

Mirandy on Why Women Can't Vote

Written by Dorothy Dix

Illustrated by E. W. Kemble

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"I OPEN MY MOUTH AND SHUTS MY EYES."

"De reason dat woman ain't got de right to vote ain't because dey is lackin' in sense an' probubles," said Mirandy; "hit's because dey's lackin' in backbone. Dey ain't got no spinal column, an' dey ain't to blame for dat, because hit's along de way dat de good Lawd made 'em."

"Now, last night, Erer Jenkins preached in church 'bout dat man down in Egypt—er some odder furrin cty—what is a diggin' aroun' in de place where de Garden of Eden was, an' he say dat of de man ain't exactly disastred de bone dat Eve was made out of, he's done found de next thing to hit. He's done found de place whar hit come from. He say dat de men what lived befo' Adam had one mo' rib dem has got wh'at lived after him, an' of dat misin' rib ain't women, whar is hit? Dat's de question. Whar is hit?"

"Of course, de findin' of dat rib didn't make no difference to me, because I done made my peace mo' dan thirty years ago, an' I've been a steppin in de church ever since. Me'over, I've got de faith, an' of 'faith ain't betterin', what you know ain't so, an' jest 'nat'ally can't be so, den I don't know whar hit is."

"I does de alike about de doctor an' de preacher. I opens my mouth, an' dey pokes down me without prognosin' 'bout hit's inwardness, or wh'at hit's gwine to wuk."

"I ain't never ben one of dem dat run after 'evry' new belief dat come along, an' dat's de reason dat I ain't never look up wid de heah' doctrines 'bout things not bein' made at de start of de creation, but just havin' growed. Co'se, ev'body to der taste, but hit seem lak to me dat dem folks what laka to claim a monkey for dere grandpa has got mighty little pride, an' mighty little call to brag on dere family tree."

"But I ain't never had no trouble in believin' dat woman was made out of

an' make just one good fight for 'em. I ain't a-sayin' nothin' against dem anti-societies. I 'spects dey does lots of good, but I done took notice dat dem reformers reform most and quickest what you know after wid a ax when yo' dander is up."

"I know how dat is myself. When me an' Ike fust got married, after he got tired of holdin' my hand, he began to segastute off of de straight an' narrow path, away from home, an' back to de trap game an' de corner saloon. Co'se dat makes a mighty talk an' some of de sisters in Israel comes to me an' axas, 'Did I want de prayers of de church for him?' an' I say, not until after my right arm give out."

"So dat night when Ike got home he found his lovin' wife a-waitin' up for him wid de rollin' pin in one hand an' de stove lifter in de oder, an' by de time he got out of de hospital hit looked lak he kinder lost his interest in wanderin' away from his own frinds. Leastways when he sort of looks wish-ful toward de do' of a night, an' he catches my eye a-wanderin' toward a flat-top he settles back in his chair, an' says he believes he feels too tired to go out anyway."

"Yassum, dey talks 'bout de differens between men an' women, but de biggest difference is in dis matter of de backbone, an' hit's what keeps women good. An' givins men de right to be bad, for dese ain't no foolness dat a miah will stand in a woman, an' dere ain't no fool-

gits harder. An' so we women is des a-achin' to have a finger in dat government pie, an' see of we can't put a little mo' sweeten in hit, an' make it a little lighter, so dat hit won't set so heavy an' obligatin' on de stomachs of dem what ain't millionaires."

"Yessir, we'se jest a bo'nin' for de franchise, an' we might have had hit any time dese last forty years, if we had riz up an' fought one good fight for hit, but instead of dat we'se set aroun' a-holdin' our hands, an' all dat we'se done is to say in a meek voice to men:

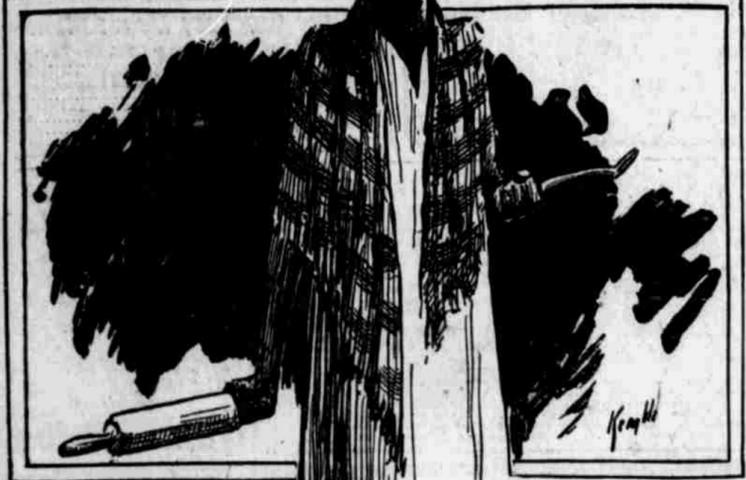
"Please, sir, I don't lak to trouble you, but if you'd kindly pass me de ballot, hit sho'dly would be agreeable to me."

"An' instead of givin' hit to us men has kind of winked one eye to each oder an' 'sponded:

"Lawd, she don't want hit, or else she'd make a fuss about hit. Dat's de way we did. We didn't go after de right to vote wid our pink tea-manners on. Co'se some day we'se got to give her her share of de estate, but we'll hold on to it until she comes after hit wid hay on her horns. Den we'll fork it over to her in a hurry."

"Yassir, dat's de way word, an' you listen to me—de dey dat women spunks up, and rolls up der sleeves an' says to der husbands dat dere ain't gwine to be no mo' cookin' in dis house, nor gartin' of nos, nor patchin' of breeches until dere 's some female votin' doin', why, dat day de ballot will be fetched home to women on a silver salver. All dat stands between women and suffrage is de lack of a spinal column."

"Yassum, most of de trouble in dis worl' dat women has comes along of der back'se born wid a wishbone instad of a backbone, but I say dey can't help hit. Hit's all de fault of de way dey was made. But whar I'd lak to know is dis—why women didn't get a show at Adam's backbone instad of his chest protector?"



WOMAN'S TRAVELS IN AFRICA

man's rib. What worries me is why de Lawd's choice for de rib, which ain't nothin' but a sort of raft to hold up a man's chest an' swell hit out, an make him look proud, but dat ain't nothin' important in itself, an' dat is about de easiest thing dat he can spare without misin' hit."

"Co'se I ain't a-presumin' to criticise de good master, but hit does look lak to me dat when he was a-creatin' woman, an' had the whole man to cut from dat he could have saved us a lot of trouble if he had made Eve out of a few 'jints of Adam's backbone instad of dat rib."

"Yassum, dat's so, for ain't a rib de easiest squashed thing in de whole human body? An' when you goes to de market an' wants to git de tenderest roast, don't you buy de rib roast?"

"Yassum, an' dat's de trouble wid women down to dis very day. Dey ain't got no backbone. Of a rib dey was made an' a rib dey has stayed, an' nobody ain't got no right to expect nothin' else from 'em. Hit's because woman was made out of man's rib—an' from de way she acts hit looks lak she was made out of a floatin' rib at dat—an' man was left wid all his backbone, dat he's got de conspuance over woman. An' dat's de reason dat we women sets down, an' cry when de ought to git up an' heave backbones. Yassum, most of women's troubles in de worl' comes of dere not havin' no backbone, an' I don't know nothin' dat makes you want to cry out of one side of ya mouf an' laugh out of de oder mo' dan is de fact dat most of de women in de worl' is down on dere knees prayin' for miracles so dat dey could make happen dere-

Miss Olive Macleod, who traveled through Nigeria, the German Cameroons and the French Congo to set up a stone on the grave of Lieutenant Boyd Alexander, to whom she had been engaged, told how she had traveled close on 4,000 miles in Africa, chiefly on foot and horse-back, penetrating to many spots which no white feet had ever trod before.

What struck one in her gossiping account of her travels was that humanity is very much the same beneath the surface all over the world. A native Syrian's court, she said, reminded her very much of a European monarch's. The court officials had much the same appointment of duties and quarreled about precedence in the same way.

Black bellies wear false tails of hair and pads to make their own appear more luxuriant. Even their little children play marbles in the English style. And when reformers among us advocate certificates of fitness for marriage they are only pleading for a system which obtains among many West African tribes.

The young men of these tribes are tested as to their manliness and endurance by being beaten with strips of leather or by being obliged to climb up the face of an almost perpendicular rock. Unless they satisfy the test they cannot marry. No women would accept them as husbands.

One very interesting point was that the natives pick up English quickly and regard it as "the white man's language." If Frenchmen and Germans cannot speak it they are not looked upon as "proper white men." So general is this view that the German officers and sergeants are obliged to drill their black troops with English words of command.—London Mail.

"'Furdema, when de meat trust puts up de price of po'k chops hit's de women dat is got to agueese de dollar until de eagle hollers a little louder to feed der chillun. Hit's women dat has got to patch der husband's breeches and turn der old dresses one time mo' at de tariff puts up de price of clothes. Hit's women dat has got to send der men folks out to fight or war comes on de country."

"Hit's women dat has got to see der babies die of de streets ain't cleaned, and de milk is watered. Hit's women dat has got to put der little chillun out to work when dey ought to be playin', of times

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- Bed Pans, oval with outlet tube, at 25.00
- Bed Pans, English—each 50c
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- Breast Pumps, English—each 15c
- Bulbs, for Syringes and Atomizers, at \$1.00
- Cupping Cups—each 15c
- Chair Cushions, Invalid, \$1 to \$2.00
- Catheters, Common English—each 25c
- Combination Syringes, 3 quart, at \$1.25 to \$2.50
- Crotch Rubber, per pair 50c
- Diapers, any size—each 50c
- Double Bulb Atomizer \$1.50
- Ear and Uter Syringes 25c
- Emark Bandages \$1.00
- Finger Cots, thick and thin, each 50c
- Fountain Syringes, very best, 1 qt. size, 2 quart \$1.00
- Gloves, per pair 50c to \$1.25
- Hard Rubber Pipes 15c to 25c
- Head Bags 15c to \$1.00
- Head Collar \$1.50
- Head Collars, Invalid, \$1.75, \$2.00 and \$2.25
- Ice Bags 35c, 50c and 50c
- Inhalers—each 50c to \$1.00
- Medicine Droppers—each 15c
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- Syringes, Fountain 50c to \$1.00
- Syringes, "Combination," \$1 and up
- Syringes, Ear and Uter, each 25c
- Syringes, Urethral 25c and 50c
- Syringes, P. P. 25c and 50c
- Syringes, Infants, all soft rubber, at 25c
- Syringe Bags, best, 2-qt. 50c
- Teething Rings, each 15c
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HOW THE JAPANESE ALWAYS REMAIN SLENDER

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In spite of these facts, the natives of Japan, both men and women, always present such a slender, trim, neat appearance. Although corsets are rare in that country, the women there have beautiful figures that any American woman might well envy, and the Japanese men have strong, athletic bodies that are envied by our own people.

After diligent inquiry about the cause of this, I became more than ever convinced that they were using carefully selected methods of fat reduction and fat prevention far in advance of anything known to medical science in this country. As the finding of such a method was a matter of life or death to me at that time, I consulted numerous authorities and set about asking questions of those who would be likely to know anything about it. I am glad to say that my untiring efforts were finally rewarded by the discovery of a new means of fat reduction that I determined to give a short trial immediately.

On returning from a recent trip Dr. F. Turner, the physician, scientist, and traveler, who has won fame and world-wide renown through his writings and scientific research, according to an interview to press representatives who were astonished by his loss of more than 100 pounds of excessive fat since they last saw him. They found it difficult indeed, to recognize in the slender, muscular and perfectly proportioned form of Dr. Turner today, the same man whom only a few months ago they knew as a semi-invalid, so enormously fat that he could hardly walk.

When questioned concerning his health and the remarkable change in his appearance, Dr. Turner said that the secret was in these warnings that the food was approaching very rapidly although the examining physician of a large Life Insurance Company, when refusing point blank to accept me as a risk, had already told me I was likely to drop dead any minute. I tried every means of reduction known to medical science, but without the slightest relief. I then became desperate and began to use all the advertised treatments I had ever heard of. These not only failed to help me, but they did considerable harm, one nearly causing my death on account of the powerful drugs it contained. Although a physician, I am strongly opposed to the use of drugs in treating obesity. I have never known a case where they did anything but harm when used for this purpose. There are also treatments put on the market by persons who are without a physician's training, and I firmly believe that if I had continued one or two of the methods recommended by these ignorant, so-called advertising "specialists" I would now be in my grave.

"My discovery came about during my trip and in this way. When seeking data for some literary work, I found a reference to the manner in which the Japanese were said to easily overcome any tendency to take on superfluous flesh. It was easily apparent from observation that the Japs are comparatively heavy eaters and that their diet consists largely of rice, the most starchy and therefore the most fat-forming of all grains. I had often wondered why,

Best Sport News in The Bee