

THE MISTRESS A HEROINE

Mrs. B. A. P., an Experienced Woman, Discusses the Domestic Service Problem.

A MAN KNOWS NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT IT.

Spiritualism One of the Fads—What a Woman with Red Hair Should Wear—The Rage for Black and White Likely to Last Into Autumn.

Editor's Note: Just finished reading the article on the domestic service question in THE SUNDAY BEE of the 6th inst., and would kindly ask a little space in your valuable paper for the purpose of presenting facts in an opposite view from this writer, based on actual experience with this much discussed, lauded and written about "queen of the kitchen." The mistress is equally discussed in conjunction with the maid, as a natural consequence; but is she ever spoken of in a kindly manner? I do not wish to speak disparagingly of the servant (she will receive her dues), but merely give facts and due justice and honor to the much abused and maligned mistresses.

Whenever I read an article on this question representing the lady of the house as almost a slave to us, this writer's assertion verbatim, "inasmuch, on the contrary, thinks she has a more care on the body and soul of every servant connected with her establishment," and the servant as abused, I cry out, with my experience, "How unreasonable amid the existing order of things" is this writer a wife, mother, mistress, with husband, children, home and help to guide and watch over, besides the multitudinous services required of her for church, society, and so on?" If she is all these and has had long and thorough experience with the average servant girl, and can still present the mistress as exacting and unreasonable, it is simply unreal, and her experience is one of the few, and cannot be a representative picture of American life. It has been well said, even married, with no home of her own or may she has a home, but a vocation that necessitates her absence the greater part of the day, then she cannot be experienced authority. If the writer be a man and unmarried he positively knows nothing about it, and if he be married and classes his wife with all other housewives as belonging to a sort of soulless order of beings in their relations to their help, then his statement is no criterion. It is only the mistress who has had daily personal experience with all sorts, ages, nationalities and degrees of help, who can be relied upon as authority on this much mooted question. Now

I submit that twenty-three years experience with housekeepers and girls, and the confidence of an extensive acquaintance in this and other cities in that direction, will enable me to speak with a pretty good knowledge on the relation of mistress and maid.

The BEE in speaking of the mistress desiring to get extra help out of a servant says she engages a woman to wash, the woman preferring to come at 5 o'clock in the morning in the summer, and when she is through with the washing the mistress forgets how bright and early she began work and will find cleaning and scrubbing to keep her until 5 o'clock or if not the woman may go to enough ironing to get in a full day. Now, were we to ask every mistress of the world what she does? Once when I was a washerwoman at such hour in the morning she usually comes I do not think one could say as early as 5 o'clock. I have had washerwoman who never came earlier than half past 7, and often at a quarter to 8, and when the washing was finished at 2 or 3 o'clock, received their pay for a day's work and left without doing any cleaning or scrubbing. As for them doing any ironing on that day, it has never been done for me, and I did not expect it, as I supposed this was the rule, although an unjust one to the mistress who was paying a day's wages for several hours less than a day's work. The washing may be wretchedly done, yet the maid is asked and paid. I fail to see in this where the mistress was acting to the maid.

The writer in THE BEE avers that were women to establish a certain number of hours as a day's work for a girl, and when employing her have it understood, and the mistress keep the contract that the girl would gladly do the same. This is not doubted were it possible. The utter impracticability of such a rule will readily be made obvious. The work of a family and home, or the machinery of housework can not possibly be classed with any systematic commercial business, or any other business for that matter, that begins at a certain hour in the morning and closes at a certain hour in the evening. It is so unlike all others, in that the domestic and necessities of a family and home are so varied, ever changing from some cause or other, often times suddenly increased, again lessened and at times as the exigencies of the case demands, requiring extra work from both family and servants, at others far less than the regular routine, hence the stipulating of a certain number of hours as a day's work for a girl could never be consistently and satisfactorily carried out. While every home can be run systematically to a great extent, unavoidable occurrences are bound to change the regularity, making the work of the family and servants vary in consequence and these matters are to be easily explained and understood, when employing help, between maid and maid as to her number of working hours are useless, and would be more honored in the breach than the observance. While the theory might be correct, I have yet to see it in practice. But even under all these circumstances, a girl's working hours vary but little, and these unforeseen happenings are not always the fault of the mistress.

The Editor again says the good girl should have an appreciation shown her. All good servant girls know they are recognized and appreciated as such. There is no name outside of my name that I would sooner oblige and delight than my good girl. In every home no member of the family is approached more carefully, considerately and kindly than this same good girl. We all like her and she is the veriest monarch of the home, in this free country. Her life is happier and freer from care than the mistress, and no one can believe that any woman would be exacting and unreasonable with such a girl. Only the other day, a lady said to me, "Why, I would rather have my children disappointed than to make any sacrifice to work on inconveniences such a girl." Surely this is an appreciation and it is but just to conclude that the mistress possesses as much generosity and kindness as the maid.

The writer asserts men will not be satisfied with anything but good work, and only keep the competent. True when men engage help they do not propose to teach help what the help claim to know. How is it with servants when engaged? They ask and are given high wages, are taught weeks, sometimes months and the labor and teach-

ings of the mistress not taken into account, high class wages going on all the time, when perhaps after all these efforts (as many as possible can testify) the girl is not found to be worth the high price she receives, but will accept no less. Another takes her place, asks the same, the usual routine and teaching goes on again, with perhaps some better results, perhaps worse.

I wish I were a Lady Bountiful with unlimited wealth to use for a few charitable purposes. One of the most important would be the founding of an institution for the thorough education of girls for every branch of housework, an institution for teaching healthful, palatable, and scientific cooking; for teaching housework with all its various branches, and for teaching how to thoroughly and beautifully wash and iron. Were the domestic educated for her vocation, as the bookkeeper, stenographer and others are for theirs, the many trials existing would be abolished. The educated girl would receive the high class wages to which she is entitled and the low contented maid.

To advise of this new and honest both mistress and domestic, a stimulus for the latter to reach the top notch salary and a happiness for the former. What an opportunity for some philanthropist. All the nations would rise and bless that heart.

In this feeble plea for the women of our land who keep help I have shown in a measure why they should be exonerated from all the blame that is so frequently hurled at them as the main cause for this domestic trouble, when the fact is they are heroes in the strife.

MRS. B. A. P.

A bottle of perfume is to the fingers of a chambermaid what a magnet is to iron filings. She is irresistibly drawn toward it, and it holds her fast. If she chances to have her conscience with her the sweet odors of the perfume bottles act as a narcotic on this moral regulator and numb its prickling powers and she helps herself to the perfumed liquid with the same unscrupulous audacity that a cat steals cream or an energetic baby snatches a handful of whiskers from its fond uncle's Van Dyke beard.

The chambermaid uses various kinds of perfume as indiscriminately as freely. Anyone with a delicately sensitive olfactory nerve can readily detect the presence of half a dozen Parisian perfumes when a chambermaid appears. This fatal publicity of the chambermaid to all the perfumes she chances to find convincing a young wag staying at one of the Fifth Avenue hotels, that it was stole his perfume. It was evident when the chambermaid entered his apartment she had appreciated the patchouli in the room of guest 301, had appropriated the remaining drops of the lily of the valley on the chiffonier of guest 325, had helped herself liberally to the Florida water which guest No. 325 kept on his washstand, had carefully moistened the rims of her ears with the jasmine which was the favorite perfume of the lady in 337, and if 339 had happened to be out when she came to arrange his room this guileless Gretchen would have dampened her neckband with his Jockey Club.

A woman who can afford to buy all my Jockey Club Linda. Do you know anything about it?" innocently asked No. 339.

"I know nothings about it," answered the guileless Linda. "I did not know you had scents."

No. 339 bought a big bottle of perfume. It was labelled "Hair Restorer" and exhaled the odors of Arabia the Blest. Linda approved of it and proceeded to use it freely on her blonde locks. The mixture was furniture varnish diluted with Florida water and German cologne and the cork was soaked in Jockey club.

The next time Linda appeared in No. 339's room her blonde locks were cut short. He remarked the fact.

He short hair gave her conscience an opportunity to work. For one whole week Linda religiously abstained from touching a bottle of perfume. But the exquisite delicacy and penetrating sweetness of attar of roses the lady in 337 had forgotten to put under lock and key proved too strong an attraction for Linda to resist. It was an intoxicant that banished past regrets and future fears and all feeling of moral obligations. She now indulges freely in whatever perfume she finds and grows sweeter day by day. She discounts the odoriferous atmosphere of a fashionable druggist. If the righteous do not wish to put temptation in a weak sister's way, they should look up their perfume bottles, for the odor of sanctity is the only odor that a chambermaid will not appreciate.

A most interesting series of prize letters appeared last week dealing with the great question, "Can a woman reform a man?" or, in other words, the reverse of the still greater social problem enunciated in "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" and touched upon slightly in "The Hotel Train." Not a few writers seemed to consider the question only from the view of reformation by marriage, whereas a far nobler and heroic case could be put for the woman who, though by her love and tenderness, she brought a man back to his manhood, yet still made him feel that the dark past must leave its forbidding shadow at the portal of matrimonial happiness.

The general opinion seems to be that a woman can reform a man, although in most cases she ought not to do so. One writer, however, very powerfully says: "She is entering upon the most sacred relation of life without any sanctity in the bond; she is violating the divine tie of matrimony and has no warrant for exacting God's help or blessing." No one answer can be given, but I think the truth is that if a man, i. e., a certain man, is to be reformed, it will be by a woman's tenderness and loving self-sacrifice, and gradually the dust will be blown from his eyes, and he will come nearer the appreciation of God's most perfect gift—a noble woman.

"For internal use," says a physician, replying to a mother's query as to what drugs shall be kept in the house for emergency, "wine or syrup of ippecac is given as the safest emetic for children when indigestion or hæmorrhage has been experienced or when there is a fit of convulsions." Cough medicines and remedies for sore throat taken without medical advice are not much recommended, though "flax seed tea and syrup of ippecac in small doses may be permitted for a cough, and a gargaric of alum and water, or tannin and water, or chloride of potash in small quantities used in cases of sore throat while waiting for an intelligent diagnosis." And it is added, by way of warning in cases of throat trouble, "the distinction between the forms that are of slight moment and those of gravity is not easily made without practice."

In Nantucket, Mass., is still to be seen the house in which the justly-famed Quakeress, Lucretia Mott, was born and for very many years lived. It is in "town" as the hub of houses on the island's harbor side is called, and stands at the meeting of two narrow, stony highways leading toward the harbor and Fair streets. A large frame structure with the "hip roof" common to its era of architecture, wide, many-panel windows and hospitable doorway opening upon a double flight of steps leading sideways to the street, it is much the same in general appearance as when first built. The only noticeable modern touch is in its paint, which is of the

inspiring. Black is also depressing; it has a disagreeable effect upon men and animals. Dogs and babies will make friends more readily with brightly dressed people than with those in black garments. In normal colleges pupils teachers are advised not to dress in black any more than is necessary. No physician of the present day will allow a black garbed nurse to care for a serious case.

White makes a woman look big, wholesome, honest, winsome, and gay. White is favorite color with designing women of the world. The woman in white is generally the one who takes away another woman's husband, while the girl in white with a blue ribbon under her chin is the one who has all the beau at the party. Slim, sickly, careworn and colorless women look best with velvet bonnet strings and a lace ruche or scarf about the neck.

A woman with red hair should beware of pink, strawberry and scarlet. Blue above her waist is apt to make an unpleasantly strong contrast. Green is her color, white will be her stand by, and there are red, blues, coffee, oak and copper that will make her a model for an artist who dotes on beauty.

A fat woman should leave plaid, flannel, and tweed to the slender. The woman must avoid stripes. Red will brighten any woman but a red-head; it is the most charitable color in chromatic. Invalids on their "up" days look very prettily in red robes. More than one pale patient with a crimson silk lounge coat has caught her physician's fancy while convalescing and married him.

Dr. Julia Washburn of Lexington was recently elected vice president of the Homeopathic Medical Society of Kentucky.

Mrs. Anna Alcott Pratt, the original of Meg in Louisa Alcott's "Little Women," died at her home in Concord on July 1. The little woman renders the mother of the precocious Daisy and Demi was like all the Alcott sisters, a dear and valued friend, and her death

was a loss to the community.

Most fascinating are the new belts of a kind of gold tissue interwoven with many-colored silks and drawn through an old paste buckle.

Sticks show fanciful figured designs

rather than floral patterns, and spots, splinters and dashes overlaid in rich and harmonious color schemes.

The changeable effects, which, paradoxically, have become terribly monotonous, are giving way a little, though the shot velvets will be used with fair freedom in millinery.

Lambs are now shown decked out with marvelous shades of plaited straw. These are brilliant in color and eccentric in shape, and bear strange, large bows of straw.

Flowers not only appear in black, but in colors that do not follow nature's hues though true in form. This freak is a continuation of a midsummer idea already chronicled.

There is sudden revival of all the rich and pale shades of brown, from auburn to chestnut, Vandys, etc., through the many handsome hair tones, to beige, fawn and pale amber brown.

Black and white in combination, the Hiking for which is so notable now, will be carried forward from the midsummer costume to that of the autumn and promises to claim more attention than for many seasons.

In the matter of color graduation the fad of the wholesale openings will be the two-tone effects created by the abrupt transition—that has little of gradation in it—from the darkest to the lightest shade of one color.

One of Mrs. Langtry's favorite costumes is a deep cerulean printed with pale mauve flower sprays and touched with pale mauve velvet. The hat is of crocus mauve straw, trimmed with mauve iris and grasses.

Blouse bodices, belted and serpentine waists, and seamless waists, with plastrons, jackets and yokes, will continue through the autumn, freshened up in style by some odd and fanciful touch that makes them distinctly new.

In materials there are all sorts of two-toned bodices, crepon effects in camel's hair weaves, pop sacking with surface effects, a great variety of silk and wool goods, rough surfaced wools and those with the silky pile of the Tibet goat.

The latest thing for underskirts is the Japanese material called abaya cloth. It comes chiefly in white, almost covered with dark blue figures. It has almost no perceptible weight, washes nicely in fact, has everything to recommend it except beauty.

The newest sleeves are the Queen Anne, with pearl-shaped drapery falling over the elbow, and Second Empire flowing sleeves, with the under sleeve of lace or lawn, which gives such a dainty air of gentility to even a simple and inexpensive costume.

Surprised women choir singers have been introduced into the Epiphany church choir in Washington. They wear plain gowns of white, with flowing sleeves and deep edges of black. On their heads they wear simple toques with tassel and cord.

It is quite the fashion just now to wear the hair low in the neck, especially at the theater, but it is not a becoming style and is apt to detract from a woman's dignity of presence. For young and pretty girls the style is particularly adapted. It belongs to the ingenue.

At a recent fashion wedding the bridesmaids' white satins were trimmed with silver-painted passamanerie in the center. They were large picturesque green straw hats trimmed with pink wild roses and white ostrich tips, the brims lined up with white lace.

A forget-me-not luncheon is now given by the bridesmaids of an engaged young woman in honor of her approaching marriage. The decorations are all of blue, the guests wear posies of the forget-me-not, dear to lovers, and the flowers at the feast, all in blue, are arranged in hearts and true lover's knots.

The prettiest scarf mantles are made of accordion plaited black muslin, with long stool fronts, confined with a jet buckle. The large ruffs of lace, tulip or mouseline, called Henri II., or Valois, are also made to do duty with outdoor toilet in winter evenings.

On the black no ruffs are edged with narrow white lace.

With paniers, which some prophet has promised for 1893, if not sooner will return the exceedingly tight lacing and the eighteen-inch waist of its former reign. Already the reaction from the Empire grace of naturalness is apparent in the slenderness of the belted bodies. With the coming of the long-pointed waist there is sure to be a tightening of the laces.

Very pretty and simple for a young lady is a gown of which the skirt is of cerulean foulard, with a bounce ten inches deep of the same silk, with embroidered dots. The blouse corsage is of dotted chintz, belted with green ribbons and diamonded with tan buttons below the belt; the draped collar is of ribbon; the sleeves are a deep puff of plain silk attached to a cuff of dotted silk.

The French syndicate color card for the approaching winter gives a happy selection of browns, and many of these shades are to be noted in the autumn combinations with blue, green, yellow, gray or steel, pink and black. The illuminated effects, too, which are developed in some new ways, have incorporated more brown in their mixed composition than ever before, and this greatly to their improvement.

Feminine Notes. Suspended from the ceiling of the ball room with excellent effect.

The place of Maria Mitchell as professor of anatomy at Vassar college has been filled by Miss Mary E. Whitney.

Miss Dod, the best of Englishwomen tennis players, won the West of England championship when she was only 15 years old.

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett is established in a little country nook near London where she is at work on a play which she hopes to finish by Christmas. The ex-Empress Eugenie of France is godmother to 3,834 French children who were born on March 16, 1893, the day of the birth of her son, the prince imperial.

Mrs. Harriet Ruth Tracy's inventions in the Liberal Arts building at the World's fair include a fire escape, models of a safety passenger elevator with automatic platforms, and a rotary shuttle for the load and chain stitch.

Hostesses who have been puzzled to find some new form of entertainment must try the plan of a London woman who engaged a silhouette expert. All the men and maidens hung around in an unusual fever of impatience to be cut out.

Some time ago, in India, a large tiger killed the beloved husband of the eccentric Lady Dormer. Then the tigress, in her turn, was also killed. Now the bereaved widow is bringing the head and tail of the dead animal home with her.

For the first time in the history of public dinners a woman has responded to the toast, "The Army." The occasion was a dinner in honor of the British trained nurses, and the response was by Miss Loch, superintendent of the Indian Army Nursing service.

French machine lace or the hand-made chantilly is chosen for black pa'sols, and is combined with chiffon or with crepe de chine.

Most fascinating are the new belts of a kind of gold tissue interwoven with many-colored silks and drawn through an old paste buckle.

Umbrellas are made of changeable taffeta in very dark coloring and furnished with cherry or violet sticks.

Two-tone ideas will be seen in feathers, in the facing of felt and velvet hats, and will be more or less wrought out in other lines.

The black and white flowers, made of feathers or of silk and velvet, are perhaps as genuinely new as anything brought out.

Lace parasols are again in favor, and many real lace covers are once more brought into use after having been laid away for years.

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