

JOE MANN:

What's that on your hat?

BETA:

The price mark. Who'll ever guess it costs \$30 if I leave the price tag on the inside.

(Reenter Lucinda with vacuum sweeper. She sweeps in front of buffet. Mina looks on).

JOE MANN, *taking off price tag*:

If you want to wear the price tag on the outside, get bats like this on Grand Street for fifty cents, and label them any old price, instead of patronizing Fifth Ave.—Ready? All aboard for the school house.

(Exit Joe and girls).

MINA:

I declare—It doesn't make a bit of dust. This contrivance will be a help to women when they have to spend so much time voting. I don't see why women want to put such a job on their shoulders.

(Joe Mann enters and stands in pantomime of approval when Lucinda speaks).

LUCINDA:

You don't see why, but I do— What right has anyone to tax my property to build and maintain homes for wayward girls and their foundlings— That would be all right for a HEATHEN country, but a CHRISTIAN country should have no foundlings.

MINA, *horrified*:

Homes for foundlings are a great charity.

LUCINDA:

You call it charity; but I call any compulsory benevolence enforced tainted philanthropy. We could lessen the crop of illegitimates by putting the tax where it belongs. It would not only be a Christian example to the heathen; but I, and a few others, could get a husband and have children born in wedlock.

MINA:

I've had thirteen.

LUCINDA:

Gracious! Is the potato crop good in Canada?

MINA, *laughing*:

I know a man who had a family of twenty— Not counting the foundlings.

LUCINDA:

I would refuse to pay taxes if that could restrict the illegitimate birthrate.

JOE MANN:

There's no reason why you shouldn't take the stump, Lucinda.

LUCINDA:

Had I known you were one of the audience, I should have had stage fright.

JOE MANN:

That speech is good as far as it goes; but it doesn't go far enough.

Now—

(R) Enter Alpha, and Beta holding Gamma by the ear).

JOE MANN, *surprised*:

School isn't out yet— Is it?

BETA:

No; but we're too big to be put in a class with infants to poke fun at us.

(Alpha stands in brown study).

GAMMA:

I didn't care what they said. But I had to come or lose my ear!

JOE MANN:

You will steal the key to education with Alpha is in a brown study.

ALPHA, *comes out of brown study*:

The idea of putting me in a class with children— With my command of the English language.