

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

GOOD READING MATTER FOR WINTER EVENINGS

Three times in the past week I have been asked for information concerning reading matter, and I know of few things that it gives me more pleasure to supply.

Pansy is desirous of taking up a definite course of reading which will be broadening to herself as an individual and also increase her usefulness as a wife and mother. In the personal letter I sent her I promised to publish in this issue of The Guide a list of books I could recommend.

I had thought that if a sufficient number of women were interested we might get and read these books together one by one and discuss them in the page.

To answer this question adequately I will be obliged to republish part of the list that I printed in connection with the Women's Club number.

We are going to assume that the women who read this list are progressive and anxious to keep abreast of the times in every particular.

On the woman question, which is agitating the whole world just now, Olive Schreiner has written a splendid book, "Woman and Labor," which The Guide sells at \$1.25 a copy. There is also John Stuart Mill's famous book, "The Subjection of Women," sold by The Guide for 65c a copy. It is such a masterly treatment of woman's relation to society as might have been expected from that great student of Political Economy.

On the tariff question, I would recommend "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada," by Edward Porritt, price \$1.25 at The Guide. Also "Protection or Free Trade," by Henry George, 20c. And I would like to say right here that there is no reason why the feminine brain should not comprehend the true inwardness of the tariff equally as well as the masculine. On the land question Henry George's book, "The Land Question," price 35c., and the "Disease of Charity," by Bolton Hall, 5c. a copy. On War and Peace, Christopher West's famous book, "Canada and Sea Power," price \$1.00. For mothers there is a new and wonderful book called "The Montessori Method," written by the famous woman doctor, who has established a new system of play study by which she caused defective pupils to do better in their examination than normal children. Much that she has to say will not be practical for the busy farm mother, but part of it will prove invaluable. Price \$2.05. Two good magazines for mothers are: The Mothers' Magazine, \$1.40 per year, and American Motherhood, \$1.25.

The following books have been recommended by the instructor in domestic science of the Kelvin Institute:

Household Science Series—Art of Right Living, Ellen H. Richards, 60c; First Lessons in Food and Diet, Ellen H. Richards, 35c; Good Luncheons for Rural Schools, 15c; House Sanitation, Marion Talbot (paper binding), 60c; Home Economics, Maria Parloa, \$1.60; Principles of Home Decoration, Candace Wheeler, \$1.90.

Any of the above books will be supplied by The Guide at the prices quoted.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

WANTS TO BROADEN HER LIFE

Dear Miss Beynon:—I was much pleased with your editorial in "The Country Homemakers" page of October 1, in reply to Wolf Willow's letter. Letters such as she wrote do a great deal of good, I think, as they bring out arguments for the suffrage movement for women which we otherwise would not know.

Personally, I am greatly in favor of women voting, and have a petition form which I hope to see filled. It often seems to me that my life is dreadfully

narrow and that I am not helping one bit to bring about any of the much-needed reforms being urged upon the people today, but I am greatly interested and would like to help if I knew how.

Last spring I tried to start a women Grain Growers' club, but there were only six of us present, so we could not organize, though they all seemed in favor of doing something in that line. Then, of course, the busy season came on and there has been no time so far, to do anything. There is no club of any kind in this neighborhood and I think if the right woman would take hold of the idea that the women would gladly join with her in making it a success.

In the first place, so far as I am concerned, I do not think I am the right woman, and secondly, I have two girls to care for, under three years of age, and there will be additional care before the eldest is three.

I wonder, Miss Beynon, if you could publish in The Grain Growers' Guide a list of books which would be beneficial for a woman to read who is anxious to bring her children up in every way to the very best of her knowledge. I read a good deal, but it does not benefit me the way a systematic course would, and I am at a loss to know what books to buy. History, biography, household science, child training, etc., are all interesting, but I would like to read so as to derive the most benefit and thereby benefit my family. If you cannot do this through the page, I will gladly forward a stamped envelope, if you will oblige me. If I am asking too much please don't be afraid to say so, Miss

passions, and his arrogance." What has Wolf Willow said to be so insulted? And do you honestly believe that a beautiful and attractive woman only appeals to the basest part of man's nature? I would not like to be in the place of a man expressing such an opinion at a woman's meeting.

It used to be one of the strongest arguments of the suffragists that most famous men had become great through the love and influence of a woman. Also the love and admiration of a man for a woman is the theme of much of the greatest literature in the world, and has also been the inspiration for countless deeds of nobleness and unselfishness, bringing into play the higher qualities of man.

Also a woman does not have to wheedle, or coax, or scheme, or look pretty to get from her husband what she has honestly earned." It is true she does in some cases. It is also true that she murders her husband in some cases. In your letter the typical hardened ruffian is spoken of as the typical man.

Again you speak of "the woman whose thoughts are filled day in and day out with petty gossip and selfish ambitions, bounded by the four walls of her home," as if that was the woman who was opposed to woman's suffrage. Is that a fair judgment to pass on all women who lived before the suffrage movement started, or who live now without taking part in it? Neither can one believe women in general to be so indifferent to suffering outside their own families, for the lives of too many

homes where the man rules, and he loses respect in the community, while she gains none.

BADGER WILLOW.

Facts are stubborn things, and the fact remains that the women of Massachusetts pled and petitioned for 55 years to get an equal guardianship law passed, and that the women of Colorado got this law passed in one year after they acquired the ballot.

Theoretically men would rush to the righting of women's wrongs, if they knew of them, but in practice they continue to wrangle over the tariff and the naval bill, and they always say, "There are so many important things before parliament now that the women ought to be more considerate and not press their claims." The same shoe has to pinch a good many thousand feet before their owners will act in union, and the man doesn't happen to be wearing the woman's shoe.

F. M. B.

SUFFRAGE ONLY A WEAPON

Dear Miss Beynon:—I am very glad to see you take up the cause of women's rights with so much ardor. The women of Canada need educating and more active workers to interest the people.

I should like to know if the Alberta Grain Growers' Associations could not get out the franchise petitions, too.

I do not think that the majority of the women want it for political reasons, but because they, as individual adults, demand the rights that are theirs.

Too many Canadians, both men and women, are of the conservative class, which, in the words of Bernard Shaw, say: "I'm against giving the vote to women because I'm not accustomed to it, and therefore am able to see with an unprejudiced eye what infernal nonsense it is." Here is what Dr. Stephen S. Wise, of New York, says: I do not conceive that equal suffrage is to be the ultimate trophy for womankind. It is to be no more than a tool through which women can in citizenship express themselves, and, in part, realize their lives. Suffrage is not a gateway to any celestial paradise for women. It may be the doorway to earthly opportunity. "Citizenship is not to be the end of the woman movement. The vote is nothing more than a symbol, one of the agencies through which woman demands that she be permitted to express herself. The woman's movement rests upon the cardinal truth that inasmuch as life is a sacred thing and personality inviolable, woman ought to be as free as is man to determine the content of life for herself. Woman must not have life marked out for her by custom, convention, or expediency. She must be a truly free, self-determining being."

The Woman's Journal, published in Boston, is a splendid paper on Woman Suffrage.

Ellen Rey writes some good things on the woman movement.

I want to say to "Mere Man," who writes in the October 1 issue, that there are a good many narrow-minded men like him. Perhaps if he was not so self-satisfied he could learn a few things. As for the woman anti-suffragist, she is an enemy to the welfare of her own sex, if she only knew it.

MRS. H. H. WALDBRON

JACK AND JILL

Jack and Jill have equal will, And equal strength and mind. But when it comes to equal rights, Poor Jill trails far behind.

—From Woman's Journal

CONCERNING WOMEN GRAIN GROWERS' CONVENTION

Dear Miss Beynon:—We have just received The Guide and I have read the letter from "A Lover of Woman's

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"WOMAN IS NOT FIT FOR THE BALLOT"

(From Life)

Beynon. Wishing your departments every success, I will sign as before,

PANSY.

IN SUPPORT OF WOLF WILLOW

Dear Miss Beynon:—All must admire your generosity in publishing the letter signed "A Mere Man," for his rudeness might well cause him to be ruled out of order, and his letter is likely to have the opposite effect to what he intended.

Your treatment of Wolf Willow, though, is not so generous, and I have no doubt she would fail to recognize her opinions, as quoted by you. You write of "Wolf Willow's idea that woman is a mere adjunct of man," but after reading her letter carefully I fail to find such an idea either stated or implied. Next you say, "The theory that a woman should appeal to a man through her basest qualities—her vanity, her weakness for which a more honest word is incompetence, her mental dependence, which is either ignorance or stupidity, revolts me, more especially as these attributes appeal to the basest side of man's nature—his vanity, his sexual

women are in direct contradiction to such a conclusion.

Like Wolf Willow, I was, for a long time, undecided as to the suffrage, and have now decided against it so far as my vote is concerned. The injustice of the laws to women, as shown up by you, was one of the chief influences that caused my indecision. If you were to circulate a petition to have such laws altered, no doubt every man worth anything would sign it, provided it did not go to the other extreme. So that the needed reforms would be brought about in that way much sooner than by trying for woman suffrage.

Your suffrage correspondents seem to be for the most part women who think it proper to abuse their husbands in a public paper until they have aroused the contempt of other women as well as men against themselves. What would be thought of a man who did so?

In spite of the many evils that still exist it is generally believed that the world is improving and its laws, and it is the voters (the men) who make and alter laws.

In homes where the woman rules we find the man treated at least no better than the woman is in the majority of

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