

M. Clam Finds American Women a Puzzling Problem

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(M. Clam, the renowned Parisian journalist, concludes the American woman is one of the most puzzling of American problems, and in attempting an illustration, presents a hitherto unpublished version of the Roosevelt-Storer incident.)

WASHINGTON, U. S., December 29.—Many things in these United States cause astonishment to one journalist in France. It is thrice difficult to comprehend all of these things at the one time. Everything is so fast, so quickly disappearing! How shall I judge of them with the justice. Yet I shall tell my countrymen the truth, as it appears to me. I beg my friends in the France to remember that the truth moves more swiftly in these United States, like everything more. She does not wait! always it is hurry, hurry, to overtake the lie. The lie travel by automobile; the truth follow quickly. The lie that abandons automobile and jumps to that airship; the truth follows, breathing more hard, the lie follows to wireless telegraphy; the truth gasps, and throws up the hands!

I, too, am ready to gasp, and throw up the hands! Yet I must be calm! There are problems.....

What, for the illustration, shall I say of these American women? Sacre bleu! This is one terrible problem. Those women are as everything more in America—they are so quick! I cannot understand those women. It is yesterday the doll, today the divorcee, tomorrow the fourth husband. Those women take all the money for themselves, yet cry for more! Always they talk of the clothes. The woman in America is everything. The man—bah! He is nothing! If he will keep shut the mouth and hurry to make the money, very good! But if he will try to tell his wife something, it is the divorce for intolerable cruelty and the grand inability to make enough money quickly. If the husband disobeys the wife, those people call him the monster. If he obeys her, he is called the shrimp. Always it is worse for him.

Those women in America are very tall, very strong. They can dance without fatigue all night after the spending of money all day. Yet one dreadful illness all women if they do work in the house. It is the nervous malady. Only one cure has been found for that strange illness. Those women must wear out the nerves by shopping. If they do not, they are lost. All women avoid the nervous work at home. So they have the good health and grow taller and bolder every day.

I am intimidated by those great women, those terrible tall girls! At the ball, the reception, the dinner, everywhere they are so bold! There is no escape if they see the man first. At one reception given by my dear friend M. Fairbanks, one beautiful girl did actually pat me on the bald head! I was furious, but always polite. With exquisite sarcasm I said: "You touch me many-dreadful things, Mlle."

The reply: "Oh, you follow me, Mr. Clam, and I'll put you wise!" Follow her? For what shall I follow her? Although she does pat me like a dog, I am again furious....but I remember it is the American! In the France I should look for her brother to kill him instantly in the duel. Madly I look for her brother. When I find him, we take the highball together, of the style American. Yet I think dangerous, scorpions, snakes!

In the Utah State many women have one husband, yet each woman has the vote. Now they pass the law against housework for women. The husband must make the money for those wives, yet he must wash the dishes also! The new law will soon pass making the trial marriages for women, the life marriage for men! Those Mormons began the numerous wife habit with the grand pleasure, but that retribution is terrible. One Mormon man, M. Smoot, is a senator in Washington. Those women try hard to put him back to the Utah, so that a woman shall be the Senator. But all men in the Senate say to their wives: "My God, we cannot punish M. Smoot so much! Have pity!"

In Washington life is not so bad. There is no vote for women. Those men are glad to go without the vote if those women will not agitate for it. I have seen here many-men who are the cooks, the laundries, the nurses; but all is not lost. Those women of the high world make but little disturbance to the public. They remain always in their clubs, smoking, drinking and debating those problems of clothes, race suicide, alimony, trial marriage, bridge whist, and one mysterious thing called poker. In those clubs no men are seen. No one knows what these women will decide. Yet fear is wide-spread among the men. Already the highball, the cigarette, the dinner down town, the late cab, the latch key—they have been seized by those women. What shall be the next?

When I arrive in Washington I look upon the Congress as one august as-

semblage. Bah! It is to laugh! It is nothing! Those women's clubs and great convention decide everything for everybody. Each year there is one great convention, called the Daughters of the Annual Revolution. After those clubs have discussed the problems that Annual Revolution considers them, and decides for everybody. Those meetings of the Annual Revolution are terrible, because of the importance. Those women quarrel, fight the duel, and make riots. The police dare not look inside—it is the law! For one week the fighting goes on with wild fury. It is the death struggle. At the last, those ambulances carry away those who are unconscious or dead. Those victors crawl to the outside, and their husbands take them home and nurse them again to life. Then, I think Congress passes those laws that are approved by the Annual Revolution. If it does not, always it wishes it had.

M. Roosevelt, he is the hope of all men in this terrible crisis. These women do not pay attention to M. Roosevelt. If they are afraid, I do not see the fear. M. Roosevelt talks to all people of the duties of women. He sees clearly the calamity that comes to all men if these women are paramount. Yet M. Roosevelt is not the harebrain, the maniac. He will not make the open sex war—it is too late! He will use the diplomacy. With discretion most admirable, he says to those women's clubs: "Back to the fireside! Save the nation by raising large families, dear ladies!"

The reply: "Bah! What does M. Roosevelt know of our problems. He is the mere man! It is the quality, not the quantity!....Cut the cards, and give me the light."

In the diplomacy those women of America are thrice powerful. Until they have secured the full control of the government which comes quickly, they work through the husband. But in one year or two, those Ambassadors will all be women. These United States are excited over the quarrel between M. Roosevelt and Maria, the Ambassadors to Vienna. All those letters on M. Roosevelt's side have been published. Maria still has a few. When that quarrel is not furious, Maria publishes one more letter, and that excitement is refreshing. What is in those letters to come? Ah! No one knows but M. Roosevelt—and Maria. M. Roosevelt, he is ready to call it opens that incident always again.

In the first letter M. Roosevelt said: "Dear Maria: Go and tell the Pope to make quickly one cardinal of Mgr. Ireland. Keep mum!"

The reply: "Dear Theodore: I shall see the Pope. Please, please make us the envoys to that wedding in Spain. Bellamy cannot make the mistake—I shall do everything. I keep mum about the cardinal. I tell only my friend Princess Whipsnack-Bubba. She has that great pull at the Vatican."

Again, the President writes: "Dear Maria: Somebody tells me Bellamy will make the cooking Ambassador. He knows nothing and he has the smart wife. Get that red hat quickly Maria, but have care!"

The reply: "Dear Theodore: I have seen the Pope. He says: How many Cardinals does M. Roosevelt want? I do not understand. I ask Cardinal Merry De Val. He says: 'One other woman has asked for one other cardinal for M. Roosevelt!' All is confusion! Those terrible reporters follow me! Oh, Theodore how could you trust a woman?"

M. Roosevelt's third letter: "Dear Maria: Somebody does not keep mum! read those clippings! I did not tell you to see the Pope! Avoid those terrible reporters! Get back my letters from Rumpolo, if I wrote any! But I never did write any! If Bellamy obeys the instructions again, he will have to resign instantly!"

The reply was: "Dear Theodore: I said nothing! The Pope did all the talking! He told those terrible reporters everything? Why did you trust that woman? Who is she?"

M. Roosevelt's fourth letter: "Maria: You are the marplot! Bellamy has followed instructions again. Why do you permit this? Bellamy must resign!"

M. Roosevelt's first cablegram, the same day: "Maria's Husband, Vienna: Please resign instantly! Any excuse will do."

M. Roosevelt's second cablegram, the same day: "Maria's husband, Vienna: Never mind resignation. It is not quick. I dismiss you now, instantly! Maria, too is dismissed."

These letters make great excitement in America. Maria's husband says: "I was the dunce. I followed instructions always. But my wife, Maria, she is smart. She did not follow the instructions. Why does M. Roosevelt write letters to my wife? It is this which boils my blood when I think of it three years after."

M. Roosevelt says: "It is ungenerously to publish the private letters which I never wrote to Maria. This shows to those people that Bellamy is

not diplomatic enough to be trusted by me.

Maria says: "We created a Roosevelt. Can we not do with him as we please? I have a few letters more...." Some people say: "M. Roosevelt did not write for publication. We shall not judge from the private letters but from speeches. As M. Roosevelt he asked the Pope to make the cardinal. As the President, he punished himself severely for such interference. Maria's husband is a diplomat, yet he tells the truth! Bah! If those diplomats always tell the truth, why are diplomats?"

Other people say: "It is the woman. She is to blame. Those women spoil everything. M. Roosevelt is to be pitied, not blamed. How could he know Maria would betray him to those reporters? Yet we agree to this: Maria's husband was one ass."

I, too, agree that Maria's husband is the goat who cannot escape. But for the rest....It is not proper to judge until all those letters are published. Let us be patient under that terrible suspense.

CLAM.

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MANN ACQUITTED.

Editor of Town Topics Charged with Perjury is Cleared.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The jury in the case of Colonel W. D. Mann of Town Topics, charged with perjury, tonight returned a verdict of acquittal. The jury was out four hours. The charge against Mann grew out of the Haggood libel suit. During the case Colonel Mann testified that the letters "OK. W. D. M." appearing on a letter received by him from Count Reginald H. Ward, had not been written by him.

PANAMA STEAM LINE.

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 29.—Within the next few days arrangements will be made for the establishment of a new line of steamers between Panama and Salinas Cruz. Between the efforts of W. L. Vail, a concession has just been granted to the house of Vail, Adams & Co. by the government of Salvador for the operation of the line. It is said that this line may have the effect of leading the mail contracts to the Pacific Mail line between those ports.

NOTICE.

There is money in the following street funds to pay the following warrants: Eleventh street from Harrison avenue to Kensington Avenue, Nos. 22961 to 22971, both inclusive; Duane street from 16th street to 6th street, Nos. 22195 to 22228 and 22203 to 22210 inclusive; 7th street from Niagara to Bay Avenue, Nos. 22225 to 22229 both inclusive; Bond street from 6th street to the west line of McClure's Astoria, Nos. 22283 to 22294, both inclusive. Interest will cease after this date.

THOMAS DEALEY, City Treasurer.

Dated Astoria, Oregon, December 17, 1906.

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NOTICE.

There is money in the general fund to pay warrants indorsed prior to December 1, 1906. Interest will cease after this date. THOMAS DEALEY, City Treasurer. Astoria, Ore., Dec. 20, 1906. 12-20-10t

NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Astoria Iron Works will be held at their office on January 10, 1907, at 3 p. m., for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. By order of the board of directors. JOHN FOX, President. Attest: P. L. BISHOP, Secretary. Astoria, Oregon, Dec. 20, 1906.

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Office with Mr. J. A. Eakin, at No. 426 Commercial St., Astoria.

CHAS. H. ABERCROMBIE,

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PROPOSALS.

NOTICE.

Bids are hereby asked for the boarding of the county prisoners during the year 1907. Said bids to state price per meal delivered to Sheriff at county jail. All bids to be filed with the clerk by noon of Saturday, Dec. 29, 1906. Court reserving the right to reject any or all bids. By order of the County Clerk.

J. C. CLINTON, County Clerk.

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