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# ASTRA'S TALKS WITH GIRLS.

(Correspondents seeking information in this department should address their queries to "ASTRA," P.O. Box 100, St. John, N. B.)

**VOLENA, St. John.**—My dear girl, I cannot understand how such a thing could happen, as your writing to me two or three times and never receiving any answer! None of your letters ever reached me, I assure you, because, with one or two notable exceptions every letter that has come into the office for me since I have been writing for this paper, has been answered as soon as possible. The exceptions have been letters which were either too impertinent or too vulgar to be noticed. Are you sure you addressed them properly? I received a letter once addressed "To Astra," nothing more. I forgot now where it came from, but when it reached the St. John office the post master added the legend "TRY PROGRESS" and I got it safely. Thank you very much for your kind sympathy, but bronchitis is not dreadful at all, at least to me, you see I am so used to it, and you remember what the Irishman said, nothing was very bad when you were used to it, even hanging. If I could have my choice I would prefer bronchitis any day to a cold in my head, and it is nothing to equal grippe in any respect. You poor girl, so you are getting over the latter? Well, I am very sorry for you, and hope you will soon be quite well. Yes, I do really think it a terrible thing for a girl to marry for money. No bondage could be so dreadful in my eyes as a loveless marriage. You are quite right; it would be better to marry the poorest man and "take in" houses to scrub in order to help him along than marry a millionaire for whom you cared nothing, and "bear a golden sorrow." No girl should accept a ring from a man to whom she is not engaged, unless they have what is called an understanding, and expect to be engaged some day. I hope most sincerely that this answer will reach you safely, because if not, I am afraid you will be utterly discouraged and never write to me again.

**VIXEN, Nova Scotia.**—It is almost worth while to be a little under the weather, in order to receive as much sympathy as you have all given me, and I am most grateful for the kindness, girls. I really was not ill at all, I only lost my voice as I have often done before. The "Brown Kidney" story was very good. An old lady who kindly did our washing for me for a small consideration, once told me that she had been "that bad with the brown teasers" that she thought "they would be the end of her, and a good name it is for them," she added, "for they are teasers, I can tell you." Well Vixen! my dear, you can begin to lavish that stored up pity on "poor old Geoffrey" now, because he is at present wrestling with as generous an allowance of grippe as I ever saw one person have at a time. He was very much pleased at what you said about his article on "Tramp" sketches. So you lived in Halifax once, and remember the market? I am so glad to hear that you love animals, and dislike to hear of cruelty to them. You and Geoffrey and myself would agree capitally on that point, and all animals love Geoff. Thank you for your congratulations about the magazine, but it was Geoffrey, not I. Of course I was not offended, who could be at such a nice letter as yours? and do you know, you never asked me a single question? Write again. I shall be glad to hear from you at any time, a letter "from the heart" is always a treasure to me.

**A MAIDEN ALL FOLKLORE, St. John.**—Why in the world are you tormented? I am glad to hear that you take pleasure in my column, you know that is what I want the girls to do, and I am always glad to have them write to me. If I never have to answer any more questions, I have tried, I shall be very fortunate. (1) Well, my child you put it very nicely indeed, and if they look forward to being something more than friends some day, I don't think it would be so very wrong, and I know it would be very natural. Two excellent things for indigestion are Carter's Little Liver Pills and Dyspepticure. I have tried many things but these are the best. A cup of hot water drunk half an hour before each meal and as hot as you can swallow it, is a capital remedy in itself, and a great assistance to either of the other two. Indigestion is a most dismal thing, I have tried, I am quite well, I never had the grippe, thank goodness, and I hope I never will, poor Geoffrey has enough for us both just now. Thank you for your kind messages.

**PHYLLIS.**—It was a very mean advantage to take of an girl, and it had respected her he would not have done so. He presumed upon her youth and inexperience, and he was old enough to have known better. Had she been an older girl he would not have presumed to do such a thing. If he really cared for her he would have told her so. As it was not respected at the time, it is too late to do so now, but I should avoid him as much as possible in future, and it would show a most lamentable lack of spirit to ask him to write to her. The business would be doing far better to insist on finding partners for the too-backward young men, than to do it herself, and leave her guests to their own devices, which would be the rudest thing imaginable. Of course I don't think it right for any man to take such liberties, and no girl of sense would permit such a thing. Once more let me tell you that men must do one of two things, either respect a girl, or laugh at her. You poor, innocent girls who seem to know so little of the world, how I wish I could make you understand the awful strictness of men's ideas on the subject of our behavior, and how mercifully high their standard of what constitutes correct conduct, if I could open your eyes in amazement, if I could, thank you, we have both escaped la grippe so far.

**LUCILLE, Nova Scotia.**—My poor girl, you will have to take great care of yourself. An injury like that is a serious matter if neglected, and you are wise to take it in time.

though it is very hard to submit to enforced idleness when one is young. I would have been better, though less distinguished, if you could have followed the fashion and had grippe, would it not? I have been wondering what had become of you. I do not know anything about fly blisters. A mustard poultice is the most violent remedy I ever experienced. The blisters must be terrible, and I know they are always so reluctant to leave you, when they take a piece of your skin along as a souvenir. No wonder you feel low-spirited, you poor little thing, you have my most sincere sympathy, and I do hope you will soon be all right. I am so fond of sympathy myself when I am ill that I always persist in telling everyone how I feel every five minutes; so it is no wonder there is general rejoicing in the household when I recover. Please don't talk about wearing me with a doleful letter. You should see me when I am ill. Isn't it terrible to think of the "pious untruths" those little matters you speak of, but after all it is no one's affair but our own. I think it would be a good idea to adopt another of the Private Secretary's sayings and say to those people: "Do you know?" It would, in nautical language, take the wind out of their sails, but I think you are clever enough to hold your own without any assistance from me. I shall always be glad you took my advice on one point, for I think the result justifies my opinion. That must be a nice boy, the one who is fond of parties, do you understand? Boys are not generally of much use in such cases. Do you know I missed seeing the column you speak of, but I think I can hunt it up; and if so I will manage to send it to you. Would you like that? I can shoot now to my heart's content, thank you. Take good care of yourself, and nurse that weak lung. I don't make things too plain, do I?

**MAIDEN MARY.**—You must pardon my stupidity; I am so very sorry, but you see I was afraid you would miss my answer, I will be more careful in future. Please do not regard me as a stranger, none of the girls seem to do so, and why should you? I think I understand how you feel, I have such a weakness for sympathy myself. I think the way you speak of your mother is lovely, and she must indeed have been a good woman to have inspired such affection. Believe me I consider your confidence sacred, but I only know of one person answering your description, and I think he fancies himself young enough for the very youngest. I am afraid I cannot agree with the friend you mention, I have heard many men say so, but I think all the same they prefer to choose for themselves. I would do anything in the world I could, for you, and I would a busy woman that I seldom leave home, and I am afraid I cannot write you a private letter. I have been obliged to refuse several times before and I have no time now to attend to my private correspondence. Space is very scarce, and I hardly think I could get room for the selections you kindly sent me, but I will see, and if not I will return them. I have not had time to read them yet. Thank you for all the kind things you say, I sympathize with you sincerely.

**ROBIN HOOD, St. John.**—Don't flatter yourself for one moment, my dear man, that I was addressing you by a nickname. I never take liberties with anyone, and least of all with correspondents. I fancied I recognized the writing of a friend, to whom the name belonged rightfully, I think so still, but at the same time, in case I should be mistaken allow me to tell you that if you did presume to address me by a nickname, you should find yourself flying out of this column with the unexpected velocity of a goose pursued by a fox. At least that is about all I have to say to you at present, as I do not remember that you asked any question requiring an answer.

**ME, St. John.**—And who is me? You did not understand the subject under discussion, so your remarks naturally fall in reading the answer to a question which you have not seen, you are apt to gain a false impression of the whole matter. The lady in question was not advancing any opinion of her own, but merely asking for my idea of the real meaning of a passage in the writings of a clever man, and she made no "remarks" whatever on the subject, so you had better have waited until someone said that men were "wild animals" before announcing so positively that they weren't. Unfortunately both history, and the daily papers furnish us with many instances which go to prove that large portions of them are, and the same source goes to prove that no girl could do a wise thing than look under the bed and into the closet before retiring, since it is well known to be a common thing in large cities for a burglar to secret himself in a house during the day and calmly cut the throats of the occupants during the night. I have not yet forgotten my feelings one summer night, ten years ago, when I heard a scraping sound outside my window in the dead of night, and on opening it softly, found myself face to face with a man on a ladder, within six inches of my window sill. I have religiously looked under the bed every night since then, and what is more, I always intend to do so. I think I have proved myself such a valiant defender of your sex in the past, and so good a friend of mine in the present, that it is unnecessary for me to say anything more, except that I quite agree with the last clause of your letter, as to the influence a good woman possesses over a man's whole life and that in addressing me it is quite unnecessary to add after my name "Acne of Wisdom," etc. "Acne of Wisdom" more is required than simply ASTRA.

**To Professions.**

**MR.**—You never can object to my arm round your waist, and that you'll readily guess; I'm an editor, dear, and I always insist on the "Liberty of the Press."

**MR.**—I'm a minister's daughter, believing in texts, and I think all the newspapers bad; And I'd make you remove your arm, were it not that you were making the waist places glad."

# What to Teach a Daughter.

Teach her that not only must she love her father and mother, but honor them in word and deed.

That work is worthy always when it is well done.

That the value of money is just the good it will do in life, but that she ought to know and appreciate this value.

That the man who wishes to marry her is the one who tells her so and is willing to work for her, and not the one who whispers silly love speeches and forgets that men cease to be men when they have no object in life.

That her best confidant is always her mother, and that no one sympathizes with her in her pleasures and joys as you do.

That unless she shows courtesy, to others she need never expect it from them, and that the best answer to rudeness is being blind and deaf.

That when God made her body he intended that it should be clothed properly and modestly, and when she neglects herself she is insulting Him who made her.

Teach her to think well before she says, no or yes, but to mean it when she does.

Teach her to avoid men who speak lightly of any of the great duties of life, who show in their appearance that their habits are bad.

Teach her that her own room is her nest, and that to make it sweet and attractive is a duty as well as a pleasure. Teach her that she can sing or read or draw, or give pleasure in any way by her accomplishments, she is selfish and unkind if she does not do this gladly.

Teach her to be a woman—self-respecting, honest, loving and kind, and then you will have a daughter who will be a pleasure to you always, and whose days will be long and joyous in the land which the Lord hath given her.—*Ladies Home Journal.*

# How to Treat Him.

Because a man loves you is that any reason why you should be inconsiderate to him?

Because he loves you, shall you give no thought to the words you say to him?

Because he loves, shall you laugh at his affection, and think his expressions of it are funny?

Because he loves you, shall he be the last to be thought of?

Because he loves you, shall he be treated so that he wonders, after all, if you have any love for him?

Because he loves you, shall you seem to put a tax on him in the way of presents and entertainments that, it is just possible, he cannot afford?

Because he loves you, shall you never think it necessary to say the sweet words of thanks for the courtesies he shows you?

Because he loves you, shall you not think it necessary to be at your best and sweetest for him?

Oh, you foolish girl! If this love is worth having, if this love is real and abiding, if it is really your sweetheart who has come, then you possess a great treasure, a treasure which you may lose some day if you are not careful. Love is lost by thoughtlessness, by inconsideration, and by selfishness more than by any other way. Do you want to lose your love? It is like those old Venetian glasses, fine, slender and delicate; pour into one all the great wealth of your affection and the glass will hold it, but let one drop of the poison of self-will or indifference get there and the glass is shattered into a thousand pieces.—*Ladies Home Journal.*

# MILLER BROS.' EXHIBIT.

It contained the Best Pianos and Organs and Was Admired.

At the recent exhibition, says the Halifax Mail, Miller Bros. (Granville street) occupied a large space (nearly the whole of the south end gallery), and their show presented a fine appearance. It was all enclosed by a nice neat railing (of turned bannisters) and the place raised about eight inches above the floor. The carpet, the walls and ceiling were nicely papered, and suspended from the ceiling were three electric lights, and their whole place tastefully and richly draped with some fine paintings hung. They showed fifteen fine organs and pianos. The Karn organs, while all in parlor styles, some of which are very fine in appearance and tone, ranging in price from \$75 to \$450. Also some fine Karn pianos in mahogany, walnut and rosewood finish. The Evans Bros. piano in mahogany, walnut and rosewood finish; both of these makes of pianos are becoming very popular. Music could be heard from their department. They also showed in a separate booth ten of the celebrated Raymond sewing machines in different styles of oak and walnut. Among them was a very fine cabinet machine, which attracted much attention, it being so simple to open and close and to operate; and when closed having the appearance of a writing desk. This machine has become of late years a general favorite with the public. This firm deserves credit for going to the trouble and expense they did in making so fine an exhibit. They received three diplomas on their organs and pianos. The highest award given, no prizes were offered. They have now been in business over twenty years and during that time have worked up a very large business in the lower provinces, which territory they control.

The monthly concerts at the school for the blind have been resumed. The first of these took place on Wednesday afternoon in the assembly hall of the institution. The visitors were conducted to different parts of the buildings, and were loud in their praises of the arrangement of the music rooms. Through the plate glass doors of each of these rooms a pupil could be seen practising upon one of the new Evans Bros. or Karn pianos recently put in by Miller Bros. of the city, who are the sole agents. Their pianofortes are particularly fine in tone and are giving every satisfaction.

MILLER BROS., Granville street, at the recent exhibition, received three diplomas on their organ and piano exhibit.

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75 Cents.	80 Cents.	German, 75 Cts.
80 Cents.	90 Cents.	\$1.00 German.
\$1.00	90 Cents.	\$1.00 Felt.
\$1.40	\$1.00	

Misses' German Slippers, 50 Cents; Child's German, 50 and 75 Cents.

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See on page Francis. *Aqui se habla Espanol.*

# SEE A FEW OF THE MANY TESTIMONIALS:

Opinions of some Distinguished Guests on the "Myrtle Bank" Hotel.

From the Hon. Pitt Rivers, King's House, Jamaica.—Having been staying on several occasions at the Myrtle Bank Hotel, I have found it well appointed, and the staff most obliging. The Hotel is well situated, the verandahs have the benefit of the sea-breeze and command very interesting views of the hotel especially comfortable.

From Arthur Harey, Esq., Toronto, Canada.—I have spent some weeks in Jamaica, every hour of which has been delightful, and much of the pleasure has been due to the excellent accommodations of the Myrtle Bank Hotel. The rooms, the cuisine, the service, and the civility received at your hands, call for this acknowledgment.

From the Hon. Thos. A. Clayton, Thornton, Penna.—We have spent ten days at Jamaica, making the Myrtle Bank Hotel our headquarters. We have found it the best Hotel on the island. We can recommend this Hotel to our countrymen as an agreeable resting place.

From John M. Oakley, of Pittsburgh, Pa.—On leaving your hospitable house, the "Myrtle Bank," after two weeks' stay, we wish to say to our countrymen, through you, that we have found your location most favorable for the sea-breeze as cool as the mountain top. We shall advise all our friends visiting at Jamaica to stop at this Hotel.

From Rear-Admiral Seymour, R. N.—For the four weeks I have lived in your Hotel, I have been struck with the civility of the staff to guests and visitors. I wish the undertaking every success. I advise any one visiting Kingston to stay at Myrtle Bank.

From Hon. T. A. and Lady Brassey.—The Hotel is about the best planned I have seen in the Tropics. The broad verandahs and passages entirely open to the air make it deliciously cool. The bed rooms could not be more comfortable.

From Senator Warner Miller, (U. S. A.)—I desire to express my appreciation of your Hotel. I desire to state that during the ten days I have passed in your pleasant Hotel, I have been treated with the greatest interest and attention. No trouble spared in the management of the guests. The Hotel is certainly well managed.

From John G. Kleins (Sept. 8th, 1891), Correspondent "New York Herald."—It gives me pleasure to state that during the ten days I have passed in your pleasant Hotel, I have been treated with the greatest interest and attention. No trouble spared in the management of the guests. The Hotel is certainly well managed.

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JAMAICA can be reached via Steamer Alpha from Halifax, sailing twice a month, \$75 for return passage or via Steamers of the Boston Fruit Company, sailing from Boston twice a week, \$50 for return passage. For further particulars address:

**HERBERT A. CUNHA,**  
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