

Women as Economists.

The idea generally prevails among men that women are densely and incurably ignorant about the value of money. "He knows no more of money than a woman," is almost a proverb. The most absurd stories are perpetually told of woman's total incapacity to learn anything about money, and some of them are doubtless believed. She is, notwithstanding contrary belief, an intelligent economist when she comes to learn what economy means. It is frequently said by the other sex that she can make a dollar go as far as they can make two. Nor is this by any means the language of compliment. Many a husband has discovered that his wife can buy more with a small amount of cash than he can, and he is in the habit of giving it to her for that special purpose. The extravagance of woman has been a stock theme everlastingly. We shall hear of her wild extravagance, of the waste of fortunes by her excess, of her uncontrolled and uncontrollable prodigality. This must be accepted with considerable allowance for exaggeration. Man, not woman, is the great spendthrift; he always has been; always will be. Few men are forced into economy by circumstances; they relish it, unless avaricious; and when their circumstances grow easy they cease generally to be economical. A woman who has once become economical will continue to be so, though there be no need of the habit, even if it be glaringly out of keeping with her condition. Woman's love of small details inclines her to economy. She may not be a financier in any large sense—that may not be within her scope—but careful use of little amounts of money certainly is, and she constantly demonstrates her proficiency therein. There is much more reason for calling woman penurious than prodigal, declares the New York Weekly, and she is really called both, though the adjectives are absolutely incongruous. The plain truth is, if a woman has any common sense and is the least enlightened, she usually restrains her husband's tendency to lavishness and employs all her influence in the direction of economy.

This is an example given us by France as to the proper method in which to celebrate a national holiday. There the undertaker and the surgeon are not worked overtime, nor is a national fetish made of the god of gunpowder. Instead, explains the Brockton (Mass.) Times, the day is made a holiday for all. The national colors are everywhere. The three great government theaters in Paris, with the greatest actors in the country, give three performances free to all the people, and there are countless other attractions provided by the government during the day, winding up with displays of fireworks throughout the country paid for by the government and of such magnificence that no private exhibitions could vie with them. That is the way the various municipalities of America should face the problem of the Fourth of July.

Prof. Walter A. Wyckoff, who died recently, was the author of "The Workers," a book on the laboring man which has remained vital through a decade of increasing literature on social conditions. The reason for the life of the book was that it recorded the author's actual experience for a year and a half as a working man. He lived by the labor of his hands in field, ditch and mining camp; he played the game fairly, and did not help himself out by "money from home" or checks from his publishers. He knew what it was to be out of a job and "on his uppers." That is why his material was fresh and vivid when he returned to the professor's easy chair to write the story of his experience.

Crude men of sincere faith are often more convincing preachers than highly cultivated clergymen. The rough man is near the heart of the multitude he would convert; he understands their sins and temptations, and speaks the language of their life. But good taste is necessary to religious exhortation as to every other dignified human occupation, and plainness and directness are not served by vulgarity and rowdiness. The religious spirit may be roused in some people by the vocabulary of a hoodlum, but religion is sure to suffer in the end if it is associated with an offensive style of speech.

"Talk is cheap," said the old proverb. But that was before these enterprising times when people talk from one end of the country almost to the other, and when inventors and scientists are speaking confidently of telephoning across the ocean.

The city of Vienna is now trying to get control of mines in Moravia. The reasons given for the purchase are the high price of coal and the difficulty of securing a steady supply for the municipal gas and electric plants.

An expedition is being equipped under the auspices of the Russian ministry of marine, with the object of discovering a northeast passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

According to Prof. Berthold of Vienna a man's intelligence, honesty and good nature are in proportion to his portliness.

The simplified spellers declare that their cause is gaining. Here is another horror added to the hot weather.

# King of Political Pests Is the "Four-Flusher"

By ERNEST MCGAFFEY

As a Rule His Good Thing Turns Out to Be a Pair of Deuces.

THE term "four-flushing," although of comparatively recent origin, merely means, in its last analysis, a pretense. It is a poker term, meaning in that game the practice of pretending that you have five cards of one suit when you only have four of one suit and one of another, and of trying to win with that kind of a hand, in hopes that the other players will believe that you have a genuine "flush," five cards in one suit. It is a favorite pastime in the great American game to bet high on a "four flush" to intimidate or "timfy"

the fellow who would get you in a corner and reason with you, emphasizing his "points" earnestly, but in an undertone.

"You know how that is, Mac," he would go on. "The people out there feel that way, and that's the way they feel all over the city. It's strange to me that some one hasn't pointed it out to the mayor. If something isn't done we'll lose out election day. Such a comparatively small thing, too. I don't make any difference to me personally, for I don't care. But I don't want to see our boys lose. Somebody ought to see his honor about it. I'm

didate of "A's" party stripe, and pay his expenses to cut into "A's" vote.

All this is "four-flushing" to make the voters believe there are four or five "Richmonds in the field" when, in fact, "A" and "B" are the only real figures in the contest, and the extra candidates are "fakes." And the beauty about it is that these "independent" or other campaigns are often waged valiantly and a tremendous amount of dust and excitement kicked up about them. But the real independent, the independent who sometimes gets elected on a genuine and not a "faked" race, is usually some disgrun-

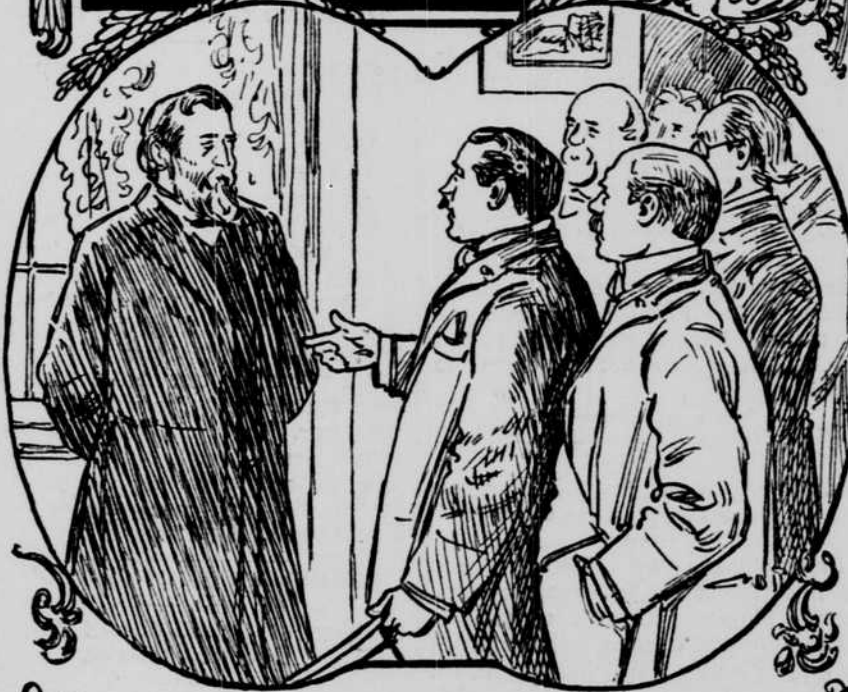
His Ways, His manners, His Methods, His Dress, and Fly-by-Night Election Schemes—Dead Politically To-day, He Resurrects Himself To-morrow in a New Ward, with a New Plan and Perhaps Affiliates with the Other Party—How He Takes Up Reform as an Asset and Ilets Defeat, with Attendant Notoriety, Gracefully.



HE WAS ALWAYS GOING TO DO GREAT THINGS

HE WAS THE FELLOW WHO WOULD GET YOU IN A CORNER AND REASON WITH YOU

A DESCENT IS MADE UPON THE COURT



THE HOTEL KEEPER WAS VERY MUCH GRATIFIED

he others at the card table and thereby "rake down the pot." But it does not always work.

In politics I have seen enormous quantities of "four-flushing" indulged in; and in fact about two-fifths of all politics is "four-flushing."

In the various angles of the political game there may be counter "four-flushing," or practicing the art on both sides, or if there are four or five candidates in the field, there may be only one candidate who really stands any show of election, and a quartette of "four-flushers" gaily bringing up the rear. The "also rans" have entered the race for various reasons. Some of them get a little notoriety, some of them to try their political strength, and others for the purpose of leading a forlorn hope against the probable winner.

There are "four-flushers" who ply their vocation deliberately, and those who do it by dint of long practice at dissimulation; and still others who have the practice forced on them by reason of circumstances. Some men are born to it; other men achieve "four-flushing," and others still have it thrust upon them. There are the loud-mouthed and noisy members of the tribe, and also the quiet and persuasively earnest devotees of the cult. The blatant ones are the fellows who usually wear a large "headlight" diamond stud, and who bring down to the downtown political headquarters astonishing reports about what they are going to do in their particular wards.

I recollect particularly one of this kind. He was always going to do great things. And he would demonstrate by verbal mathematics just how it was a "cinch" that he had the ward tied up as tight as a snare drum. All suggestions that he might possibly be mistaken were either pooh-poohed away, or you were given to understand that you were "dead nutty." This gentleman would keep on swelling until the morning after election, and then he would disappear for a few days. When he reappeared, with his ward knocked "galley-west" in the election, and about 99 per cent. of his predictions gone wrong, he would still have that old "bluffy" walk on him, and would be grabbing triumphantly about some prospect that had gone his way, and explaining how they would have all went the same way if "Pete Botsford" or "Joe Sammons" or "Bill Highball" had "stuck." The only offensive thing about this lobster's attitude was that he assumed that some one was going to believe him. He was per se a "stiff," as such cattle are termed in politics, and a laughing-stock among seasoned politicians, but he was real factor in politics, when he could scarcely control his own vote.

As a rule, these "plugs" were fellows who had accidentally gotten a little fleeting notoriety in the ward. They might by some strange accident have even been elected alderman for one term. Or they might have been candidates on one occasion for that office. But everybody was "on to" them.

The quiet, silky "four-flusher" was the one who tipped around, with great schemes for carrying the election by following his advice. He was

just telling you because you can see for yourself how it is. We need every vote we can raise and scrape. There's lots of ugly talk about this thing in my neighborhood, and it's the same everywhere. Well, so long."

Now this "song and dance" might be reeled off by some fellow who had a 25-foot lot that was on a street that was about to be paved with a cheap paving, and his "advice" was a "four-flush" to try to get a "reconsideration" by the board of local improvements of the order to pave. If he succeeded, he would save a few dollars in assessments. He goes away thinking he has "started something doing" which may lead to a "reconsideration." The facts are that his "spiel" has fallen on absolutely barren ground. The question of politics "cuts no ice" whatever with the matter he is arguing, and a passing street band playing "Hiawatha" would exert as much influence as he does in politics. Everyone excepting he does himself know that what he says, does, thinks and feels is of no more importance than a rabbit.

No one but a rank "four-flusher" makes these senseless "breaks," but the large cities simply swarm with the rank "four-flushers."

A favorite scheme of the standard "four-flushers" in elections was to put up an "independent" "dummy" candidate. Sometimes two "dummy" candidates were put forward in the race. Suppose, for instance, that "A" and "B" are the regular candidates of the main parties. "B" will say, is the stronger of the two. "A" finances the nomination of an "independent" candidate, or a Prohibition, Labor-Socialist, or any old candidate whom he may think will weaken "B's" chances. If "B" thinks the move will weaken him, he may up with an "independent" can-

dled Republican or Democrat who, after election, slides gracefully back into party traces, perfectly satisfied to have his "independence" elect him, but carrying the joke no further.

Reform is a prolific source of political "four-flushing." Take some business which offends certain of the more puritanically inclined citizens. This business may be regularly licensed and declared legal, and there may be constitutional grounds which, until a change in the constitution, would absolutely prevent interference in the business on the part of the authorities. Does this daunt the "four-flusher" who wishes a little advertising? Not a bit of it. He gets together his cohorts and besieges the political authorities demanding that they do those things which are under the law absolutely forbidden.

The authorities consult the law department, and the department gives an opinion, based on the soundest authority, that the proposition is untenable. Then the reforming "four-flusher" holds a few public meetings and adds some more "four-flushers" to the list. Speeches are made and the authorities are denounced, also the lawyers who have given the dissenting opinion to the views of the reform "four-flushers."

Then some scintillating genius among the brethren suggests that an injunction be obtained from some perfectly "unbiased" judge. A descent is made upon the courts, a perfectly "unbiased" and complaisant jurist is picked out, who issues an injunction, and the "four-flushers" gather to offer up thanks. An appeal being taken from his ruling, the state court, or the supreme court of the United States, hands down an opinion that the "unbiased" judge is an "ass," or words to

that effect, and the injunction is dissolved.

Thereupon the "four-flushers" hold additional meetings in which they denounce the supreme courts, and, as soon as a new set of authorities come to power, resume the old "bluff" of asking that the business which they do not like be suppressed.

One of the most unique of political "four-flushers" is the man who is "bucking the game" solely on his nerve. I recollect one such individual, and he was certainly a classic specimen, and a merry proposition.

A certain hotelkeeper had been selected as a candidate for aldermanic honors. At party headquarters, after his name had been offered and determined upon, a committee of "prominent citizens" was picked out to notify the gentleman of the honor which had been accorded him. Among others, this "hot sport" was chosen, as he was a very neat talker, and the chairmanship of the notifying committee was reserved to him, as the man who was best qualified to break the news to the hotelkeeper of his selection as the aldermanic standard-bearer.

At that time of the year, early spring, a number of these "prominent citizens" were wearing light overcoats, and our hero was nattily attired in one which buttoned high to his throat, with an immaculate silk muffler folded neatly above it.

As the committee entered the rotunda of the hotel it met the then city clerk, who, on invitation, accompanied them on their trip.

The Boniface was sent for, a private room opened and the gentleman with the dove-colored spring overcoat and silk muffler stepped from the group of "prominent citizens" and urged the acceptance by the tentative candidate of the honor vouchsafed him. It was a neat speech, and told of the "representative citizens" who were present, anxious to lend their prestige and solid business standing to his campaign, all "prominent business men," and all desirous of having the ward taken care of in the council by a man of their own stamp.

The hotelkeeper was very much gratified, accepted the honor in a few words and invited the committee to take dinner with him, it being just about six in the evening. All but the city clerk and the orator of the evening accepted the invitation with alacrity. The orator, however pleaded an imperative engagement, and the city clerk had to catch a train. But as these two came out of the hotel the city clerk, who knew his companion as a sort of "fly-by-night" ward politician, said, "Why didn't you stay and take dinner with the committee, Dick? The old man will give the boys a fine feed in there."

To which the politician, with a perfectly nonchalant air, replied: "I'd have liked to, first rate; but I haven't got any shirt on," at the same time opening his spring overcoat and disclosing underneath his stylish muffler the unmistakable presence of a neat but not gaudy undershirt next to his manly chest.

The city clerk reached into his vest pocket and dislodged a two-dollar bill. This he handed to his friend. "You're a dandy representative citizen all right, Dick," he remarked, "and a first-class business man. Go and get you a shirt with that and then buy something to eat."

ERNEST MCGAFFEY. (Copyright, 1908, by Joseph E. Bowles.) Few men succeed in living up to their opinions of themselves.

## PRETTY BLOUSES



The first illustration shows a bodice of a lawn dress. It is made on a lining to which the vest of tucked muslin and insertion is stitched. The lawn fronts are tucked on the shoulders, and are edged with two rows of embroidery. The under-sleeve is turned up below the elbow with a cuff edged with embroidery. The over-sleeve is trimmed with insertion, and is stitched on after the actual sleeve has been sewn on.

The second is in pale blue zephyr, tucked on the shoulders, and trimmed each side the center box-pleat with open work embroidery insertion. The cuffs are finished with insertion, edged with pleated lace.

The third garment is composed of flouncing embroidery, the plain part of the center pieces being tucked, the edge of the side embroidery being laid over the plain. The sleeves are arranged in the same way. The deep pointed collar is of plain muslin, edged with a frill of lace.

### MAKES USEFUL LITTLE WRAP.

Bolero in New Style Easily Made Up in Crochet Work.

This useful little wrap is quite easy to make. Any kind of wool and a suitable hook (tricot) may be used. Work a chain of 15 inches; on this chain work plain tricot for seven inches.

Work off each stitch separately like double crochet for eight inches, and the remainder of the row in tricot as before.

Work two more short rows of tricot like the last; on completing the last

### TO CLEAN WHITE WINGS.

Two Preparations That Will Do the Work Effectively.

Wings are much more difficult to clean than are the softer feathers, such as ostrich and marabout.

You might cover them with a cream made from naphtha and French chalk, allowing it to dry on for a day, and then brush off. A slight improvement from an application of common starch can be made with cold water and laid on very thick.

The paste should be allowed to become quite dry, and perhaps this process might answer for your wings if they are not too much soiled.

In regard to the parasol, you might get rid of the grease spot by laying on hot French chalk. This will dissolve and absorb the grease. Repeat the process if necessary. Next, the parasol should be opened and then thoroughly washed with gasoline and white soap all over its surface, more particularly on the soiled places.

Afterward sponge off with clear gasoline. By going over every part of the parasol there will be no danger of spots or streaks, and gasoline will not harm it. Keep away from fire or artificial heat during this process.

### What Is to Be in Fashion.

It is quite in keeping with other tendencies that sleeves should cease to give breadth to the shoulders as figures must not be made to look too heavy. Whatever fullness some of them retain is restricted to that part of the arm that comes immediately below them. Milliners are even brought to book with respect to the exceeding size of their hats which, it is urged, do not suit the new mode in dresses, but as yet I see no signs of their being moved by any such arguments.

Waists continue to be made more or less short, but there is no particular care taken to make them look small as with the hips. On the other hand, throats must be made to appear long and slender. Not only are collars made as close-fitting and high as possible, but they are invariably finished by a ruffling of lace or net—a fashion which in the long run comes expensive as they have to be continually renewed.—The Dry Goods Guide.

### New Curtain Material.

A new drapery material that is quite inexpensive—19 cents a yard—is extremely pretty and cool-looking. It is not unlike a fine scrim or a cotton voile as to background, and is printed in all the prettiest colorings, floral, conventional and stripes.

It is called Arabian cloth, and will be charming fashioned into window curtains and other draperies required for summer use.

In this material a dull ocre ground in a design of tulips is beautiful, and not less so, though more subdued, are the conventional effects in pastel tones.

### IN LINEN AND PIQUE.

Latest Material the Best for Summer Costumes.

Linen jumper frocks and linen coat and skirt suits are popular this season and every woman wants them in her wardrobe, but there are other things more practical when one is cutting down the list as much as possible. The linen coat will get out of shape in laundering and the linen costume of any description looks deliciously fresh and cool for about an hour if the wearer has luck, then begins to look more or less if its wearer had slept in it.

Of course, it can be pressed out when one reaches home, but in the meantime it is not beautiful and the pressing is not easy. Certain linens crush less readily than others and they are all as pretty as they are fashionable, but they are unquestionably annoying, especially if one passes the summer out of touch with an expert laundress.

Pique is popular again and musses less easily than linen, but is not offered in the beautiful colorings found among the linens. For plain white

coats and skirts or separate white skirts it is perhaps preferable to the linen.

### Tight-Fitting Petticoats.

New petticoats are sold for the latest sheath dresses and they are made on the circular plan, so that there will be no fullness either at hips or knees. Of course, those who wear the sheath dress most correctly wear no petticoats whatsoever, but with thin dresses such as women of America wear, at least one petticoat is a necessity, and when it is made in the tight-fitting style it does not much interfere with the set of the graceful gown.

### The Use of Braid.

There are white broadcloth costumes braided in black, but these are rather too conspicuous to be favorites with women who have but few gowns. It is thought more desirable to braid a dark costume with a light colored braid in order that the braid may be removed at some future time and the gown worn with a contrasting coat.

Pompadour ribbon applied as skirt borders and waist decorations make a delightful trimming for a dress.