

CURMUDGEON PHILOSOPHER

Ambrose Bierce Writes Concerning Women Lobbyists.

Thinks the Canteen Act Has Ruined American Army—Lawmakers Scored for Listening to Women

No (said the Curmudgeon Philosopher); I'm not taking any stock in "the elevating influence of women." I don't see any results. We've had women a long time now; the influence is in evidence all right, but the elevation doesn't materialize. Maybe it was different in the old days when they had no connection with practical affairs and could give their entire attention to the business of giving us "a leg up." But that was a long time ago. Today they are so busy assisting us to "run" the world that they overlook our occupancy of a low, moral plane.

I think, sir, that old Sir William Devereux was wrong when he said that the best way to keep the deer creators from playing the devil was to encourage them in playing the fool. We have been for more than a generation encouraging them to play the fool in a thousand and fifty ways, and they play the devil as never before. See what they did in the matter of the army canteen. Ruined the service, sir—ruined the service! Congress? Oh, yes, it is through congress that they have to act in such a case, and they found a congress of cowards, exactly to their liking. Why, sir, those old biddies and tabbies of the U. S. X. just swarmed in the capitol—the building reeked of them! Such shameless and barefaced lobbying I never saw. I was there at the time, trying to secure a land grant and a money subsidy for a railway from Cat creek northeasterly; and I know whereof I speak. Well, if they prefer to be defended by an army of drunkards and invalids I suppose it is no business of ours; we don't have to enlist, and when drafted have a large liberty of choice. We can serve and be drunk or desert and be shot. What? we need not drink too much unless we want to?

Why, sir, whoever heard of a good soldier who would not drink all he could get? It is one of the sacred obligations of military service.

And now, having freed the soldier from the only practicable restraint upon his honorable but perilous thirst, these women are attacking him from

another quarter in defence of his right to the pursuit of immorality and disease. They have met and solemnly resolved against the regulation and restraint of "vice" in Manila. Of course they don't know a thing about vice, and have never been within six thousand miles of Manila; but from their inner consciousness they have evolved a lovely theory that "government recognition" of what every government in every age and in every country has had thrust beneath its helpless nose with a blare of bad odors—abstractly—wicked. These delightful creatures—care for nothing but abstract ideas having no practical application to actual conditions in a faulty world.

The unanimous protestations of experts—the army surgeons and other officers, who know all about the matter and can have no purpose but the good of the service—count for nothing in the councils of Them Loud. Every Mere Male who ventures to lift up his voice in behalf of the health and morality of the army is outfitted by them with a set of motives that would shame a pirate of the Spanish Main. To the she colonels of Abstract Reform the subject is fascinating no end; they roll it as a sweet morsel under—and over—their tongues, and chortle in their glee. At the next session of congress you shall hear again the clank of the female sabre in the corridors and committee rooms of the capitol, intimidating the potroon lawmaker. You shall hear the warwhoop of the Sexless Impracticables, acclaiming the Suffice Abstraction and denouncing the coarse expedients of the Erring Male. May the devil shepherd them in a barren place!

(Overcome by his emotions, the Curmudgeon Philosopher cruelly kicked the house dog—which answered not with a "cares"—and snorted at vacancy.)

What good does it all do, anyhow—this irruption of women into the domain of public affairs? Industrially, its effect has been to create the tramp. No country has ever had employment enough to meet the demand—witness the inadequate wage of the worker. Within a generation we have added a full one-third to the army of wage workers by letting in the women. Every woman employed where no woman was employed before, or would have been employed if the old regime had endured, displaces a man who would have been supporting one or more women. The man displaced displaced another in a lower kind of service; he another in a still lower. The man at the bottom of the grade be-

comes a tramp. Yet there are dreamers who believe that all this inadequacy of the "rewards of labor" is due to the "wage system." They hope to correct the evil by legislation; by strikes; by compulsory arbitration; by socialism; by the devil knows what! The simple thing to do, sir, is to put Lovely Woman back into the station assigned to her by nature and by nature's God.

The advantages that she promised herself in becoming Loud and New are illusory; those that she renounced were real. For one thing, we no longer love her. Why, sir, I remember the time when I myself would have taken trouble to serve and honor women. I may say that I felt for them a special esteem. How is it today? They pass me by as the idle wind, unobserved and—most significant of all—unobserving. Contrast "the way of a man with a maid," now with what it used to be. Then he treated her with high courtesy and a gallant showing of deference; now he chaffs her. Woman cannot be at the same time man's competitor and his idol. We don't like our competitors. True, we must marry them—or we think we must; I hold my own opinion, sir, as to that. But it is a sorry union, having something of the character of a commercial partnership. Let the records of the divorce courts tell the rest.

Love, sir, "romantic love," as Tolstol calls it, is a purely artificial thing. Many nations know it not. The ancient Greeks knew it not; the modern Japanese don't at all comprehend it. There have been no other really civilized nations. We love those who are helpless and dependent on us. That is why we love our children and our pets—not because they are ours, but because we are theirs. In demanding equal rights before the law woman renounces her claim to exceptional tenderness; in granting the demand man accepts the renunciation in good faith. If the rest of you are going to look out for my wife, sir, I am left free to look out for myself. Have I really a wife? God forbid—I'm supposing one.

When in the history of our civilization was romantic love at high noon? Why, sir, "when knighthood was in flower;" when woman was a chattel; when a gentleman could divorce himself with a word. It was then that woman was set upon a pedestal and adored. Men consecrated their lives to the service of the sex—fought for woman, sang of her with a sincerity that is sadly lacking in the imitation troubadours of our time. Why, sir, even I, in my youth, composed some verses (producing a manuscript from his breast pocket) which I venture to think—oh, well! I'll not force them upon

you; but permit me to remark sir that the decay of courtesy toward women is not unattended with a certain growing coarseness of manners in general. Those who have caught the base infection are not gentlemen, and you may go to the devil!—Ambrose Bierce in San Francisco Examiner.

MIX UP AT THE SAVOY

Confusing Series of Events Ends in All Being Postponed.

Charley Meadows of the Savoy was in a world of trouble last night. First the tug of war, which was to have been pulled off between the Scandinavian team of six picked men and a team composed of Americans and Canadians, was postponed owing to the anchor men's pull lasting two hours and consuming the time which was allowed for the entire match. It was decided to draw and the men will pull again to-night. The White-Carr boxing contest was declared off. They will meet at the Orpheum at some future date.

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Office - A. C. Co. Building

In the Territorial Court of the Yukon Territory.

Between
ERNEST LEVIN, Plaintiff,
And
FRED TRUMP, PATRICK MARTIN and ANNIE MARTIN, Defendants.

To the Above Named Defendant, Fred Trump:

Take notice, that this action was on the 13th day of June, 1901, commenced against you, and that the plaintiff by his writ of summons claims: An accounting of all partnership business; partition or sale of said partnership business; such other and further, relief as the nature of the case may require; costs of this action.

And take notice that the court has by order dated the 13th day of June, 1901, authorized service of the said writ of summons on you by the insertion of this notice for three weeks after the date of said order in the Nugget newspaper.

And further take notice that you are required within 40 days after the last insertion of this advertisement inclusive of the day of such insertion, to cause an appearance to be entered for you in the office of the clerk of this court, and that in default of your so doing the plaintiff may proceed with this action and judgment may be given against you in your absence.

W. L. PHELPS,
Advocate for Plaintiff,
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