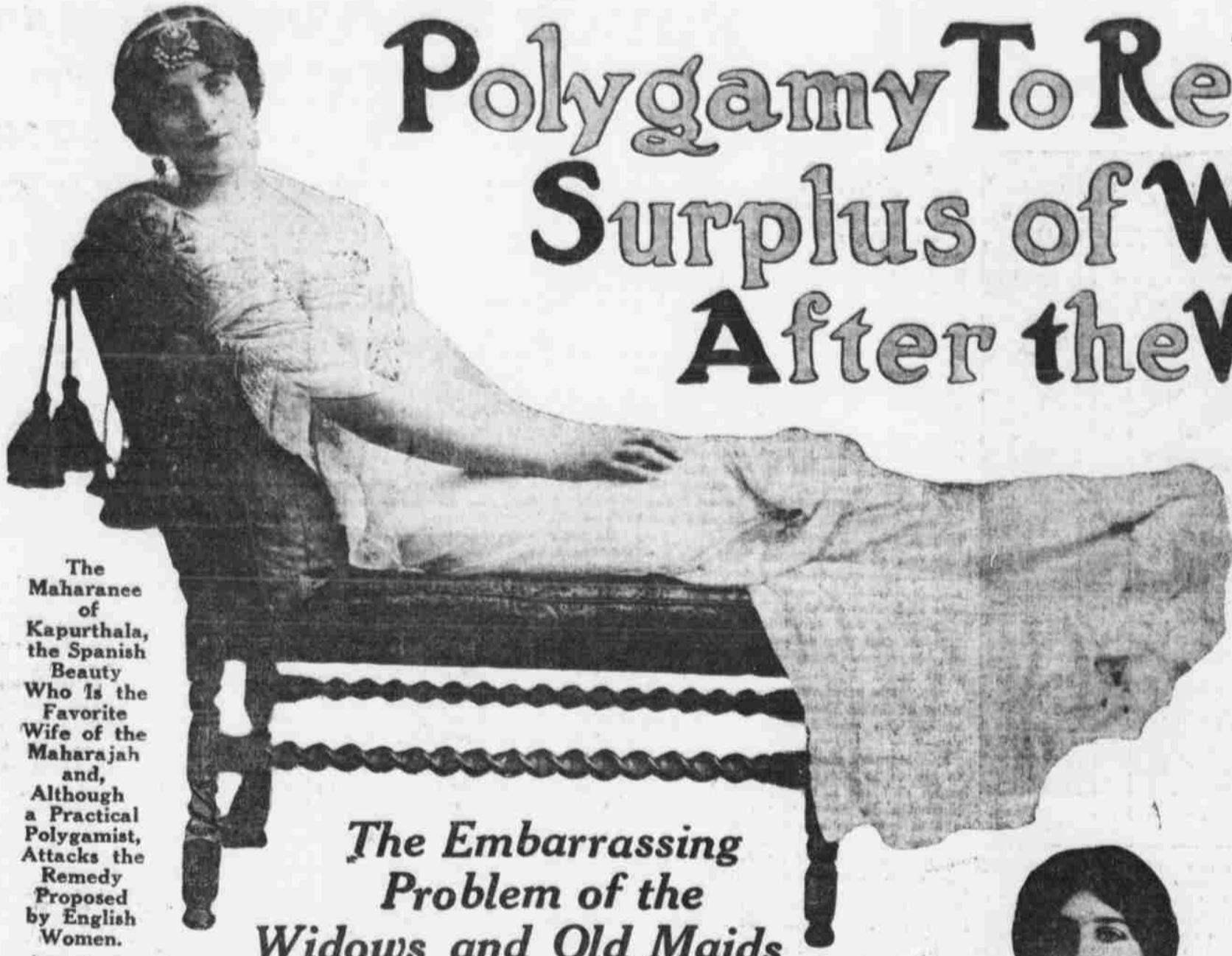


Polygamy To Relieve The Surplus of Women After the War?



The Maharanee of Kapurthala, the Spanish Beauty Who Is the Favorite Wife of the Maharajah and, Although a Practical Polygamist, Attacks the Remedy Proposed by English Women.

The Embarrassing Problem of the Widows and Old Maids and Its Extraordinary Suggested Remedy Discussed by the Favorite Wife (Formerly the Famous Spanish Beauty Senorita Delgado) of the Maharajah of Kapurthala Who Has Four Wives and Numerous Concubines

THE embarrassing situation in which the women of England, France, Germany and Austria will find themselves after the war through the destruction of so many men is being widely commented upon abroad. In England there are many who believe that polygamy should be legitimized—at least for a period long enough to restore the balance of the sexes.

In New York. The Maharanee was Senorita Delgado, who became the favorite noble family, who became the favorite of the Maharajah's four wives and his numerous concubines. She gave up her own religion for that of her husband and has for a number of years been a practical polygamist. Her interesting discussion of the "remedy" suggested by Mrs. Burke-Hardt and others and her conclusions regarding it are printed here. This is the first and only statement which the Maharanee has made in this country. It is significant that, although living happily, as she says, in a state of polygamy, she sets her face squarely against the ideas set forth by the English women who, while practical monogamists, advocate polygamy.

"A Law Permitting Polygamy the Solution"

By Mrs. Francis Burke-Hardt, The Well-Known English Writer.

TO my way of thinking there is but one solution, unless, of course, nature steps in and male children predominate; and even then the problem would have to be shelved until matters levelled themselves up as a matter of time. I would suggest that a law be passed by which a man may be permitted to possess one, two or three legal wives, as the case may be, provided he can guarantee to the authorities he is in a position to support them decently and properly and in keeping with his position.

zation steps in and decrees otherwise. Nature's object is, therefore, frustrated. The consequence of the present day muddle as regards the sex question is a vast army of women who with a stately air of decorum and discontent fill the pensions in overpowering numbers, who live lives without aim or object, who cuddle and kiss dogs instead of babies, who hoard up much of the wealth of this country, whose mental and physical energies die for want of proper expression, whose bitterness of soul is a disgrace to womanhood and a poor compliment to an almighty power who sent them into the world with a definite and sacred mission to carry out.

A few years ago I was permitted the privilege of being a guest in an Eastern harem, and during my stay, in which I talked and associated with a fair number of women, I formed several opinions which have firmly convinced me that in spite of our boasted progress the solution to a worldwide problem was at any rate in part expressed here.

All this will have to be changed. Women will have to be supplanted into a new order of things. No longer will it be necessary for her to stand in the market place and shout her grievance while she turns an anxious face toward the world.

"Polygamy is More Tragic Than War"

By the Maharanee of Kapurthala.

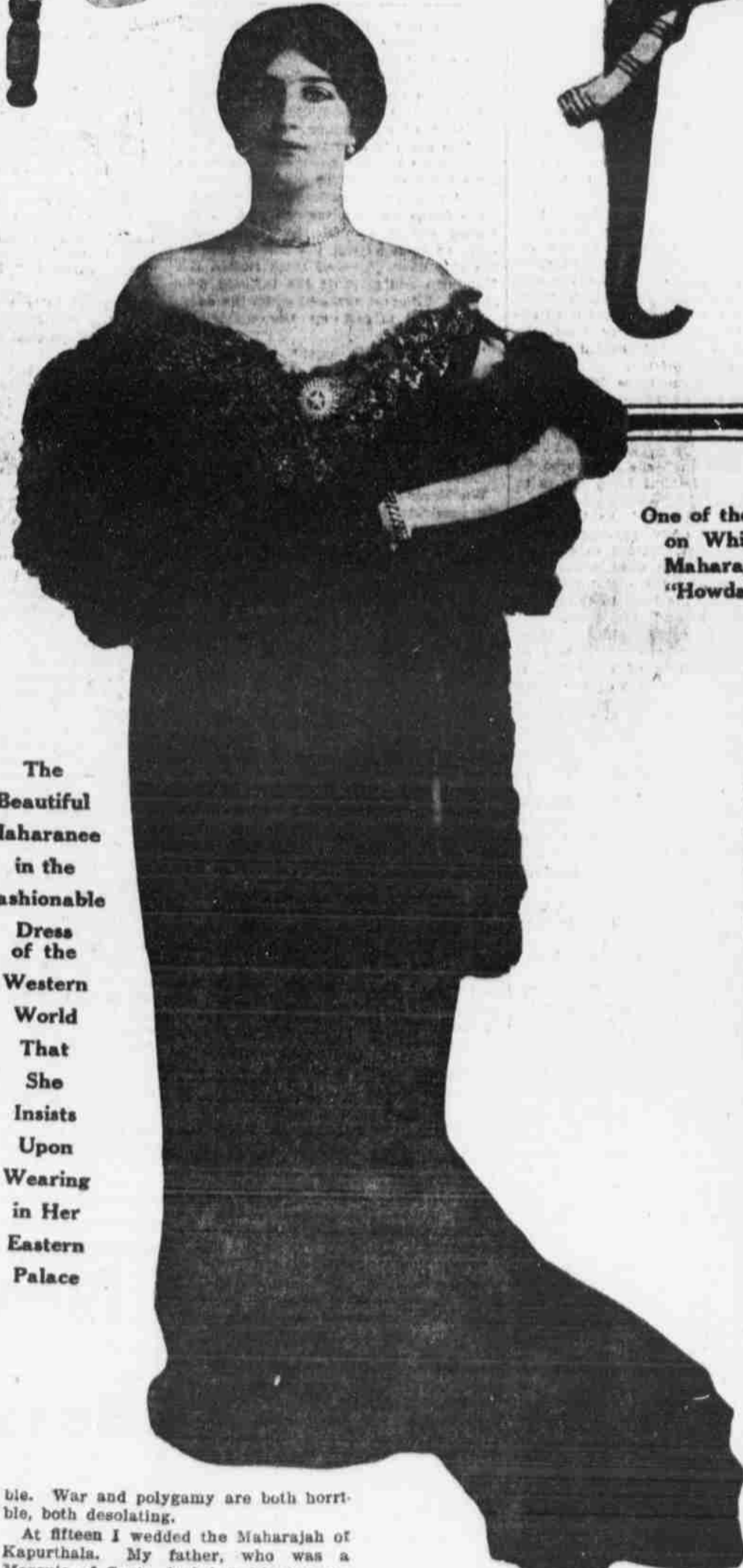
WHO is this woman who says things so absurd? Mrs. Burke-Hardt? Mrs. Broken Heart, she should be called. For that is what it is she stands for, a system which will break the hearts of women and the minds of men.

After this war is over woman is coming into her own. And the vote is not going to do it. That idea is dead long since. No woman is going to be the means of her own salvation, aided and supported by her proper and natural partner—man!

I who know speak. Polygamy is impossible among European women. They will not have it. Tragedies more terrible than the war, crimes more awful than that of Medea, who killed her own children to avenge her wrongs upon their father Jason, would be enacted were the governments of Europe to attempt to re-

Under the new dispensation all will be different. Nature will be paramount in everything. Civilization will look after itself. There is no doubt that we are overcivilized. As the Irishman said: "We must go back a bit; but that'll mean we're going forward."

The Beautiful Maharanee in the Fashionable Dress of the Western World That She Insists Upon Wearing in Her Eastern Palace

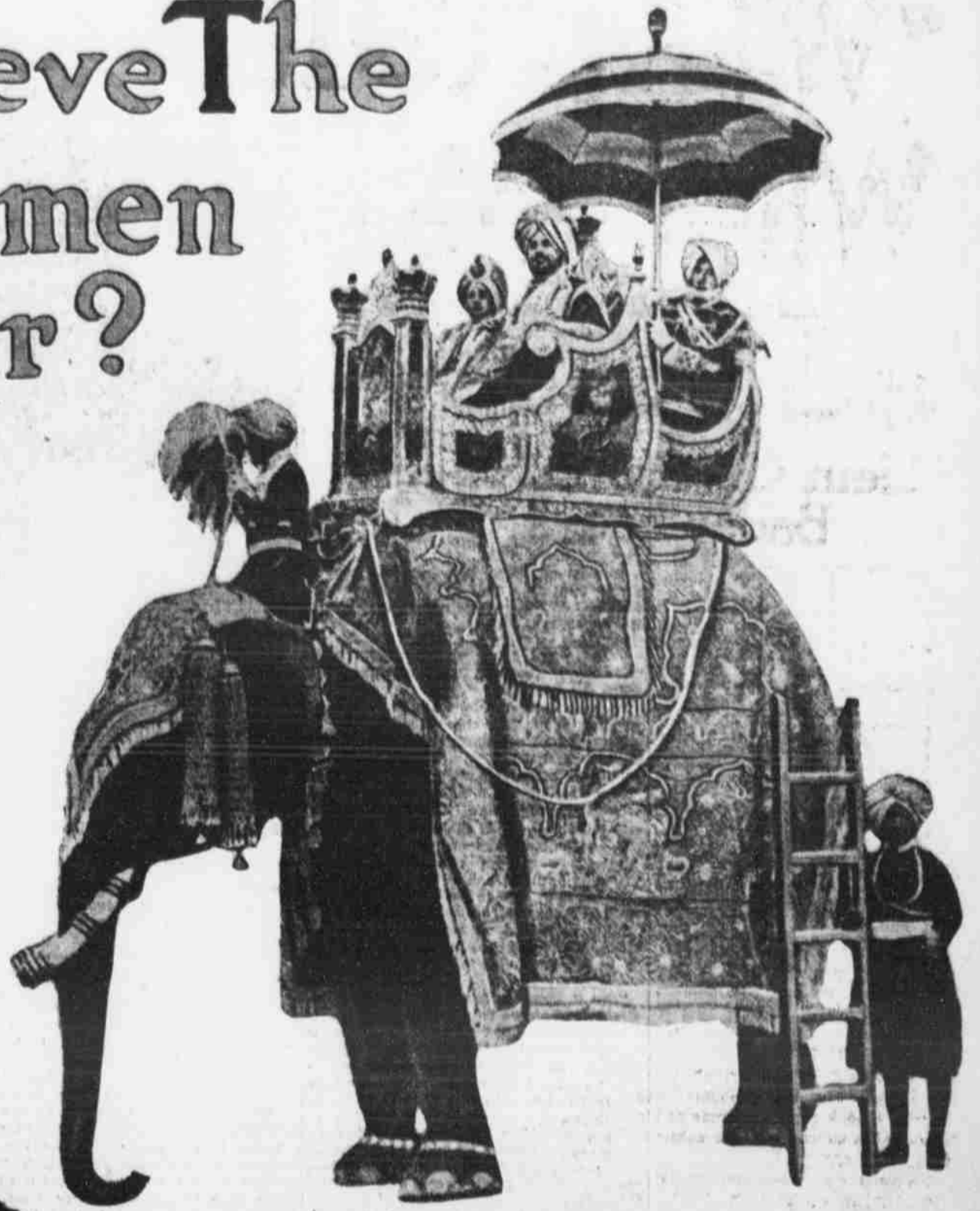


War and polygamy are both horrible, both desolating.

At fifteen I wedded the Maharajah of Kapurthala. My father, who was a Marquis of Spain, had lost his fortune. Because I could dance I went upon the stage of the Royal Theatre of Madrid. I remained on the stage but four weeks. The Maharajah had come to Spain to attend the wedding of King Alfonso. He came to the theatre. He met me. We fell in love. We married.

He was honest with me. I knew I was marrying a man already several times wedded. But I was young. I loved him, as I have said, I accepted the conditions. Having accepted them I have made the most and best of them. But the system is wrong. I have lived thus for nine years. I have a little son, Gita. Polygamy is dying as bad things die—by the weight of its own iniquity. There are not more than three harems in all India. There are men who have more than one wife, many men. But they make no attempt to keep the women under the same roof. Even in India that would be impossible. The women would revolt.

the wives know little of each other. They do not visit. They may meet as chance acquaintances do at the great Hindoo ceremonials, the religious fetes. They are presented to each other. They smile. They chat about impersonal things. That is all. They are ships that pass in the crowd.



One of the Royal Elephants of Kapurthala on Which the Maharanee Rides. The Maharajah is Seated Within Its Gorgeous "Howdah."

European women. I know some of the native women. I visit them and talk with them when I must. But we have nothing in common, save children. They talk of nothing but their homes and children. They know nothing else. Their minds are dwarfed. They are of the mental stature of a little child. The life there is so different from that of the women of Europe and America that the difference is incomprehensible. To understand you must live there, have seen day after day, and wearily tried to talk with the stunted creatures. Then you would know that I cannot be jealous of one of them. Could you be jealous of a dog?

Polygamy is impossible in Europe for two reasons. Europe is a Christian land. It would never embrace Mohammedanism, which permits polygamy. The spirit of the old martyrs would rise in them. Attempt to introduce Mohammedanism into Europe and a war more terrible than that which is now raging it would follow. A war yet more devastating, for it would be a war of extermination.

It is for another reason not to be for one moment seriously considered. That is that the women of Europe are too enlightened to accept it.

There is a phrase we often encounter and at which we smile. It is "The war of the sexes." There is no war between the sexes. There are misunderstandings, differences, needs of adjustment, of looking at life through each other's glasses, of standing as it were in the same place to view the problems of the world. But there would be a fire and tried to stamp it out. Then you learned that it is a cancer and you must cut it out. That is a universal truth.

I know quite well that your mind will ask: "Why does the European woman rebel against another wife, when she submits to a rival?" I answer: First, because a rival is as a rule a transitory evil. She is a trouble that visits the home and departs. But a wife would be an awful fixture. At any rate the European wife does not without a protest submit to the existence of her husband's rival.

Here is the outward patience of the persons suffering from disease. The custom of having a rival is a social disease. There is ever in the heart of the sufferer the hope of a cure.

Second, because romantic love is a transient thing. A wife, especially if she have children, comes to desire most the



The Maharajah of Kapurthala, the Royal Polygamist, Whose Favorite Wife Does Not Believe in Polygamy

power that belongs to her station. The rival is denied these and because she is denied them the European wife at least enjoys the luxury of despising her.

Polygamy will die because it is wrong. It is contrary to the high ideals of the heart. Talk not to me of nature. We are prone to give to every impulse in us the name of nature. Humanity evolves and each state is better than the last. In the sense in which you say polygamy is natural, murder is natural. In moments of anger we have the impulse to kill. But who that is sane would justify murder? It is natural that anger should rage in our hearts when we have been baffled or some desire, yet anger, we know, makes most of the miseries of life. We are out of a state of polygamy and already it is regarded as a stain upon civilization.

The war babies? No, no, no. I would not grant polygamy even to remedy that great evil. Some crack-brained persons advise the forcing the soldier fathers, even though already married, to legitimize their offspring by marriage. I don't believe that will be looked upon as a solution of the problem.

With 20,000 war babies on its hands I do not wonder that England is baffled as to its duty. It is a difficult question. But let the mothers settle it. It is an individual problem. If the mother loves the child and wants to keep it, let her do so. Let England give charity bazaars to aid her to keep it. If the mother is without any natural love for it, or ability to care for it, let it be cared for by the asylums for orphans. I think too much is being said about these war babies at any rate. Many such children are being born every year, perhaps a nearly equal number, and there is no publicity about it. The problem will be individually solved. Each problem has an individual solution.

But polygamy needed to repopulate Europe? Atrocious idea! There have been other wars as terrible and no such hideous device followed.

Mrs. Burke-Hardt—again I ask you is she—says there are characteristics of the women of the Eastern world which women of the Western world would do well to emulate. I grant you one. Like all peoples of the East they think in vast numbers of years. They reckon by aeons. Their civilization is old and calm. Their history extends into the dim beginnings of the world. That cannot be looked far into the past and far into the future. They learn to wait. They have infinite power to endure. They are gifted with a great patience. But patience is an overrated quality. Especially if it be put in the face of a great wrong.