURPRISE.

WESTMINSTER, Sept. 12.—(Special.)—The Langley cricket team beat Westminster, at Langley, on Saturday, by 81 to 52 runs. Westminster sends a baseball and a gun club team to Chilliwack, on Wednesday, to meet similar teams of "Whackers" during their exhibition festivities.

WITH THE MEN OF THE FLAGSHIP.

Those who enjoyed the carnival of sport provided last year by the men of the Warpage, will to-day delight in a repetition of the treat with new and more acceptable events added. The same will be the Canton grounds, and the fun will commence at 10:30 a.m., with throwing the cricket ball. After luncheon the programme will be resumed at 1:30, and it is expected that the last number will be disposed of before 6 o'clock. The ship's band will lend its valuable services toward making the day pass pleasantly, and it is expected that the men of the French flagship Dahourville, will enter in a number of the contests, making them doubly interesting and exciting. The programme in full is appended:

PROGRAMME.

1. Throwing the cricket ball (two tries).

2. Long jump.

3. Boys' race (open to feet).

4. High jump.

5. One mile race.

6. Heaving the lead (boys).

7. One hundred yards race (runners to feet).

8. Grindstone display (open to feet).

9. Hurdle race.

10. Quarter mile race (open to feet).

11. Quarter mile race (men with over 16 years service).

12. Sack race (open to feet).

13. Half mile race (open to feet).

14. Tug-of-war (final).

15. Three-legged race (open to feet).

16. Half mile race (open to feet).

17. Field gun competition.

18. One hundred yards race (runners to feet).

19. Fat men's race (men weighing over 100 pounds).

20. Officers' race.

21. Butcher race (runners to feet to be carried on the head and half rail at finish).

22. Consolation race.

All preparations are now complete for the day's sport. The ground has been levelled and beautified, grand stands erected and every preparation made that will add to the comfort and pleasure of the guests of the gallant seamen.

JAMES BAY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Managing Committee of the above, held Tuesday evening, the following gentlemen were elected members: M. J. Egan, John Fraser, F. L. McFarland, G. O. Leask, Cecil W. Ward, Cecil Fletcher, Alexander Keating, A. G. Smith, H. F. M. Jones and R. J. Adams.

Mr. H. D. Helmecken, chairman, in a few appropriate words presented the prizes won at the Club Regatta on August 20, to the following gentlemen: J. McFarland, G. P. Askew, S. G. Campbell, W. Scott, J. Adams, James Watson, G. C. Jorgensen, D. B. McConnan, R. W. Clarke, H. H. Austin, C. M. Page and P. Hibben.

MEET THIS EVENING.

The promoters of the Victoria Chess Club will meet again this evening in Room 45, Wilson block, to receive the report of the committee named to select club rooms and complete the work of organization.

LACROSSE.

The championship lacrosse match between the Victorias and the Vancouver, which was set for September 17, at Vancouver, has been postponed, as recently intimated, until the 24th; and the game between the Victorias and Westminster set for 27th will be played September 22, at the Westminster exhibition. The Victorias and Westminster intermediates will also play a game during the exhibition.

VANCOUVER AND WESTMINSTER.

WESTMINSTER, Sept. 14.—(Special.)—The intermediate lacrosse match between the Victorias and the Vancouver, which was set for September 17, at Vancouver, has been postponed, as recently intimated, until the 24th; and the game between the Victorias and Westminster set for 27th will be played September 22, at the Westminster exhibition. The Victorias and Westminster intermediates will also play a game during the exhibition.

THE RING.

SLAVIN AFTER SULLIVAN.

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—Frank Slavin, who was easily defeated by Peter Jackson, thinks he sees an opportunity of regaining his lost prestige, and offers to fight Sullivan, a despatch from London to-day says the Aus-

O'Connor not only champion of America, but has also beaten Hanlan in every race they have come together. He, therefore, announces that he will row either Hanlan or Gaudaur singly, for \$1,000 a side, or he will enter a sweepstake race with them, each to post \$500, and the winner to take the whole \$1,000. O'Connor wishes it to be agreed that the winner of either of these races shall have the exclusive right for six months thereafter, to challenge for the world's championship.

WESTMINSTER, Sept. 14.—(Special.)—On Thursday the 22nd, Alex. McLean and Martin of Nanaimo, will row three miles in outrigger skiffs for a purse of \$200. Martin will row with a sliding and McLean with a fixed seat. Besides the purse, the contestants will have a private bet on the result.

THE RIFLE.

A WIN FOR THE NAVAL MEN.

The following is the result of a rifle match, which took place at Esquimalt on Saturday last, between the Staff Sergeants of the Battery and the first class Petty Officers of the Sea Army.

H. M. S. Warpage.

W. Evans..... 100 100 Total

W. Davis..... 100 100 Total

J. Dowling..... 100 100 Total

W. H. Thomas..... 100 100 Total

O' Battery.

Mr. Gr. Bridgford..... 100 100 Total

Staff-Serg. Trevor..... 100 100 Total

Staff-Serg. Mulcahy..... 100 100 Total

Staff-Serg. Charnard..... 100 100 Total

Staff-Serg. Lapointe..... 100 100 Total

The Warpage thus won by 12 points. Both teams shot with Martin-Henry rifles.

CRICKET.

IRELAND VS. CANADA.

TORONTO, Sept. 13.—The Gentlemen of Ireland vs. the Gentlemen of Canada cricket match opened here in perfect weather. The Irishmen won the toss and went to bat. The innings closed in two hours for 131 runs, of which 105 had been made at the fall of the third wicket. When stops for the series of five events, inclusive of the cost of the birds, and it is expected that the day will be sufficient to dispose of the entire programme. On the 30th, a team shoot will very likely be held, the visitors being from the evening. There was no special feature in the play. The Irishmen began their second innings, but had only made ten runs, with the loss of two wickets, when rain put an end to the play. The Canadians left for Philadelphia to play the U. S. team.

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tralian visited the Sporting Life and left a challenge to fight the ex-champion for any amount of money, the latter may name, either with gloves, bare knuckles, and under the London prize ring or Marquis of Queensberry rules, the battle to take place either in America or England.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 14.—Joe Chynski, in a letter received here to-day, says he now weighs 160 pounds and can easily fight at 150, at which weight he says he intends to meet any middleweight.

WILL DEFEND HIS TITLE.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 14.—Two thousand two hundred people were at the Academy of Music to-night to welcome James J. Corbett as the champion. The gathering was enthusiastic, but was not to be compared to the receptions that have been given John L. Sullivan in the Quaker City in days gone by. Corbett was presented with several floral pieces and ended the entertainment by sparring three light rounds with Jim Daly. Previous to this and in response to cries for a speech, he said after taking a needed rest he would be ready to defend the championship and he hoped he would uphold it for America. This pleased the crowd. After the show Corbett was given a supper by the Philadelphia Amateur Swimming Club.

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—James J. Corbett, the new champion of the world, arrived at Jersey City from the South at 3:30 p.m. Over a thousand men and women cheered him when he alighted from the car, and he was again applauded when he reached his carriage, which was surrounded by a mob of hundreds, whom the policemen had to keep in check. When Corbett reached the New York shore he was again greeted with cheers from another cheering crowd of several hundred. Corbett's carriage was driven to the Coleman house, and here another swarm of men and women had gathered. When Corbett emerged from his carriage there was another yell of congratulations, and Jim went to his room to prepare for the work of the evening, at the Madison Square garden. John L. Sullivan has been quiet all day, and while not entirely recovered from the chagrin of defeat, begins to take it more philosophically. He repeated to his friends his belief that he had gone up once too often, but gave all credit to Corbett, and he was not been driven much to-day, and begins to recuperate, although he still looks groggy and bears the marks of Corbett's sturdy jabs, otherwise he is all right.

HALL AND FRITCHARD.</