#### Women at Home and in Politics English

MPARED to the women of southbirth 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 abolish- made by the mother to secure suitable hus-ment of the old useless convention, the bands for them. There is no pretense of 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 countryand 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. 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 pre-

greater part of the conomizing falls upon the wife; if retrenchment is necessary her brougham is sacrificed that the husband may retain his cob. 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 execution.

An Englishman's clothes are well chosen and well made, while the dress of his wife or daughter is very often 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 clearly what they want and exercise little discretion in shopping.

votion to the "morning tub," their clear to be applied. skin and their fine color attest, but they have little of the trimness that is essentially the characteristic of the American Furthermore, they lace themsaid 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 ruches and ruffles and flying ends of ribbons, jingling chains and bracelets that not even the severity of the tailormade 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 an humble subordinate, whose business it is to see that the wishes of her lord and master are carried out. 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 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 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 sareful note of every farthing of expend-Even the lodging and boarding house keeper sends in the weekly bill with male secretaries. She rarely returned to an illustration of accuracy and ingenuity They think it worth their while to cuss, they never fall to rear in mind.

commendable. The law of primogeniture are few conveniences in any but the most

is partially responsible for this, since the modern English houses such as are to be ern Europe, who are dependent whole fabric of English society revolves found almost everywhere in our own counupon their fathers, their hus- around the eldest son and heir. In a great try. Water for the morning bath must be bands or sons from the hour of many instances the education of the daugh- carried to the rooms and coals for the ters 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 for from the time the daughter reaches a marriageable age. Much greater thought is given the wherewithal—the income for the maintenance of the newly estalished 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

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 letting this important consideration take day long. This has induced a disease, a care of itself; it is worked for and planned swelling of the knee joints, recognized by physicians as "housemaid's knee." lish 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.

They are exquisitely clean, as their de- diverted from the object to which it is and lodge their women clerks in apartments

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 selves in "stays" that are as stiff as the that they are old enough to understand mediaeval cuirass and with all that is 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 Girtan 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 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 hos-She was a person of exceptional pitals. ability, holding a degree of M. A. from privileges, they have been chosen to im-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 mittees. patients, bought all the supplies, solicited contributions-for, like all other institulons 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 her home before 10 o'clock at night.

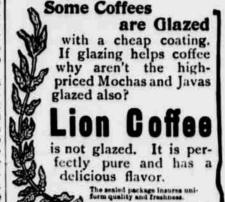
There are thousands of governesses in England competent to teach Latin, matheconsider saving a farthing a pound at the matics, music, drawing and the continental butcher's upon a joint; a ha'penny a dozen languages whose salaries do not exceed upon the eggs from the poulterers, and all \$100 a year. A lady advertised in a London such matters that the American house- newspaper for a governess possessing these keeper so often considers too petty to dis- qualifications, offering a little less than the salary above named, and she received over The English method of rearing children 1,000 replies. An exceptionally well qualibut for the fact that the daughters are fled cook is paid about 12 shillings (\$3) a too subservient to the sons is altogether week, a housemaid half as much and there

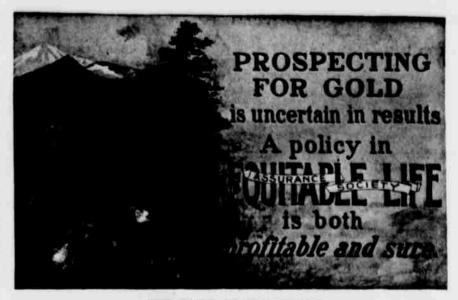
in the upper floors of their establishments. They are required to wear black gowns, made with a demi-train, white collars and cuffs, the hair to be elaborately dressed Their wages where their board is furnished are small and there are many little shops where the girls employed as clerks work from Monday 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 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 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 portant 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 com-

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