

# English Women at Home and in Politics

**C**OMPARED to the women of southern Europe, who are dependent upon their fathers, their husbands or sons from the hour of birth until death, the English woman is permitted a great degree of liberty. Although less unhampered than the women of the United States, yet with the increase of higher education, the abolishment of the old useless convention, the opening up of new avenues of work and the modern respect for labor, her freedom is constantly increasing.

The English law recognizes the husband as the head of the family—a law that still obtains in some parts of our own country—and the estimate of the law is obediently reflected by the family. In nine households out of ten the best of everything is reserved for "the master;" the best chair is placed in the most comfortable corner of the fireside, and it would be little short of sacrilege for wife or child to occupy either. If the fare is plain there must be something "tasty"—to use the English expression—for the man of the house. An English woman who lived in a London suburb said to the writer: "The family dine upon a leg of mutton on Sundays, and it comes upon the table daily until it is all gone." The husband, in the meantime, dines in town, ordering the dishes he most prefers!

The greater part of the economizing falls upon the wife; if retrenchment is necessary her brougham is sacrificed that the husband may retain his cab. Everywhere in London, even in the most fashionable quarters, elegantly dressed men, accompanied by decidedly shabby women, may be seen, and it is the rule, rather than the exception.

An Englishman's clothes are well chosen and well made, while the dress of his wife or daughter is very often "a thing of shreds and patches." Few English women have much sense of color or form. The people as a whole are afflicted with a species of color blindness. They seldom know clearly what they want and exercise little discretion in shopping.

They are exquisitely clean, as their devotion to the "morning tub," their clear skin and their fine color attest, but they have little of the trimness that is essentially the characteristic of the American woman. Furthermore, they lace themselves in "stays" that are as stiff as the mediaeval cuirass and with all that is said of their love of exercise they have adopted in recent excessively high-heeled boots for the street. With the body compressed in the torturing stays, balanced upon impossible French heels, no grace or freedom of motion is possible and the gait becomes of necessity an awkward "clump." An American girl, with her usually admirable carriage, may be recognized at once anywhere and easily distinguished from her English sister.

The English woman's tendency to bright, unharmonious colors—possibly a natural reaction from their gray fog and dull skies—has been much improved within the past decade, but she still has a fondness for a variety of ruffles and fluffing ends of ribbons, jingling chains and bracelets that not even the severity of the tailor-made gown has been able to correct.

It is in her home, however, that the English woman particularly shines—if the husband is not abnormally domestic, as frequently happens—taking her rightful authority into his own hands. In this event she is only a humble subordinate, whose business it is to see that the wishes of her lord and master are carried out. The British husband and father superintending the purchase of a gown at the Army and Navy stores told by the "American girl in London," and his stern command: "I will not have you in stripes," is no figment of the imagination; such incidents are common enough. When the masculine will takes this turn there is nothing with which "the head of the family" does not meddle—the gowns of wife and daughter, the employment and discharge of servants, the ordering of the five meals daily, with which the English constitution needs to be nourished in the depressing dampness and chill of the climate.

When not interfered with the women of the educated classes, it may be said, are practically trained for housekeeping; almost all are good accountants, keeping a careful note of every farthing of expenditure. Even the lodging and boarding house keeper sends in the weekly bill with its puzzling list of extras properly set down, as illustration of accuracy and ingenuity alike. They think it worth their while to consider saving a farthing a pound at the butcher's upon a joint; a ha'penny a dozen upon the eggs from the poulterers, and all such matters that the American housekeeper so often considers too petty to discuss, they never fail to bear in mind.

The English method of rearing children but for the fact that the daughters are too subservient to the sons is altogether commendable. The law of primogeniture

is partially responsible for this, since the whole fabric of English society revolves around the eldest son and heir. In a great many instances the education of the daughters is curtailed because the sons must be trained for professions by which they may earn a living; but it is hoped that the girls will marry and every effort is made by the mother to secure suitable husbands for them. There is no pretense of letting this important consideration take care of itself; it is worked for and planned for from the time the daughter reaches a marriageable age. Much greater thought is given the wherewith—the income for the maintenance of the newly established family—than in the United States, and when the wife's fortune is settled upon herself and her children by the marriage contract it cannot be touched by the husband or

modern English houses such as are to be found almost everywhere in our own country. Water for the morning bath must be carried to the rooms and coals for the fires—a furnace or steam-heated house being exceptional—and for this work a man is never employed. All the rooms are furnished with bells, which must be answered, and the maids run up and down the stairs on errands, or in answer to summons, all day long. This has induced a disease, a swelling of the knee joints, recognized by physicians as "housemaid's knee." English servants are not expected to share the delicacies of the family table; a separate table is spread for them below stairs, provided with plain, although abundant, food, and any luxuries they desire they must get for themselves.

Many of the great drapers' shops board



JOHANN RUDOLPH AUGUST SPETHMANN AND HIS WIFE, MALVINA SPETHMANN, WHO CELEBRATED THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR MARRIAGE AT GRAND ISLAND, Neb., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1901.

diverted from the object to which it is to be applied.

English children, if somewhat shy, are delightful. Simple, natural, unspoiled, they are taught respect for their elders and obedience to their parents from the time that they are old enough to understand anything. In all well-to-do families they are kept in the nursery, except when their presence is requested in the drawing room, given plain food and dressed in simple, comfortable clothing. They take their meals at regular hours and have a great deal of out-of-door exercise. The boys are sent to the public schools, Eton, Rugby or Winchester, when they are mere children, there to make their way, in spite of the English system of "fagging," which is far worse than any hazing known in American colleges.

Girls in wealthy or titled families rarely attend schools. Even at Newnham and Girton the pupils are almost all from the middle classes and a large percentage expect to become teachers, either in England or the colonies. A few are preparing for other professions—a tendency discouraged by Englishmen, who are intensely jealous of any encroachment upon what they have hitherto considered their own special domain.

The position of working women of all classes is one of the important problems of the hour. There, as here, the field of teaching is overcrowded and wherever a woman steps into a place formerly held by a man there is an instant disposition to put upon her all manner of additional tasks which were never required by her male predecessor. For example, in 1897 a woman, for the first time, was appointed secretary of one of the great London hospitals. She was a person of exceptional ability, holding a degree of M. A. from London university, a clever writer and an extraordinary linguist. Nominally secretary, in addition to her secretarial duties, she had entire supervision of all the servants, kept an account of out and in patients, bought all the supplies, solicited contributions—for, like all other institutions of the kind in London, the foundation was very inadequately endowed—she banked all funds paid in, was present at all meetings of the directors, beside attending to an enormous correspondence, few of these duties having been placed on the male secretaries. She rarely returned to her home before 10 o'clock at night.

There are thousands of governesses in England competent to teach Latin, mathematics, music, drawing and the continental languages whose salaries do not exceed \$100 a year. A lady advertised in a London newspaper for a governess possessing these qualifications, offering a little less than the salary above named, and she received over 1,000 replies. An exceptionally well qualified cook is paid about 12 shillings (\$3) a week, a housemaid half as much and there are few conveniences in any but the most

and lodge their women clerks in apartments in the upper floors of their establishments. They are required to wear black gowns, made with a demi-train, white collars and cuffs, the hair to be elaborately dressed. Their wages where their board is furnished are small and there are many little shops where the girls employed as clerks work from Monday until late Saturday night for no other compensation than board and lodging and must find the means outside wherewith to clothe themselves and pay their incidental expenses.

There is one essential in which English women far excel those of the United States and that is their intelligent comprehension of great political questions. The English women of position must know politics and be able not only to talk, but to help in the canvass, if her services are required, as they usually are. In a parliamentary canvass the women on both sides work vigorously, making house-to-house visits and speaking from the hustings and the result of an election is to them a matter of vital importance. The two great political organizations to which both men and women belong have a membership running up into the hundreds of thousands and one of the other includes almost every woman of rank and distinction in the United Kingdom.

It is not generally understood that all women ratepayers are qualified to vote in municipal elections throughout England and that thousands of women vote in London for the county council, through which almost the entire government is administered. The elections are held in the town hall of each parish and the voting of the women attracts no comment or attention, each elector walking in at the front door, casting her ballot and walking out at the rear door. With their increased political privileges, they have been chosen to important public offices, upon school boards and boards of guardians. In 1898 six women served upon the London school board, being represented in all the most important committees.

MARY H. KROUT.

**Some Coffees are Glazed with a cheap coating. If glazing helps coffee why aren't the high-priced Mochas and Javas glazed also?**

**Lion Coffee** is not glazed. It is perfectly pure and has a delicious flavor.

The sealed package insures uniform quality and freshness.

**PROSPECTING FOR GOLD**  
is uncertain in results  
A policy in **QUITABLE LIFE** ASSURANCE SOCIETY is both **profitable and sure**

**STRONGEST IN THE WORLD. EVERY POLICY EQUAL TO A SIGHT DRAFT AT MATURITY.**

For information or an illustration of a policy suited to your needs, call upon or address

**H. D. NEELY,**

Merchants' National Bank Building, Omaha.

Manager for Nebraska.

## Famous Pictures

The Bee has secured a series of beautiful reproductions of famous paintings and beautiful pictures in colors. These pictures are all suitable for framing and will look handsome in any home. The 10th of the series will be



### HIS HOLINESS, POPE LEO XIII.

The magnificent painting of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, is the work of the celebrated artist, J. A. Mohlke, who has had the advantage of the constant criticisms and advice of the highest dignitaries of the Roman Catholic Church in America, who have devoted unusual time in going over the details with the artist so that the finished work would be as near perfect as anything that has ever been brought out. Those who have been favored by His Holiness with an audience exclaim over the remarkable likeness of this painting. It is indeed a portrait absolutely true to life.

The work has been gotten out at an expense of over \$5,000, the lithographs being finished in 12 separate printings on the highest grade of chrome paper, and has been treated in a very artistic manner.

The value of this picture is almost beyond calculation, since it is the very latest, and, in all probability, will be the last picture ever gotten out from such authoritative sources.

The picture is a tribute to the unusual reign of Leo XIII. On Wednesday, February 20, 1901, His Holiness received the Cardinals and high functionaries of the church, who waited upon him in the Vatican on that day to congratulate him upon the anniversary of his election to the pontificate.

The reign of Leo XIII is the longest of the 266 Papal reigns. Only five Popes have so far exceeded Leo XIII in the length of service. These were:

- St. Peter, who reigned 24 years, 5 months and 10 days.
- Adrian I (722) 23 years, 10 months and 6 days.
- Plus VI (1775) 24 years, 6 months and 14 days.
- Plus VII (1800) 23 years, 5 months and 6 days.
- Plus IX (1846) 31 years, 7 months and 22 days.

With the death of Cardinal Galeati, on January 25, His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, had buried 135 Cardinals since he began his reign.

His remarkable strength of body, as well as of mind, is now the subject of universal comment, making him one of the most interesting men of our time.

So faithful a likeness and so magnificent a work of art as the present picture is, therefore, of incalculable value to everyone.

### How to Get Them.

These pictures are 16x20 inches and have never been sold at the art stores for less than one dollar. By securing an immense quantity of them we are able to offer them

### With a Coupon for 15 Cents.

When ordering state the name of the subject and if they are to be mailed enclose six cents additional for postage and packing

**CUT OUT THIS COUPON**  
Present at Bee Office or mail this coupon with 15c and get your choice of Photographic Art Studies. When ordering by mail add 6c for postage.  
**ART DEPARTMENT, BEE PUBLISHING CO., OMAHA.**

### THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY ArtDepartment, Omaha, Neb.

These pictures are framed and on exhibition at ROSE'S ART STORE. We have provided a large number of frames for The Bee pictures and are offering them at a special price. Call and see them.

ROSE'S ART STORE, 1521 Dodge street, Omaha, Neb.