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**CRUEL MEN AND AFFINITIES**

Passionate Plea of a Texas Wife at a Great Crisis.

**ELLA WHEELER WILCOX'S VIEW**

Subject of Sound Marital Relations Has Many Angles Besides that Presented by the New At-Hasty Eruption.

BY ELLA WHEELER WILCOX. Copyright, 1911, by American-Journal-Examiner, Great Britain Rights Reserved.

"Listen, I have just passed through an awful ordeal—the scorching fire of a divorce court, where penniless, helpless and without blood kin, I stood and faced vilely false accusations and malicious charges preferred by my husband, who even tried to bewitch my good name in his effort after freedom in order to marry a younger woman.

"I won, though they tell me the jury hung, nine for me, three unable to hold an opinion against me or for him. Now I am to be tortured on the rack again and with added testimony I can get I will win and go forth with a stainless name into a union—where I can't earn my support. I have a little girl who must face this shame—and already her face bears the look of the tragedy forced upon her.

**Divorce Laws Are Brutal.**

"I tell you our divorce laws are shameful, brutal, barbarous. I beg you gather your forces and write an earnest appeal to our lawmakers for home protection, for laws refusing divorce; or if divorce must be given, to prevent the guilty one from marrying again. And above all, to prevent mean, cruel, and unscrupulous state to obtain the divorce they cannot get at home. In my state, Texas, a man may desert his wife, and there is no law to compel him to support his children. I know three such children now, in a public charitable institution because their father will not, and their mother can not, support them.

"What does a marriage vow or wedding ring mean today when a man can (after his wife fades) divorce her for nothing at all, in order to marry a new affinity or a younger woman? If I died tonight, by my own hand, with the anguish of my situation, my husband would be the murderer, as if he fired the shot.

"Write, I beg you, a strong article to help such women as myself."

This is a portion of a passionate plea from a Texas woman who finds herself thrust from her husband's home and heart, while he follows the call of the "affinity." But the task assigned me by my correspondent is greater than that given to Hercules.

Hercules, as everybody knows, was commanded to clean the Augean stables. Augus, the king, had a herd of 3,000 oxen, and their stalls had not been cleaned for thirty years. Hercules brought the rivers of Alpheus and Peneus to flow through them, and cleaned them thoroughly in one day.

**Affinity Fully is Old.**

Manhood has had its affinity stables ever since the beginning of time, and for more than thirty years the stalls have been overfilled and no one has attempted to clean them out.

It is a task far beyond my powers, that which the scourge of Texas has assigned to me. There are not rivers enough in America to wash these stables in a day, or a year.

The subject is a vast one, and it can not be argued along straight and logical lines. It is as confusing as a railroad map. There seems to me but one thing more terrible than the divorcing of a good wife and mother by a husband who has tired of his obligations; and that is, obliging a woman to live on with a man who is tired of her. That is the greatest possible degradation which can come to a woman.

When a man tires of a woman, and no longer wishes to live with her, there is only one thing for her to do if she can not win him back to love her and desire to stay with her; she must let him go—free him as quickly as possible. But our laws should provide for her maintenance and for the care of the children.

Now can we really or honestly pretend a divorced man or woman from re-marrying. Men and women are human beings, with human instincts, affections and emotions. To pass a law which forbids them marriage would be to drive them into immoral relations. It would be to fill the world with children born out of wedlock and to inflict suffering on innocent victims of such a law.

**Some Things Worse Than Divorce.**

When a man resorts to perjury, cruelty and persecution to free himself from a wife, that wife would be the most unfortunate of creatures were there a law which compelled her to live on in his companionship. Every atom of love and romance and beauty has gone from a marriage when a man can feel so determined to be free.

It is a tragic fact that some men do feel this wild desire for freedom, with no fault on the part of the wife, no pronounced fault at least. She has probably failed to keep the romantic side of his nature fed; she has settled into a commonplace and commonplace acceptance of the fact that she is his wife and he her husband, and she has permitted herself to grow old thinking it natural and inevitable. And so the man, who has more romance than loyalty, more passion than tenderness, more love of adventure than high ideals, more selfishness than generosity, falls a victim to the charms of some younger and more seductive woman.

All the virtues of the wife, all her worth, her faithfulness, her devotion, are forgotten in his emotional insanity, which he calls love. If the wife of such a man sees the first signs of this obsession, and if she has tact, self-control, great knowledge of human nature and a large enough love for her husband to include enough compassion for him, she can win him back before it is too late. It is like a fever, which in its incipient state can be broken, if allowed to run must take its course.

**Old Fools Most Easily Tempted.**

A large majority of the men who marry young and reach middle age without having been shaken from their loyalty, independence and unusual stress of temptation, become easy victims to the affinity. They are accustomed to a settled state of the emotional nature. Life has jogged along for a decade without much thought on either side of the romance of early youth.

The wife has accepted the support and good care of the husband, and he has accepted the good housekeeping, and neither

**Clearance Silks and Dress Goods Every Yard From Regular Stocks**

A lot of odds and ends and short lengths of silks that formerly sold up to \$1.00 the yard at 39c.

25 per cent discount on the entire stock of cloakings, including the fashionable polo cloths.

**Silks Worth to \$1.50 at 69c the Yard**

There are silks of every description suitable for waists, dresses, skirts, undershirts, linings, kimono, etc.—in fact, silks for every need. Assortment consists of mesalines, peau de cygne, hettias, louisines, and other fine silks in all of the best colorings and patterns.

Your unrestricted choice of all of our 54-inch broadcloths, including the wanted evening shades, at these prices—the \$3.50 grades at \$2.98 the yd. and the \$2.50 quality at \$1.98 the yd.

**\$1.00 and \$1.50 Dress Goods, 69c the Yard**

All wool plaids for children's wear, silk and wool crepe de Paris, chevron striped serges in all colors; 54-inch broadcloths, grey suitings and striped covers; 50-inch black serges, navy serges, honriettes, prunella cloth and batiste to go at this special clearing price of 69c.

**BENNETTS**

Ask for S. & H. Green Trading Stamps—Redeemable with Beautiful Premiums

**Sales for Balance of January, 1912**

Knit Underwear, Sat., 13th  
Hosiery, Sat., the 13th  
Waists, Friday, the 19th  
Books, Saturday, the 20th

Hand Bags, Sat., the 20th  
Umbrellas, Sat., the 27th  
Picture Frames, Sat., 27th  
Other events to appear daily

**The Prices in the Linen Sale are an Interesting Story in Themselves**

We bought immense lots direct from the manufacturers; we bought from exclusive sources, from mills that know of the great outlet of this store; we brought pressure to bear on the price part whenever it would not affect the quality. And so we invite all Omaha and surrounding country-housekeepers, hotel men, restaurant owners, purchasers for institutions, and every lover of fine linens—to a sale which will meet with your hearty approval.

There are pattern cloths, with napkins to match, variously priced according to the size and quality. One special lot, in extra large sizes, that sold up to \$10.00 now being marked at \$5.00.

And there are other pattern cloths as low as \$1.95 each. Yard damasks may be had for as little as 29c, and from that price on up to any figure that is reasonable. There are splendid napkins—see the dozen and many grades from those up to the largest and finest Madeira hand embroidered napkins reduced from \$12.50 to \$11.95. Towels, pillow cases, sheets, bed spreads and blankets may also be had at greatly reduced prices.



**JANUARY WHITE SALE**

**Muslin Underwear and Fine Embroideries the Chief Attractions in This Sale**

This is an event that will again forcibly demonstrate the purchasing power of this store as applied to sales of immediate importance and its ability to force prices down to the very lowest notch, enabling us to give our patrons the benefit of the greatest savings.

OUR MUSLIN UNDERWEAR AND EMBROIDERY SALES JOIN HIGHEST VALUE WITH THE LOWEST PRICE. And the highest value and lowest price are not impossible yoke mates, given the knowledge how to harness them together. It all depends. Bennett White Sales are up-stoppers year by year. Always bigger, broader, better. The only logical reason for this is the merchandise. It must not only be dependably good, but attractive, likeable, comfortable, good fitting and newly correct in style. And right prices, of course. Every item in any of our sales is priced at far less than you can find the same quality for elsewhere. Quantity orders—quantities that spell a sale which will last out the month—bring the prices that make Bennett White Sales distinctive and the most popular. So we ask you to consider the following items only as specimen values—there are hundreds of others in the store equally as good.

Come to this sale early and come prepared to see the underwear and embroidery surprise of the town. It will be such a remarkable sale from every standpoint that we cannot say enough in its favor. You should see the exquisite creations.

- Embroidery trimmed nainsook gowns, short sleeves and low necks, 69c
- Maternity night dresses of fine nainsook trimmed with laces and embroideries ..... \$2.00
- An extra special lot of fine muslin and nainsook gowns with low neck, short sleeves and embroidery trimming ..... \$1.00
- Muslin and nainsook gowns of unusually fine quality; have yokes of lace and embroidery ..... \$1.25
- Dainty gowns, finished with pretty laces and embroideries ..... \$1.25
- Gowns, skirts and drawers, trimmed with the finest of laces and embroideries ..... \$1.75
- Some very wonderful values in various lingerie pieces of sheer materials, trimmed with beautiful laces and embroideries, are shown at \$2.25

**Fur Scarf Special**

100 black fur scarfs lined with satin and trimmed with ornaments, all widths and lengths, that formerly sold at \$10.00 and \$12.50, Monday, or while they last.

**\$5 Each**

- Nainsook combination suits of a very fine quality, finished with laces and embroideries ..... \$1.00
- Muslin undershirts with deep flounces of embroidery—the very best values ever offered in Omaha at ..... \$1.00
- One lot of corset covers at ..... 15c
- One lot of muslin drawers at ..... 15c
- Muslin drawers with embroidery trimming ..... 25c
- Skirts, gowns and drawers of a very good quality ..... 39c
- A splendid assortment of good quality gowns, skirts, drawers and corset covers is very much underpriced at ..... 59c
- Infants' and children's undermuslins, consisting of dresses, gowns, skirts and drawers at reductions ranging from a fourth to a half less.

**A Special Sale of Corsets Monday**

There will be five different styles, in two different lots, for you to choose from—all finely made from high grade coutils or batiste.

They have girder tops, hip confiners, shir string through the bust line, lace and ribbon trimmings and are supplied with three pairs of hose supporters.

**\$1.50 and \$2.50 Values, 89c and \$1.69**

Complete lines of brassieres at 39c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00.

**Clearance of Curtains**

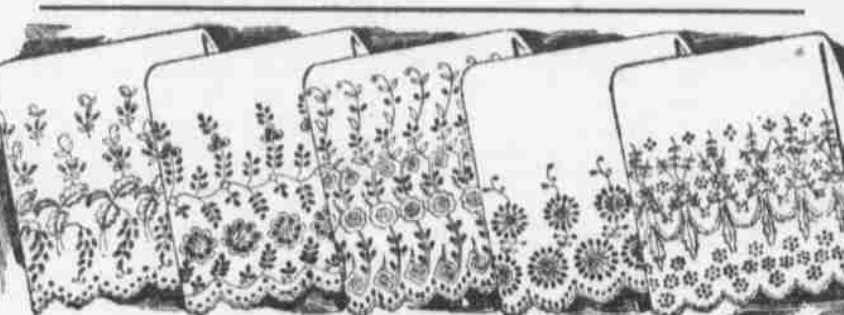
All Our Imported and Domestic Lace Curtains to Be Sacrificed in This Sale

At each price you will find a splendid selection of patterns for your choosing.

- \$13.50 novelty curtains, pair, at ..... \$8.75
- \$12.50 novelty curtains, pair, at ..... \$7.98
- \$7.00 novelty curtains, pair, at ..... \$3.65
- \$6.00 Battenberg curtains, pair ..... \$2.25
- \$3.50 Battenberg Curtains, pair ..... \$1.98
- \$7.50 imported LaSalle curtains ..... \$3.98
- \$1.50 Nottingham curtains, pair ..... 98c
- \$2.45 Nottingham curtains, pair ..... \$1.50
- And others in proportion.

**Fruits and Vegetables at Less**

- Fancy Redland Oranges with 15 stamps, the dozen, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c and ..... 35c
- Extra fancy potatoes, peck, 30c
- Fancy yellow or red onions, per peck ..... 40c
- Fancy Holland red cabbage, lb. 2c
- 3 large lemons plain lettuce, 10c
- Large bunches fancy carrots, 5c
- Large bunches fancy radishes, 5c
- New English walnuts, lb. 17 1/2c
- Fancy dates, lb. 10c



**Word of the Embroideries**

Thousands and Thousands of Yards, Patterns More Beautiful Than We Have Ever Seen, Prices So Low the Sale Will Make History for the Store

Every yard comes to us direct from the very best European and American makers who have simply outdone themselves vying with one another for supremacy—and you must see what gorgeous effects, what lovely patterns they have evolved.

Fashion says embroideries will be in great favor this coming season. It is going to be an embroidery year—every month of it. And here comes a sale with qualities so good, patterns so lovely and values so tempting that women will lay away dozens and dozens of yards for spring and summer gowns, evening costumes, waists, skirts, underwear and every use throughout the year.

**You Will Get an Idea of the Pricing From These Few Remarkable Bargains**

- 18-inch swiss, nainsook and cambric flouncings and corset covers in floral and pretty eyelet designs; 39c, 49c and 59c values at 19c.
- One lot of embroidery edgings and insertings worth 19c, 12 1/2c and 15c the yard, at 5c.
- Swiss, nainsook and cambric embroideries in dainty patterns specially priced at 10c.
- 45-inch swiss flouncings in a great variety of floral and conventional patterns, \$2.00 values at 98c the yard.
- 27-inch swiss and nainsook flouncings in beautiful allover effects reduced to 69c the yard.
- 27-inch swiss allover flouncings that regularly sell at 75c and \$1.00 the yard, during this sale, 49c.
- 27-inch flouncings with handings to match are variously reduced in price as the quality calls for.
- Double edged bandings in a splendid assortment of very pretty patterns, during this sale, 15c the yard.

**25% Discount On All Base Burners**

In addition to the above discount on all base burners, we have several Peninsular hot blast heaters, with 14 and 18-inch size fire pots, that we are going to close out at \$19.50. They can be made air tight, have circular drafts for regulating the heat, Duplex grates and angular shaking rings. Will burn any kind of fuel.

**Other Hardware Bargains for Monday's Selling**

- 25c Perfection toasters, Monday only ..... 19c
- 75c wire brooms, purchased at 1.00 Monday ..... 49c
- 25c combination skirt and coat hanger ..... 19c
- 1 lot of floor brushes worth up to \$1.25 at ..... 35c
- 15c scrub brushes of white tam-plec ..... 9c
- Galvanized iron purchased at 25c and 10 stamps ..... 19c
- and 14-quart sizes; regularly priced up to 30c, Monday, at ..... 19c
- 1 lot of floor brushes worth up to \$1.25 at ..... 35c
- 35c, full size, black enameled, rain proof mail boxes of heavy sheet metal—like the illustration—Monday, 19c. Large size, 65c, black enameled, heavy metal mail boxes with locks, two keys and paper rack; Monday only, 39c.
- 1 lot of nickel plated crumb trays with scrapers, comb cases, custard cups, wire fry baskets, floor squeegees, sieve irons, etc., worth up to 50c each, Monday, choice ..... 10c
- \$7.00 "Justrite" washing machines on sale Monday at ..... \$5.50
- 150 good clothespins, Monday, for ..... 10c
- 48c Brass King wash boards, Monday ..... 25c
- 2 cans Columbia milk & 10 stps, 25c
- 2 cans Country Gentleman corn and 10 stamps ..... 25c
- 2 cans whole tomatoes and 10 stamps ..... 25c
- 2 cans peanut butter and 10 stamps ..... 25c
- Maple butter and 20 stamps, 48c
- 2 cans Horse radish and 5 stamps, bottle ..... 10c
- 2 cans sardines and 10 stamps ..... 25c
- Plums and 10 stamps, can ..... 10c
- Seeded raisins and 10 stamps, package ..... 12 1/2c
- Cleaned currants and 10 stamps ..... 25c
- 1 lb. Orange City rusk and 10 stamps ..... 25c
- 10-lb. sack white or yellow corn-meal ..... 18c
- 2-lb. pkg. Bennetts' Country buckwheat flour and 10 stamps, 12 1/2c

**Extra S. & H. Stamps in the Big Pure Food Store Monday & Tuesday--You'll Save Here**

- "Pride of Bennett's" flour—special offer of a sack at ..... \$1.35
- 1-lb. pkg. Bennetts' Capital coffee and 20 stamps ..... 25c
- Bennetts' golden coffee and 20 stamps ..... 25c
- Assorted teas and 50 stamps, lb. 48c
- Tea siftings and 10 stamps, lb. 15c
- 1-lb. can G. baking powder and 10 stamps ..... 13c
- 3 pks. Bennetts' Capital mince-meat and 10 stamps ..... 25c
- Galilars olive oil and 50 stamps, medium bottle ..... 45c
- Quart can Franco-American sauce ..... 20c
- 1-lb. can Sailer's pork and beans and 20 stamps ..... 25c
- 1-lb. can Sailer's chili sauce and 10 stamps, bottle ..... 25c
- 2-lb. pkg. Bennetts' Capital oats or pancake flour, with 10 stamps, for ..... 19c

one has studied the other to find whether any element was lacking to life. Neither imagined anything was lacking.

Then suddenly the husband is thrown with some woman who takes a delicate interest in his life, his business, in his appearance. She draws him out to talk of himself; she compliments his taste in neckties and comes, and he finds all at once the old sentiments of youth coming back to his heart. He takes a new pleasure in properly contending himself, and ten years will drop away from him. After that it is not difficult for the affinity to finish the work she has begun, if she cares to do so—unless, indeed, the man is made of sterling material, a hundred carats fine. If, added to the fact of commonplace, the wife has irritating faults; if she is a poor housekeeper, extravagant, slovenly, nagging, or high-tempered—just so much easier is the task of the affinity.

**Some Things Wives Forget.**

Every woman who marries ought to know that a man loves delicate flattery;

that he likes to be noticed; that he enjoys having his wife show the small attention she gave before marriage; that he is proud to have her consult his tastes in all things. And to care for his opinions. However weak and prone to err a man might be, he is less vulnerable to the attack of the affinity if he is accustomed to the little courtesies at home.

One thing is sure, mere goodness, mere loyalty, mere worth of character in a wife do not serve to keep husbands from straying into forbidden paths.

And women may just as well awaken to this truth. The woman who has awakened to it, and who understands that marriage is a fine art, one that requires constant study and care to make perfect, is seldom dragged into a divorce court and maligned by her husband. He may have his fascinations, his magnetic attractions, but he does not go far away from the woman who has known how to entertain him and care for his comfort, and ignore his weaknesses, and stimulate his strength through years of domestic life. Not unless he is a drinking man; and

then all rules fall, for the devil stands at his elbow.

Before our domestic troubles begin, a higher civilization, a higher education, a higher type of humanity must come to take the place of our modern conditions. Mothers must be the guides and teachers of their sons, and young men must grow into manhood understanding and respecting woman. And woman must be broadened and her point of view enlarged, so that she may understand what real companionship means to a man before our divorce evil will lessen.

The Augean stables were cleaned in a day.

The Affinity stables will require at least a century.

**Not a Fair Test.**

A man, impelled by a wager, went on the street and tried to sell genuine or counterfeit for 10 cents apiece. He drew a crowd, but no buyers. That wasn't a fair test, however. He should have offered genuine 10-cent pieces for a quarter apiece. That's where he would have succeeded. The public dearly loves to be fooled.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**LAUGHLIN SMOOTHS WAY THROUGH LIFE FOR ALL**

BY THE GENTLEWOMAN.

The recently published translation of "Laughter," by Prof. Bergson, has concentrated a good deal of attention on the subject.

Laughter is an excellent thing when it is spontaneous and natural, but of late years a generation of spurious laughers has arisen. Spurred on by such admonitions as "Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone," people eager for the popularity which is accorded to the jolly person have consciously cultivated a curious kind of cushion which does duty for laughter.

A certain type of modern man finds a "breezy" manner and a broad, unassuming laugh invaluable in achieving business deals. Such manifestations of geniality and good nature tend to disarm suspicion and invite confidence. No one ever suspects a fat jovial man

of having committed dark and dreary crimes; whereas the nervous and man is immediately marked out for suspicion.

"He looks as if he had committed a murder," people whisper to each other, although the poor soul is probably only suffering from an attack of indigestion. It is a rooted conviction in the minds of many people that so long as a person can laugh heartily all must be well with him. This may be true of genuine laughter, but there are many excellent imitations.

Generally speaking, laughter is not an aid to progress. Shelly (who was no laughing) averred that there would be no regeneration of mankind until laughter was put down. People who are easily moved to mirth are not the stuff of which martyrs and heroes are made. Never has anyone ascended to great heights on the ladder of laughter. When we come to grips with realities, when we view life sub specie cternitatis, our laughter suddenly subsides. The sense of humor which lifted us so pleasantly over minor misfortunes deserts us in the most disastrous manner. The fabric of

the soul is woven more of tragedy than comedy. When a man is in deadly earnest he does not laugh.

Psychologists—those who study the soul—are seldom humorists. Philosophers would lose their power if they "brightened up" the profundity of their pages with jests and jokes. Preachers (and they are not a few nowadays) who evoke laughter in their listeners destroy the feeling of reverence. "Men go not laughing to heaven." Of course, one has heard of the laughter of the gods, but it is the laughter of irony. There is tragedy behind it. As Matthew Arnold says:

The gods laugh in their sleeves To see men doubt and fear. For the great bulk of the people, those who are neither preachers nor prophets, great geniuses nor great reformers, laughter is a very salutary thing so long as it is genuine and spontaneous, and provided it is not the outcome of mere frivolousness and frivolity. It tends to sanity and a sense of proportion and is undeniably a great help in the smaller troubles and trials of life.