

# The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

## THE POOR HUSBAND OF THE NEW WOMAN

Men have been sighing in sympathy with the husband of the New Woman. A poor down-trodden mortal he, with hardly a soul to call his own, so they say, a wielder of broom and dust mop, a baker of bread and a rocker of cradles. (Just here let me pause to remark that when a woman rocks a cradle it lifts her to the seventh heaven of happiness and shakes the very foundations of the world, but when a man does it he denounces himself and makes himself ridiculous. This is fundamental.)

But to return to our poor down-trodden husband of the cartoon and funny story. He is a mere cipher in his own home, they claim, instead of being lord of his hearth as the male of the species once was.

I regret that I have never encountered this type of husband to give his point of view at first hand. I know many New Women with husbands, but they are not this kind of husbands, or if they are they don't know it.

Not a soul of them has given up his legitimate business and taken to cradle rocking as a profession or to drink as a relaxation. They are remarkably sober, and contented citizens and, of course appearances may be and often are deceiving, but they show every outward symptom of being deeply attached to their wives and some of them are even inordinately proud of these clever capable women to whom they have given their names.

Visiting in their homes one can't help admitting that these women have some very likeable qualities as help-meets. I have never known them to demand that their husband supply them with more money in a week than he earns in a month. They know just how much money the husband earns and they don't ask him to perform a miracle with the pay envelope and double its contents.

Having so many interests in life they are generally happy and contented and take a keen interest in the husband's business problems. Indeed this husband of the New Woman, when anything particularly good happens, is apt to order the stenographer out of the office, close the door, and telephone the news to the partner at home, who has been following the affair with intense interest and a perfect understanding of the details. There does seem to be such a nice chummy sociable relation between them that you might be tempted to believe that the husband enjoyed having a bright intelligent wife.

She has a pretty way, too, this New Woman of yielding to her husband's pet hobbies. For example, one of them said the other day, "Jack has a notion that he wants always to stay at home on Thursday night and read. I don't know why Thursday, I am sure, but he has set his heart on it so I arrange if possible not to have any company or any engagements for that evening."

Contrast that with the old-fashioned woman who told me the other day that her husband wanted to have the house decorated this fall, but she wasn't going to bother. It wasn't a question of money, for they have plenty of it. It was simply that she hasn't learned the law of give-and-take, which is fundamental in the character of the New Woman.

Another characteristic of the New Woman is that she can be reasoned with without dissolving into tears. Whether or not this is a comfort to a man I can't say, not being a man, but it would be to me. To my mind there is nothing more exasperating under the sun than the weak stubborn person who has taken a perfectly unreasonable stand on something—as weak stubborn people invariably do every little while—and can't be budged by any amount of patient argument.

Altogether the husband of the New Woman, while he may not patronize her and snub her before company, has several blessings in his wife which he is not slow to acknowledge.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

Sacrifice is the one pure, sacred and efficacious virtue, the halo that crowns and sanctifies the human soul.—Mazzini.

## "A MERE MAN" UNDER FIRE

Dear Miss Beynon—Have often thought of writing to your page, but am not good at expressing my views, so have refrained so far. But the letter in the Homemakers' page of last week's Guide, signed "A Mere Man," has so roused my ire (Irish) I cannot longer remain silent.

If "Mere Man" wished to start an argument, then he is going to get "all that's coming to him," for when anyone steps on the toes of our good editor they hurt many more at the same time.

In the first place "Mere Man" could not have read our editor's articles very closely or he could not class her with Mrs. Pankhurst, for she has never in this page advocated the methods used by Mrs. Pankhurst and her followers to secure the ballot. I will just say here, that if "Mere Man" accomplishes as much good in his life time as our editor, Miss Beynon, has accomplished since she has edited our page, then he can truly say, "He has not lived in vain."

As for Mrs. Pankhurst, I cannot approve of the methods she has used, but neither do I believe the suffragettes are guilty of all the charges against them, or why is it that so often the fire or bomb is just "discovered" in the nick of time to prevent serious damage, "suffragette literature" scattered around and women "seen fleeing," but seldom caught. Some of these accusations sound "fishy" to me.

I have no doubt that at some future time these "crazy suffragettes" will be called "heroines" and we of the present day be considered "inhuman" in our treatment of them.

As to the suffrage movement being only a "hobby" and only those with an "over-balanced" mind advocating it, how does "Mere Man" reconcile that statement with the fact that such men favor it a Lloyd George, John Stuart Mills, Theodore Roosevelt, Judge Lindsay, Hon. Walter Scott (together with all the members of the Saskatchewan legislature), the five hundred delegates and officers of the G.G.A. of each of the three prairie provinces; such women as Francis E. Willard, Jane Addams and Nellie McClung, but why continue the list, for they are from every walk in life.

I ask if these are examples of the "over-balanced" mind? If so, give us more like them; there is method in their madness.

I will venture a guess that "Mere Man" is an Englishman, and if so that explains to me why his wife's views are just as his are.

We have several English neighbors and few of the wives dare express an opinion not in accord with that of her "lord and master." (Please understand me. I did not say all).

"Mere Man" asks, "Are there not as many ignorant, unlearned and sinful women as men?" "Mere Man," have you ever looked up the records of our penitentiaries and reformatories? Did you find as many women as men inmates? And on the other side, enter our churches, charitable societies, etc? Do not women predominate there? As to the ignorant and unlearned, women have shown themselves equal if not superior, given the same opportunity, as men in education. I fear if all followed the future mapped out for them by "Mere Man" many more would remain ignorant and unlearned.

Do you not think, "Mere Man," that when our wise Creator gave women the great privilege of bearing, rearing and training the men who rule the world that He thought her capable of ruling with him? If he thought her inferior mentally, why bestow the greatest gift upon her it is possible to give, namely, that of bearing children?

How often the greatest men the world has ever known have given all the praise for their greatness to the mothers who bore them. Then is it fair to say that these same mothers shall have no voice in the government?

Just a word of advice, "Mere Man," from "A Mere Woman." Read Olive Schreiner's book, "Woman and Labor," look up the countries and states where women vote, and see if the laws are better or worse, and read up the lives and ideas of some of our sane advocates of Woman suffrage. Then if you have any eloquence

remaining, come to our page again and convert us suffragist readers—if you can. Here's "Long life to The Guide and all its staff."

A MERE WOMAN.

In actual figures only one criminal in every twenty is a woman and there are more girls graduating from the high schools every year than boys.

F. M. B.

## THRESHING DAYS ARE WOMEN'S VISITING DAYS (?)

Dear Miss Beynon—As I am a reader of The Guide naturally I read the woman's page and Sunshine department, and I am amused with some of the letters you answer through The Guide. In the first place, women writing about their home life and family jars. I would like to say that in most cases I will wager it is the woman's fault. I see it in my everyday life. It seems women are getting to the point where they are not satisfied with anything, always agitating for something all the time.

I consider the women have a snap, especially here in Saskatchewan. Every threshing rig carries a cook car and threshing days can be her visiting days as far as work is concerned.

Now in regard to suffrage. I agree with "Wolf Willow" in the last issue of The Guide. They are like the socialists, a bunch of agitators. A woman can sit down and not do a thing and make her husband support her. She can be a nagger, raise all kind of "cain" or do practically anything she likes, and a man can simply do nothing. I would like to say ten times as much but for space.

ANOTHER MERE MAN.

No decently independent woman wants to sit down and not do a thing and make her husband support her. If you will investigate the question you will find that it is these indolent female parasites who are most violently opposed to woman's suffrage. This isn't controversial, it is a truism.

F. M. B.

## INSANE ASYLUMS FULL OF ABUSED WOMEN

Dear Miss Beynon—Ever since coming to Canada, two and a half years ago, I have read The Grain Growers' Guide with deepening interest. I wonder if I would be intruding if I ventured to write a few words in reference to the much debated question of woman's suffrage.

I do not think a "Mere Man's" letter deserving of a reply, but I think such correspondents somewhat deserving of pity, as one wonders what kind of women they have been fated to know and live with, seeing that they have so poor an opinion of their position and destiny. "Just as many sinful women as men," he says. I think any man who would say such a thing as this unworthy of the pain and suffering by which his mother gave him birth.

I was very interested in "Wolf Willow's" letter, as the writer is evidently a woman who has great love for purity and beauty of life, and who cherishes ideals that, though now useless, were the high ideals of the past. I would like, however, to speak to her, and to others of her mode of thinking, for a moment.

I would like to show them what I saw in England, before I became the wife of a Canadian farmer. I would like to open to them the doors of the great palaces of insanity and show them poor, demented women—once beautiful and full of life—whose reason has been forever dethroned by the wickedness and cruelty of men. Innocent, pure, knowing nothing of the meaning of sin, many of these are the victims of individual cruelty, or of the injustice of evil and wicked laws.

But I cannot presume upon your space for this. I want to say that if only your correspondent would read the papers, see the darkness that shadows the light, even in this beautiful, vast, free land, cease to ignore the hideous crimes against childhood and womanhood that defile every newspaper one reads, she would rise and join hands with those who are banding together to wrest the sceptre from the evil hands that have held it far too long. Injustice, ignorance, corruption,

falsehood, shame and cruelty—are such always to be our rulers? God forbid. And one word more. Motherhood is noble, wonderful and beautiful. But let us not forget that it is not motherhood alone. What of such women as Florence Nightingale, and others of her type, who elected to become world-mothers, and to embrace and love all who needed care with a more than mother's yearning. There are women destined never to have lovely baby arms embracing them, yet to whom this would be the dearest joy of life, who, instead of sitting down to repine, pour out their love upon a suffering, sorrowing world, and shed joy and gladness from the crushing of the "alabaster box" of their own sweet-fragrant souls. Are these less womanly than the mothers so greatly extolled, whose joy is so much greater, and whose sacrifice perhaps less great? Ten thousand times no! Then let all women fight for truth, think less of attractiveness, more of goodness, and love the beauty of intellect and wisdom above the mere form and coloring.

AUTUMN TINTS.

## WORKED HARD BUT PROSPERED IN SASKATCHEWAN

Dear Miss Beynon—We have taken The Guide for two and a half years now and I certainly enjoy reading the Sunshine and Homemakers' pages. I have often thought of writing a letter for your page, but neglected doing so.

We came out on the Saskatchewan prairie on a homestead and pre-emption four years ago last April, but we were quite lucky to what some are. We were only eight miles from town, now I have a scrip four miles from town. I like it fine here. We have lots of nice neighbors close. I have worked real hard since living here, but we have got along so well I don't mind it.

I am in favor of woman's suffrage and also have a great "gift of the gab." I often think I just wish I had the time and money to spare and I certainly would get out and give a few lectures on it. My husband is also in favor of woman's suffrage. He says he hopes the women will soon have the vote. He says their first work would be to banish the bar. What a blessing that would be! We have two sweet boys, age six years and three, and I do hope the bar is banished before they grow up. Then the white slave traffic is awful. I think it is even worse than the bar.

Well, I must not write too long a letter for the first time or it may find the W.P.B. My, but I think that you, Miss Beynon, and Lillian Laurie are doing such good work. I would love to meet you and have a good chat.

Find enclosed twenty cents for which please send me your books, "How to Teach the Truth to Children," "Most Beautiful Story in the World" and "Maternity." I have no helpful hints to send this time, but may have in the future and will try to write again. Well, I must close wishing you and the members success. Will sign my initials,

C. A. M.

Indeed I wish you could drop into my office for a chat some morning. Have you had a petition form for woman's suffrage yet? If not write to Mr. F. W. Green, Moose Jaw, for one and see how many signatures you can get.

F. M. B.

## GIRLS' TOMATO CLUB

At the State Fair recently held in Montgomery, Alabama, one of the most interesting exhibits was the great quantity of canned tomatoes, the work of the "Girls' Tomato Clubs" of the different counties. One exhibit contained a hundred and fifty-one dollars' worth of tomatoes, raised and canned by a little girl of thirteen. She raised them on a tenth of an acre at a total cost of fifty dollars for growing and canning. This work is being done throughout the South under the supervision of United States Government demonstrators and is a world of help to the people.

MRS. M. M. T.,  
Montgomery, Ala.