

THE WOMAN PROBLEM.

I was sitting less than an hour in the office of a powerful journalist, says a writer in the *Boston Herald*. A lady's card was brought to him and a few minutes after, when his secretary reported that the lady was seeking work, he sent word to dismiss her. Then turning to me he said: "I have concluded to give no more work to women. They are utterly useless as writers on a daily journal; you can never depend upon them: they are capricious, whimsy, unreasonable, and unreliable." I expressed some surprise that he should deem them unreliable, but he said that his experience taught him that women's intuitions are very quick and that they interfered seriously with the preparations of reports or sketches which would be acceptable to a newspaper, whose conductors wanted news and not opinions. In my own experience I found many difficulties in the way of utilizing women, and on the other hand, some of the best work I have had done was by women. Some years ago, while editing a daily paper here, I had occasion to treat extensively of labor matters, to look into trades-unions, and discuss the problem of strikes. I tried several professional agitators, but in every instance found their prejudices interfered with the honesty of their work.

Accident brought in my way a lady by the name of Sheppard, and after one or two trials I turned the whole matter over to her. She attended to it so thoroughly and mastered it so absolutely, and treated it so sensibly as to more than satisfy me not only, but to attract the attention of the elder Bennett who asked me if I had any objection to giving him the name of the writer of those articles. Mrs. Sheppard at that time was a widow, and had she contented herself with that line of work, would have made not only a name but an excellent income. She struck, however, the great rock of matrimony. A woman of middle-age only, bright, quick, fearless, intelligent, and fast gaining the best possible experience, met her fate, married him and "retired from the troubles of the world." I have had many women in my employ, but they were either so pretty and bright as to attract attention, which developed into marriage, or so stupid as to be of no use whatever. And right here is a good time for me to say that, while it is always an embarrassment to a considerate person to say to an employe: "I have no further work for you," it is trebly difficult and frightfully embarrassing to have to say it to a woman. In the first place, if a woman is working, it stands to reason she is doing it for her living, and if you dismiss her, so far as you are concerned, you interfere with her getting a living. It is hard to make a woman understand that, while she may be of great service to someone else, she is of no special service to you. She is apt to feel hurt and look at what is a purely business necessity as a personal slight.

This woman question is a pretty broad and a very deep one, worthy of careful consideration by men as well as women. In the economy of our social structure women are almost entirely dependent upon men, and men are, as a rule, hoggish enough to let the woman understand it. It is useless to say to the ordinary individual: "Your wife works quite as hard as you: her holidays are few; the breaks in the routine of her labor are very rare, and the strain upon her mind and tug upon her heart are not lightened and loosened as yours are by brisk contact with the world and frequent glimpses at the kaleidoscope of affairs. You go out, she sits in: you spend, she saves." All this sort of thing is useless to the average man: his hide is thick, his senses are blunt, he makes the money, he is the boss. In my judgment the true way to elevate woman is to put into her hands the instruments of self-support: to make her a

fit companion in the world of business and letters as she now is in domesticity: to pare down the hide of man, to cut off two-thirds of his "rights," to pull out the bung of his barrel of conceit, and let him understand that she who was given to him as a companion was not intended to be a slave. When American women understand that there is nothing degrading in work, when the seed of ambition is planted in the breasts of school-girls, when children are taught to regard life as a field of labor, one great step will have been taken toward the plane on which all right-thinking men desire to see their mother's sex.

A DAKOTA WOMAN.

Miss Cynthia Eloise Cleveland enjoys the distinction of being the first lady admitted to the bar of Dakota. She is rather stout, of ruddy complexion, a pleasant talker, and apparently able to hold her own against any number of the sterner sex. She has been president of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, and while holding this position defended a woman who was charged with selling liquor without a license. This, of course, brought her name before the people of her section, especially as it was her first case. "It may seem strange that I should do such a thing," she said to a Washington reporter, "but I was assigned to the case by the judge who admitted me, and it was my duty to accept. Besides, she was a woman, and I thought a woman ought to be defended by a woman."

"Have women better chances of success in Dakota than in the east?" asked the reporter.

"There is a large field for them in every way. There was a time in the early days of the territory, when women were revered because they were scarce. In the last two years the emigration has been of the true aristocracy of this country, the middle-class men, who are intelligent, enterprising, and industrious. These have brought out their families, and consequently women are not so rare. The admiration for them however remains. Men like them to succeed and help them to success."

"Was there any public prejudice against your admission to the bar?"

"Not in the least. Women are invited to enter every path which leads to an honorable income. They have land; I own 480 acres myself. Many intelligent and respectable ladies of my acquaintance have pre-empted land and are working it successfully. They hire their help for the heavier duties, but manage all the affairs of the household, complying with the law so far as residence is concerned. There are a number of lady physicians in the territory, although I am the only lady lawyer. When I left home to come east I had a strong idea that I would organize a bank. There is no reason why I should not and many why I should. In settling land cases money has to be borrowed to be used in collecting proof, and why should it not be loaned through my bank first-handed, instead of being obtained elsewhere at a larger interest? Yet the first man here in the east, to whom I spoke about it said: 'My dear madam, that is not woman's sphere.' Out west they would applaud my determination and admire my pluck."

"But the women don't vote yet."

"No, although there is a sentiment in favor of woman suffrage. I never felt called upon to agitate the question, and personally I am averse to women voting. If the matter was submitted to a vote it might be carried, and I presume it would work satisfactorily."

The difference between a thief and a defaulter is that the defaulter steals enough to hire lawyers to defend him, and the thief doesn't.

MRS. FAWCETT ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Writing in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, Mrs. Fawcett says: It was said sometimes that women themselves do not wish for the parliamentary suffrage; a similar argument has been used against every extension of the suffrage and against almost every great reform. It is said that the slaves did not wish to be free; that non-conformists did not wish for the repeal of the tests and corporation acts. It is an old story. Those who say that women do not wish for the suffrage are probably guided by the opinions of ladies whom they meet in society; but surely the last general election was a sufficient proof that "society" and "the English people" are not identical expressions. It can not be denied that hundreds of thousands of women do wish for the parliamentary suffrage; that they petition parliament again and again to grant it to them; a smaller number devote a great part of their lives in working to promote it, and make real and deeply-felt sacrifices for it. Nearly all of the distinguished women of the present time have wished for it and expressed their desire for it. - Mrs. Somerville, Miss Martineau, Miss Florence Nightingale, are the first three names that occur to me among the women who have made their names known in science, literature, and philanthropy, who have been from the outset of the movement cordial supporters of woman suffrage. Coming down to the humble women of everyday life, it is found that a very large proportion now wish women-householders to have votes. A few months ago seven hundred women-householders, in Hyde, near Manchester, were canvassed to sign a petition in favor of woman suffrage, and of these seven hundred the petition was signed by 608. A straw shows the way the wind is blowing, and another little fact may be mentioned in this connection. A young woman's debating society in Cambridge lately discussed woman suffrage, and rejected a resolution condemning it by fifty-six votes to thirteen. There are, of course, some women who do not wish for votes; the majority these do not perhaps possess the qualification that would enable them to vote; but even if they do, no one wishes for a law to compel women to vote. I have sometimes heard men speaking with much satisfaction of having half a dozen votes in different parts of the country, and never having used one of them. The type will probably be found among both sexes. But the women who do not want votes are not so zealous in their renunciation of what others want as were the dissenters who petitioned parliament against the repeal of the five-mile act and the conventicle act. Their petition was paraphrased by Burke in words that will not easily be forgotten: "We, say the dissenters who petition against dissenters, enjoy every species of indulgence we can wish for; and, as we are content, we pray that others who are not content may meet with no relief." Some of us are not content; we are asking for freedom and for representation on exactly the same grounds on which our fathers and forefathers asked for it and won it.

The cashier's wife, who is anxious to figure well in society, is often to blame for her husband's faulty figuring as an accountant.

"A maiden's hair" may be a very pretty subject for a poet to write about, but it gets away with one's appetite if found in a plate of hash.

"I'm a man of few words," said Jones, during a quarrel with Brown. "I know that" was the quick response; "your wife won't allow you to talk back."

England is to address a note to America on the dynamite question. Although this is leap-year, this is not the kind of question that it is desirable to pop.

USEFUL HINTS.

Roasted coffee is one of the most powerful disinfectants.

Salt sprinkled over a carpet before sweeping will brighten the color.

Do not cut lamp wicks, but trim them by wiping off with a scrap of paper.

Sandpaper will whiten ivory knife handles that may have become yellow with use or age.

Silver, plated or solid, should be washed in hot water suds and dried quickly with a soft cloth.

Rice boiled very slowly in milk and sweetened is a very palatable and healthy dish for children.

Arrowroot gives a certain richness to sauce which renders less butter necessary than if flour is used for thickening.

RICE BREAD.—One cup of rice boiled till tender, but not to a mush, a handful of meal, two eggs, one quarter pint of cream, a little salt. Grease the mould thoroughly, or it will not turn out well.

STEAK AND ONIONS.—If you wish to improve upon the usual method of smothering beefsteak with onions, try this:—Cut one quart of onions in very small bits, not over an inch long, and as thin as a sharp knife will cut them. Let them lie in cold water with a good sprinkling of salt in it for half an hour. Drain them well, and fry them in a deep frying-pan, with a good deal of very hot lard in it. They will cook immediately, and be crisp and most excellent.

SALLY LUNN.—One teaspoonful of yeast, one pint of sweet milk, one-third teacup of white sugar, two eggs, a heaping teaspoonful of butter, flour enough to make a stiff batter, salt to taste. Let the milk come to a boil and drop the butter into it while the milk is cooling; beat the yellow of the egg with the sugar, put in the yeast and the milk, after stirring well; add the beaten whites of the eggs; stir in flour enough to make a stiff batter, and set to rise. When well risen, pour into well-greased pans, and allow to rise again, then bake.

A writer in *Hygiene Pratique* states that boots and shoes may be rendered waterproof by soaking them for some hours in thick soap water. The compound forms a fatty acid within the leather and makes it impervious to water.

Waterproof clothing which allows a free passage for respiration can be prepared by dipping in a solution of acetate of alumina. The latter is made by adding a solution of acetate of lead to a solution of alum, and decanting the mixture from the sulphate of lead which is precipitated. The articles are dipped into this liquid and allowed to dry without wringing them.

CLEANING OIL CLOTH.—Wash all oil-cloth once a month in skim-milk and water, equal quantities of each. Rub them once in three months with boiled linseed oil. Put on very little, rub it well in with a rag, and polish with a piece of old silk. An oil-cloth should never be scrubbed with a brush, but, after being first swept, should be cleaned by washing with a soft flannel and lukewarm water. On no account use soap or water that is hot.

For want of a nail the shoe was lost, for want of a shoe the horse was lost, for want of a horse the rider was lost, being overtaken by the enemy.

A Wisconsin woman has predicted a tidal wave on Lake Michigan in June next. The gentler sex seems to be crowding into all the professions.

"Links of Love" is a very pretty heading for a wedding notice. The real lynx of love is the watchful, jealous wife of the equally vigilant husband.