

SEX RELATIONSHIP.

A CALM AND DISPASSIONATE VIEW OF "THE WOMAN QUESTION."

The Future of a Nation's Prosperity Depends In Great Part on the Marriage Relation—Lessons Drawn From the History of Ancient Greece and Rome.

The rights and wrongs of women are now debated with a vigor and virulence which increase every day. Those who demand for women not only all the privileges which men possess, but also continued exemption from their responsibilities, would carry the principle of female emancipation to a point which has aroused opposition on the part of many who in every great question of the day are admittedly leaders of the party of progress. While the contest rages as to whether women are to know, say and do everything that the coarsest of men can, or, on the other hand, be kept completely in the background, people are apt to forget what is really the crucial point of the whole question.

They forget that the position of women, and of men, too, for that matter, is inseparably bound up with the relationships between the sexes known as marriage; are apt to forget the importance of that relationship not only to individuals, but to the state; are apt to forget that too rigorous a subjection of women may bring us near to barbarism, too great an emancipation may lead to that corruption which has so often in the world's history been the outcome of a civilization which has not placed due restraint on the passions and impulses. The prosperity of a country depends on the proper maintenance of the relations between husband and wife quite as much as on its outer strength, and however great and powerful a country may seem to be, if these domestic relations are unhealthy, if the wife is not her place in the social polity, that country is rotten to the core, and its complete decay and demoralization are inevitable. Speaking generally, there are four aspects or ideals of the status of the wife—four ways in which her position is regarded by men.

There is the method of the barbarian, that of the oriental, that of western civilization, that of corrupt civilization, which last is practically the degraded form of the third. The barbarian regards his wife as a mere slave—a squaw to cook his food, carry his burdens, submit to his ill usage. The oriental sees in his wife a plaything to gratify his passions, and to be kept in the strictest seclusion, and to be treated altogether as a brainless being; regarded by him, in fact, so far as any respect is concerned, much as the squaw is regarded by the savage.

From the third point of view the wife's position is very different. True, she is the mother of her husband's children; true, she has duties to perform which her husband would disdain; true, her husband is the head of the family, and she bears his name. But with all this she is looked upon as her husband's equal, is the sharer of his counsels, his intelligent partner and has a right to expect from him the fidelity which in the case of the savage or the oriental is so one-sided.

The credit of placing this view of married life before mankind has been claimed by Christian writers for their religion. But although we must admit that Christianity has done much to improve the position of woman, yet the ideal which we have termed that of western civilization existed in a very strong degree in ancient Greece, still more strongly among the Romans and the nations of western Europe, whom they conquered and civilized long before Christianity was preached, and the noble qualities which we admire in those races may often be directly traced to the influence of wives and mothers.

But high as is this ideal, history shows that there are dangers which threaten those societies where it prevails; danger the outcome of that very civilization which it has done so much to perfect. Luxury, prosperity, too great liberty, want of mutual respect and continual striving after new sensations are too apt to destroy that wholesome state of things which has been the palladium of every great nation, and we too often have examples of the fourth ideal, which, though springing from the third, is so distinct from it that it deserves to be classed by itself. Where a wife is no longer content with taking her share in the battle of life, no longer content to recognize the fact that there are things which it better becomes the woman to do than the man, and vice versa; when she insists on aping and sharing the follies and vices of the man, on casting from her that modesty and reserve which are woman's greatest charms; when she sprays maternity and domestic duties as trivial or monotonous, then indeed the marriage state must fall into disrepute; then the fatherland must surely suffer.

It was this which led to the unseemly horrors of imperial Rome; it was the unsexed women, their profligacy only equalled by their audacity, who were responsible as much as Nero and Domitian themselves for the downfall of Roman civilization. Otho and Silius would have been impossible but for Poppea and Messalina. In latter times, too, and even in Christian countries, where the marriage tie was in theory held so sacred that if duly celebrated it could only be dissolved by death, we have seen a state of things as bad.—Westminster Review.

Mustaches and Beards.

Englishmen only a generation ago had such a detestation of mustaches and beards that the practice of shaving all hair off their face down to their mutton-chop whiskers was all but universal. From one extreme our clean shaven fathers plunged into the other, and beards and mustaches rapidly became the fashion. The fashion has of late years again been modified. Beards are less common, but the mustache is cultivated in England as widely as on the continent.—London Standard.

On the last week in May each year the French socialists are accustomed to celebrate the "bloody week," which witnessed the downfall of the Paris commune in 1871, the killing of 25,000 of the inhabitants and the exiling of 50,000 others. As early as 1880, under the leadership of Gambetta and the moderate Republicans, a general amnesty was voted, with only five or six exceptions, to the participants of the commune. It is significant also that many of the municipal regulations which the communists demanded were afterward granted by the chamber of deputies.

"Bloody week" began on Sunday, May 21, when the Versailles troops entered Paris by a breach in the fortification wall which the national guards had neglected to defend. They came in by the Bois de Boulogne, and terrible street fights continued daily until on the following Sunday, May 28, Marshal McMahon was in full possession of the city and declared the commune at an end. On May 23 the Versailles troops captured the Central Market halls and threatened General Bergeret, who was stationed at the Tuileries. He was forced to retire, blowing up and burning the Tuileries as he left, but managed to save the Louvre, which some of his followers wished also to destroy. The fighting was mostly done by national guardsmen against heavy odds and resulted in fearful slaughter; hence the week has obtained its name.—New York Herald.

Pianos are taxed in Elizabeth and some folk I know are very wrothy thereat. I think that by taxing pianos Elizabeth has placed itself in the very van of enlightenment with the big E, for mark, after all, it is not the instrument but the player thereof that must pay the tax. If the principle that warrants the tax is faulty in any particular, it is in the fact that the tax is not graded according to the skill or want of skill of the player. Had I my way I would tax certain pianos in this city \$100 a year, and there are others that I would report to the board of health as nuisances that cried to heaven for abatement. If Paderewski would come to town with a piano or to play on an instrument already here, I would exempt it from taxation.

I bless without mental reservation that law giver whose wisdom devised the tax upon pianos. He should have a monument beside which the figure of Liberty in the bay would be but a pygmy. He has perhaps the maledictions of half the piano torturers in town, but "I honor him for the enemies he has made," for the pianists he has suppressed. I contend, however, that the tax should be assessed not according to the value of the instrument, but according to the skill of the player. The method I suggest would be most equitable, it seems to me, and would go far toward meeting all the expenses of the city government.—Elizabeth (N. J.) Herald.

It is a fact not generally known that if one holds his breath wasps, bees and hornets can be handled with impunity. The skin becomes stingproof and holding the insect by the feet and giving her full liberty of action you can see her drive her weapon against the impenetrable surface with a force which lifts her body at every stroke, but let the smallest quantity of air escape from the lungs and the sting will penetrate at once. I have never seen an exception to this in 25 years' observation. I have taught young ladies with very delicate hands to astonish their friends by the performance of this feat, and I saw one so severely stung as to require the services of a physician through laughing at a witty remark of her sister, forgetting that laughing required breath. For a theory in explanation I am led to believe that holding the breath partially closes the pores of the skin. My experiments in that direction have not been exact enough to be of any scientific value, but I am satisfied that it very sensibly affects the amount of insensible perspiration.—Science.

The late Mr. Broadwater of Montana had the misfortune to be bowlegged, which suggests an anecdote told of Senator Sanders of that state. The senator has always been opposed to Major Maginnis of Montana and has been in the habit of criticizing his course with considerable western freedom. "The trouble with Major Maginnis," he said on one occasion, "is that he is all things to all men. With a Republican, he is a Republican; with a Democrat, he is a Democrat; with a Presbyterian, he is a Presbyterian, and, by Jove, with Broadwater he is bowlegged."—New York Tribune.

The after dinner speaker must not talk nonsense and must not talk about nothing. But he must seem to be original, no matter what leisure he may have given to get at the sources—the headwaters of his good things—and he must be brilliant, even though his brilliancies should have been carefully thought out in the dark. Wit is his province more than wisdom, although a dash of the wisdom may be tolerated if it is brought wrapped up in wit and humor, like the sword of Harmodius among the wreaths of laurel.—London News.

When you buy a sheet of postage stamps, do not tear off the blank edge. Instead leave it attached, and when you inclose stamps in a letter turn back a part of the blank paper, moisten it and stick it to the head of your letter. This act will call down blessings upon your head from the editor who is accustomed to receive his stamps loose and fluttering, or, what is worse, irrevocably stuck to the letter.—Writer.

Proof Positive. "Do you think that marriage is a lottery?" "Certainly not. Are not love letters allowed in the mails?"—Truth.

THE IRRIGATION CONGRESS.

An interesting and important congress will meet at Los Angeles, California, on October 10, to sit for five days. This is the International Irrigation Congress, the last session of which was held at Salt Lake City in September, 1891, about 700 delegates being present. It is expected that the Los Angeles Congress will be numerous attended not only from all parts of the United States, but from foreign countries as well.

The people of the United States have only just begun to realize the importance of irrigation to this country. The available Government land in the United States, outside of the arid regions, is almost exhausted. The time is nearly gone when Uncle Sam could give every man a farm. What is left is mostly in the so-called "desert" regions—those dry and forbidding stretches of sage-brush and cactus covered land, which were long believed to be absolutely worthless but which water, directed by science, has in many cases transformed into fertile Edens. It is to these regions that those of the rising generation who desire to follow Horace Greeley's advice and "go west" must look for their independent homes, where they may literally sit under the shade of their one vine and fig tree.

If the man who causes two blades of grass to spring up where one grew before is worthy of honor, what shall be said of the man or men, who build flourishing cities, surrounded by smiling orchards and vineyards, in spots where a few years ago a jack rabbit would have starved to death?

It is fitting that Los Angeles, the "City of the Queen of the Angels" should be selected as a meeting place for this congress, for in the section of which that city is the commercial center irrigating has reached its greatest development, and water, backed by American pluck and perseverance, has accomplished greater marvels than in any other section of the United States, perhaps the world. Here are Pasadena and Riverside, beautiful and wealthy cities of some 10,000 inhabitants each, upon sites that 20 years ago were considered good for nothing but sheep pasture. And Los Angeles itself is a good proof of the value of irrigation, for it has grown within a few years, from a sleepy semi-Mexican pueblo of 12,000 people to a live and beautiful American metropolis of 65,000 population, and this increase is due to the development of the surrounding country by means of irrigation.

Assistant Secretary Reynold of the interior department has made a pension decision which will be welcome news to the large number of women who ministered to the wounded soldiers in hospitals during the late war. They are to be placed on the pension rolls. The question arose upon a communication from the commissioner of pensions as to whether those women who superintended the diet of the sick and wounded soldiers were entitled to pensions under the provisions of the nurse's act. Assistant Secretary Reynold holds that these persons are entitled to pensions.

WITHIN the wide domain of newspaperdom there are teachers and teachers, ranters and fools, and at times it is hard to separate the wheat from the chaff, the teacher from the ignorant gab-gifted, meddlesome ranter. There is a wide difference between the man who attempts to teach the world that it is living wrong and the man who believes in turning the people into the right road with a stick of dynamite.

It is probable that the responsibility for the loss of the Victoria will rest with the late Vice Admiral Sir George Tryon, who went down with the ship. In time the blame will fade out of mind and it will be only remembered that he died like a brave man at the post of honor and duty. Mistakes are not remembered when bravery pleads. Casabianca accomplished no good purpose, but nobody ever thinks of that, and the school children will keep on repeating forever the story of the brave boy who stood on the burning deck. That the Victoria was lost does not prove that Rear Admiral Tryon was not a good officer, it only shows that the best trained eye may make a miscalculation as to distance. Nothing will come of the disaster except a reminder of the old hymn, "On What a Slender Thread Hang Everlasting Things."

It is estimated that \$65,000,000,000 would cover the entire wealth of this country. It is also tearfully stated on fairly good authority that 25,000 out of a population of 62,372,401, own and control more than half the available assets of the country and are absorbing the balance as fast as they know how. Here is another fact, worth stopping to consider: Every year the American people squander in strong drink \$1,000,000,000, or one-sixty-fifth of the aggregation wealth of the country—a sum larger than that fooled away for tobacco, bread, shoes and several other necessities combined. The person who lives to be sixty-five years of age will have seen, if he has kept his eyes peeled, every dollar of national wealth filtered through the coffers of the retailer in spirituous liquors. And in the face of this appalling fact, the red nosed anarchist will stand up to the bar, spend \$6.80 for drink and then grumble because the grocery dealer asks a profit of twenty cents on a sack of flour he subsequently purchases on time after spending so much for coffin varnish that he might have strength of breath to curse the government for the down-trodden condition of those who labor by the sweat of their brow. There is just reason for fearing that so long as our people spend a billion dollars every year for harmful beverages, when water is so cheap, universal prosperity will continue to be something of an iridescent dream—attainable, but not attained.—Journal Daily Drift.

The public is quick to appreciate an article of merit, and when the publishers of The State Journal began offering their Semi-Weekly at only \$1.00 per year, the same price that others ask for their weeklies which only give half as many papers, the subscription list doubled in a few months, and has since been growing with wonderful rapidity leaving the old-fashioned weeklies away behind. People don't see any use in waiting a whole week for the news when they can get it fresh twice a week for the same money. Readers of The Semi-Weekly Journal get 104 papers a year for only \$1.00, which is less than one cent per copy, and they find the paper almost as good as a daily. If you have not yet tried this great paper, do so at once. It gives you the market twice each week, which alone is worth the price. Some of our special offers are: The Journal and either The Standard History of the United States, Stanley's Adventures in Africa, Life of Spurgeon or Life of Harrison, handsomely bound books, postage all paid, for \$1.40. The Journal and Weekly New York Tribune both one year, \$1.25. For \$2.00 we will send The Journal two years and one of the above books free; for two new subscribers (your one may be one of them) we will send you any one of the above named books free; for \$1.65 we will send The Journal and Tribune, and any one of the books. We mean business and our offers are down to hard-time prices. Send for a free sample at once. Address, Nebraska State Journal, Lincoln, Neb.

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