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MODERN ESTHERS

A Sermon to Women Preached at
Hamiota by Rev. Fred C. Middleton

The following is a report of a sermon delivered at Hamiota, on Sunday, April 22nd, the members of the Home Economics Society being present by invitation.

Many charming stories are told in the Bible, and among the most charming is that of Esther, the beautiful Jewess who, with her uncle Mordecai, was instrumental in securing the emancipation of the Jews during the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes), the Persian monarch. There is a fine analogy between the story of this woman patriot and the history of the women's movement in recent years. The analogy is clearly seen if we consider what Esther risked, what she achieved, and the follow-up work she undertook after her main request was granted.

(1)—What Esther Risked

She risked her social standing. In asking her to "go unto the king and make supplication for her people" Mordecai was asking her to break an age-long custom. It was infra dig for her to appear before the monarch without being called. Pioneer women patriots of our day had to do the same thing—risk their social standing, do the unconventional thing, for to "go unto the king" was as bold a move in our day as it was in Esther's time.

Esther risked, further, the displeasure of the king, and how often this has been the case with the modern women's movement. "Those women! Let them stay at home! They cannot fight, why should they vote?" Thus has many a displeased ruler of to-day met the women's demand for a hearing.

A third thing risked by Queen Esther was life itself; the punishment for appearing before the king unbidden was death. Women of to-day do not endanger their lives in the sense that Esther did, yet the women's movement has not been without its physical dangers. While we may disapprove the actions of some of the militant suffragettes, yet such scenes as were enacted during the "hunger strike" in England show that women have been ready to die, if need be, for their ideal.

(2)—What Esther Achieved

She achieved, first of all, the privilege of being heard. So to-day; the time has gone by when any responsible statesman will refuse to listen, however little he may heed. Even ex-Premier Asquith has been converted, and perhaps the "detectable campaign" of a few years ago had as much to do with it as the heroic work of women since the war. Yes, indeed, women have earned the right to be heard, and unwise the statesman who refuses to listen.

Our Jewish heroine also secured the cancellation of an unjust decree. The crafty Haman had planned the destruction of the Jew. Esther's plea revoked the edict. Already old laws are being altered and new ones are being introduced in response to the plea of women.



Old Lady: What is your son doing now?

Auntie Washington: Him? Oh, jest talkin' about what he's gwine ter do.

Old Lady: But your husband—what is he doing?

Auntie Washington: Him? Oh, he's jest talkin' about what he's done."

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Government Issues Warning Against Fly Poisons

Following is an extract from "The Transmission of Disease by Flies," Supplement No. 29 to U. S. Public Health Reports, April, 1916:

"Of other fly poisons mentioned, mention should be made, merely for a purpose of condemnation, of those composed of arsenic. Fatal cases of poisoning of children through the use of such compounds are far too frequent, and owing to the resemblance of arsenical poisoning to summer diarrhea and cholera infantum, it is believed that the cases reported do not, by any means, comprise the total. Arsenical fly-destroying devices must be rated as extremely dangerous, and should never be used, even if other measures are not at hand."

106 fly poisoning cases have been reported by the press within the last three years. As stated above this number is but a fraction of the real number. Protect your children by using the safe, efficient, non-poisonous fly catcher

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