

for herself. The other day in ~~Winnipeg~~ the W. C. T. U. held a convention and discussed female franchise and other matters tending in the direction of a free woman, and it cannot be denied that the natural effect of the great congresses of women at Chicago, the display of female brains and the dawning possibilities of these brains, will be to stimulate large numbers of that sex, hitherto contented with the traditional place of woman in society and in the world, to reach the ever increasing ranks of lawyers, doctors, divines, artists, sculptors, journalists and what not, and remove themselves from a strictly feminine environment. The conspicuity and glamour of the women who have this season exploited the ambition of women to compete everywhere with man, will draw many a young girl into heroic endeavor after position in the higher order of work open to women. There is hardly a line of employment, affording work which women is physically or mentally supposed to be capable of doing, which is not open to her. In business lines woman is everywhere. She has pushed into the arts and professions, and with the pugnacity and snap of Macmahon in the Malakoff, she says: "J'y suis ; j'y reste."

Soon, if this tendency continues, even domestic service will become abhorrent to all women and she may undertake to make a positively clean sweep of every avenue of employment in the country, except blasting rocks, making nitroglycerine, and working in foundries. She has already entered the blacksmith shop and shoes horses. She pulls teeth with the utmost nonchalance and it is perfectly evident that men are doomed, so far as about 90 per cent. of occupations is concerned. A little more training will put thousands of women in skilled handicrafts and the process will continue just so long as women can be had at lower wages. So soon as woman strikes, she may as well throw up the sponge, so to speak. In the meantime women will continue the displacement of men, regardless of the effect of regular work for which she was not originally equipped physically. Even if her nervous system is wrecked she will go on until the vast supply of the new economic factor will demoralize the labor market and wages will fall to a figure which may only accommodate beings who can live on food sufficient to sustain a rat or a mouse.

In the present heyday of women's ambition to occupy the professional and non-professional in labor fields, it is useless to argue with them. Men may as well prepare for the change. It may be that a good scheme would be to marry and let them support the family outfit. Men have generally performed this function for a good many centuries. They might take a little innocent advantage of woman's passion for work and enjoy a well-earned rest until the lovely creatures get tired of the strain upon mind and body. But the drift is ominously to the complete domination of the situation by woman. It may not occur, however, until a half century rolls by. The present

generation of men are comparatively secure. Only comparatively, however.

Something ought to be done to put a stop to the publication of unauthorized and unwarranted rumors affecting the credit of business houses and individuals. Scarcely a day passes that some idle rumor does not find its way into circulation which does cruel wrong to perfectly solvent concerns and seriously disturbs business confidence. In one case recently, some one started the report that a well known business man of this city was about to assign. The gentleman referred to is perfectly solvent, and can pay one hundred cents on the dollar, but the rumor may have injured his credit to an alarming extent. Of course, inquiries revealed the fact that the rumor was absolutely without foundation, and had evidently been given currency in a spirit of recklessness calling for the very severest condemnation. The injured firm, after running the rumor to its source, should have made an example of the persons who set it afloat. It is to be hoped that this course may be pursued in all similar cases, to the end that the manufacturers of rumors of this sort may find the business too dangerous to be prosecuted hereafter.

The British Columbia courts have decided that "Rev." A. R. Reams shall return to California and there stand his trial for the abduction of Lucy Rucker. Thus ends the first chapter, and Parson Reams will have a couple of weeks in which to prepare to face the reality of his little romance. The evidence adduced at the trial proved the Parson to be a far greater scoundrel than any one imagined a human being could be in these days of civilization. Usually the sympathies of the loiterers around the court room are with the prisoner, but, in this instance, all united in pronouncing him a rascal without a redeeming trait in his character. Lucy Rucker returns to Merced with her heart-broken father, which happy result has, no doubt, been brought about by the influence of the good women who have looked after her since the arrest of the sanctimonious villain who brought her to Victoria. She may yet become a useful member of society, and the lesson she has learned may prove a blessing in disguise. Others who are disposed to place too much confidence in men of the Reams stamp will benefit by the experience gained by the young girl, who has been like a brand plucked from the burning.

It may interest Victorians to learn that the Princess Eulalia, in departing from Chicago, did not leave unalloyed complacency behind her. In fact, she left not a few sore hearts; not grieved over her exit, however, but indignant at certain snubbing, alleged to have been administered by the princess. She capriciously declined to be present at an aristocratic musical entertainment at the Auditorium, where the 400 assembled to air their royal dignities and diamonds, and where Mrs. Potter Palmer had surrendered her own private box for the Spanish lady's delectation. In other ways, Eulalia is now charged with having sinned against the 400. Adulation is now turned into execration, and a good many of the gilded and perfumed sycophants now wish they hadn't groveled so before her royal highness. Mrs. Palmer doubtless regrets that she went to the trouble of having a throne constructed in her house for Eulalia, since it was from that throne that Eulalia administered the severest snub Chicago society has yet received and one which made even the bland Hobart Chatfield Chatfield-Taylor use some language which is said to have sounded very much like that used by Shimei to King David, once upon a time.

The trouble with the Chicagoans is just this: They overdid the thing. They overdid it with the Duke of Veragua, who at the last was so limp from being dragged about and lionized that he was too weak to protest or act independently. The Princess, too became exceedingly tired of the perpetual pulling. She wearied of Carter Harrison's silk hat. She positively detested Commander Davis, whose snobbery made even Chicago snobs sick. So Eulalia broke loose. She insulted the worshipping throng at Mrs. Palmer's reception. She mocked the managers of the Auditorium entertainment. She asserted her own royal dignity. And who can blame her? The laugh is on the Chicago snobs. If they don't want to be hurt it will be well for them to restrain their sycophantic proclivities and their royalty-worshipping spirit, when they receive the next royal personage. In this connection I might remark that H. R. H. Samuel Perry Mills will visit Chicago before the great Fair is over.

The preparations for the monster picnic to be held Dominion Day under the auspices of the Sons of Erin, are well under way, and, at the present time, it looks as if the event would be one of unalloyed pleasure. The committee, in addition to a long programme of sports, have made arrangements to secure the band of H.M.S. Royal Arthur, which will furnish music during the afternoon and for the Terpsichorean exercises at night. The proceeds over and above the expenses will be devoted to that worthy charitable institution—the British Columbia Benevolent Society.

I read an admirable little treatise, the other day, relative to that brutal imposition of man on the horse, the check rein, and the good common sense contained in the article should appeal to every man's sense of fair play and humanity. The terrible torture inflicted on the poor horse by the abomination called the check rein cannot be too strongly condemned; it is apparent on every side, and is a crying disgrace to mankind; a disgrace, too, that increases daily. The matter has been threshed out fully by many able writers on the horse, but it seems to me it is one that should be remedied by legislation. There should certainly be either a penalty or some restriction placed upon those human brutes who string a horse's head up most unconscionably, and add insult to injury by whipping the animal when he stumbles. How is the beast (I mean the horse, this time) to see the road, when the bipedal beast behind him has strung his head so high that the sun and wind beat into the poor animal's eyes. I shall be glad to see a step taken to remedy this evil, and am