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Why Rich Miss Drexel Prefers a Continental Marriage

"American Girls Are Dunces in Matrimony," Says Miss Drexel, Crossing Off All That America Has Thought Made Its Marriage Better Than the European and Holding Up European Standards of Domestic Life as a Model.

The American Marriage is Better than The European Because —

THE American husband expects no dowry with his wife.

The American marriage is a love match in most cases.

The American husband treats his wife with more deference than the foreigner.

He spends all or most of his income on his wife and family.

He leaves the control of the home and children to his wife.

He keeps out of the way all day and at other times when he is not wanted.

He gives his wife long vacations while he works hard to support her.

He is not allowed to amuse himself except as his wife pleases.

American family life is purer and wholesomer than European.

American wives are equal or more than equal to their husbands, while European wives are vassals.

Democratic ideals have raised marriage to a higher plane in America than in Europe, where it remains a feudal institution.

American wives and husbands have perfect confidence in one another, and no secrets.

There are no caste rules that compel a couple to live in a certain style.

When husband and wife are quite incompatible they can get a divorce easily without resorting to disgraceful conduct, as in Europe.

The European Marriage is Better than The American Because —

IN THE wealthy classes, husband and wife have definite duties to the community.

The marriage is arranged by parents—that is, by mature, sensible people.

It is not a love match and therefore does not end in divorce so frequently as the American marriage.

Husband and wife must each bring a reasonable fortune, so they begin married life with sufficient means and on a financial equality.

The Continental husband is interested in politics, the welfare of his neighbors, the development of his estate, sport, and public affairs generally.

The more interesting life of the Continental husband extends to his wife, who has to look after the women and children on her estate and aid her husband's political plans.

The husband has more knowledge of art and literature, and possesses more of the social graces than the American.

He gives much of his time to his wife and does not spend all day at business.

He runs the household, the servants and the children himself to a great extent, thus realizing the older idea of a home better than the American.

Life is simple in well bred European families, and free from the frantic extravagance of rich American society.



The Duchess of Marlborough, An American Girl, Who Has Been Left by Her Noble Husband to Pursue Serious Aims.

Hence he makes a much more interesting husband, and married life in European high society is a much more worthy and serious affair than in American fashionable society.

Strange to say, it is Miss Drexel's state of mind on this subject that has decided her parents to live abroad. They are going to live in either France or England until Miss Alice changes her view point or marries. Therefore their beautiful Newport estate is to be rented for a term of years, and their New York mansion, one of the handsomest in the upper Fifth avenue section, will be placed on the market. Before settling on a permanent home in Europe the Drexels will make a trip around the world, taking their two sons with them.

Miss Drexel has very decided ideas on the limitations placed on the American society girl, and she is excellently qualified to contrast the merits of the American girl and her foreign prototype. She was educated entirely in Europe, and until she was eighteen her friends were all girls belonging to the old nobility of France and England. Her vacations were spent at wonderful chateaus in France or at great country houses in England. She did not spend one Summer in Newport with her parents, and came in contact with

She had balls given for her in Philadelphia as well as in New York. Then she had a London visit, when she was entertained by her aunt, the handsome Mrs. Tony Drexel. Everything was done to make this young heiress happy and contented with her lot.

Mr. Drexel is a multi-millionaire and a member of the Morgan firm. Mr. Morgan sent the lucky debutante a pearl necklace as a coming-out gift. Mrs. Drexel, one of the leaders of the New York-Newport set, is a noted hostess, and she did everything possible to provide pleasures for her daughter. It would seem as though the heart of any girl would be satisfied. But no, Miss Drexel finds that this life of dancing, dining, motoring and entertaining generally is a "no-account" existence.

"The average American girl of wealth and social position is a useless person," says this discontented young woman. She has no recognized place in the world. She has no responsibilities, no rules, no traditions to guide her; in fact, she has no social background. In England and on the Continent the conditions are entirely different. There a girl of family has specified social duties to perform, and she knows how to perform them. I do not mean 'calls' and entertaining, but duties connected with the family estates and fortune. Over there a girl has responsibilities that she can no more evade than she can evade being born.

"The schoolgirl of France and England may be diffident and gauche, but she knows her place in the world is well defined, that it was made for her perhaps two hundred years before she was born. Her family has been identified with an estate, or a county, or the Government for many generations. This condition gives her a poise, a power that the American society girl lacks so often.

"In this country, the girl who is to inherit a large fortune seldom knows anything about her future possessions, she has no tenantry to look after, no parish duties to perform such as the poorest 'lady of the Manor' will have in England or France. It is this lack of personal interest in her estate and in the welfare of the people who work on it that characterizes the usual American woman and makes foreigners marvel."

Miss Drexel not only censures this butterfly existence generally, but she has very emphatic opinions on the subject of matrimony. These strictures land on the American girl's life were not meant for publication and they only concern the girl of fashionable society. They were delivered at a luncheon given in honor of a Newport girl whose engagement was recently announced and were brought forth by the sad fact that so few marriages were occurring among the girls who have come out within the last five years. For this tragic state of affairs Miss Drexel blames the American parent not the girl.

Marriages need not be made in heaven, she said, but they should be made on earth.

"The continental marriage idea is the right one. The French girls who were at the convent with me have all married as their parents wished and they certainly seem to be happier than the young wives in the Newport

set are. None of their parents whose marriages were also arranged are separated or divorced and I never hear of any scandals in their families. Then, too, she added: "There are no old maids among the girls who went to school when I did, and their people were not all wealthy, either."

Miss Drexel is very young and very attractive. She has been a great favorite in the Newport set and has undoubtedly been more fêted and courted than any other girl there. She will celebrate her twenty-first birthday during the Winter. Her dissatisfaction with her present social environment may arise from the fact that she has had too good a time!

During the Summer this heiress to ten million dollars was converted to suffrage through Mrs. Belmont's work, and this conversion has added to her indictment against American society.

"When I marry, I want my husband to have a political career, and I don't like American politics. Just see how much Mrs. Waldorf Astor has done for her husband. That is what I want to do. It looks, she added, as though I should have to marry an Englishman!"

As a first step, toward this marriage Miss Drexel has decided to be presented at court immediately after her return from the proposed trip around the world. She is then to visit her cousin, the Viscountess Maidstone, whose husband plans to enter upon a serious public career this Winter.

Miss Drexel is the latest and most interesting addition to a long list of philosophers, psychologists and novelists, who have discussed the international marriage.

Miss Drexel has won a convert to her way of thinking, in Miss Lilla Bramhall Gilbert, a niece of William Gould Brokaw and Mrs. Preston Satterwhite. Miss Gilbert is one of the extremely wealthy heiresses of New York. She will inherit nearly twenty millions from her mother, Mrs. Bramhall Gilbert and her several Brokaw aunts and uncles. A few months ago Miss Gilbert's engagement to Howard Price Renshaw was announced. Mr. Renshaw is an American business man, a fine manly fellow. Four weeks ago, Miss Gilbert, a friend of Miss Drexel's, broke her engagement to Mr. Renshaw and said she had been converted to Miss Drexel's opinions about the American marriage. Miss Gilbert is to spend a year or two in England and on the continent, and her friends say, that she will undoubtedly live up to her new convictions by marrying a foreigner.

Upon no subject is there such diversity of opinion. We were called upon at the same time to thrill with pride over the splendid position achieved by Lady Curzon in England, and boil with indignation over the acridly treatment of his wife by Count de Castellane.

One writer shows that foreign marriages have made American women the most brilliant and influential persons in Europe. Another shows that they have mostly resulted in unspeakable misery for the American wives.

Does one brilliant marriage compensate for the misery suffered by the American wife in another case? Does the good time enjoyed by the Countess of Granard, as wife of King George's Master of the Horse, make up for the wrongs of the Countess de la Forest-Divonne, beaten and driven home without her property?

Paul Bourget, the psychological novelist of France, said that the American girl turned towards a European husband because she had received more culture than the American man.

Mrs. Emily Post, a clever novelist and member of New York society, has expressed a more up-to-date view. She says that if the American girl is dissatisfied with the American man it is because she is not sufficiently educated. He is a worker noted for doing things, while she is too often an idler, without sound education and serious aims in life. Hence she falls an easy victim to some worthless nobleman "whose social position in Europe is nil."



Miss Lilla Gilbert, an Heiress Who May Follow Miss Drexel's Example.

A NOVEL view of international marriages is put before the American public. It is the view of Miss Alice Drexel, daughter of those multi-millionaire members of fashionable society, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Drexel.

Miss Drexel thinks that European marriages are preferable to American because they lead to a more serious, useful, unostentatious, hard-working life.

This is rather a shock. We have heard a good deal about the failure of marriages between American heiresses and foreign noblemen on account of the idle and worthless character of the latter. There have been many facts that prove there are such failures.

But it seems there is something on the other side of the matter—Miss Drexel's side. Our opinion of foreign noblemen is often formed by comparing the worst specimens of them with the ordinary, hard-working American.

Miss Drexel's point, however, is that the rich and fashionable American man compares badly with the European man who occupies a similar social position. Incidentally, these defects are shared by the fashionable American's fashionable wife.

The American man of this type who is not in business does nothing but go to the club, drink drinks and wear clothes and talk horses and sports. The European man of corresponding position has an estate and looks after its management, occupies some public position and is interested in politics and public affairs. His wife shares in his interests and duties.



Miss Alice Drexel, the Serious Young Heiress, Who Is Taking Her Family to Live Abroad Because Domestic Life There Has More Duties.

no American girls of her own class except her cousin, Marguerite Drexel, who was brought up in the same way.

During these important formative years she lived, therefore, as the girls of these foreign families lived. She saw her friends trained to care for great estates, to care for their tenantry, to manage large forces of servants, and, as they grew older, to take an interest in public affairs.

After eight years of this life Miss Drexel was brought home and given the usual "coming out" of the girl of her class. Her parents spent, perhaps, two hundred thousand dollars on her first season, and her wealthy relatives, the Drexels of Philadelphia, spent nearly as much more to make her debut a brilliant one.