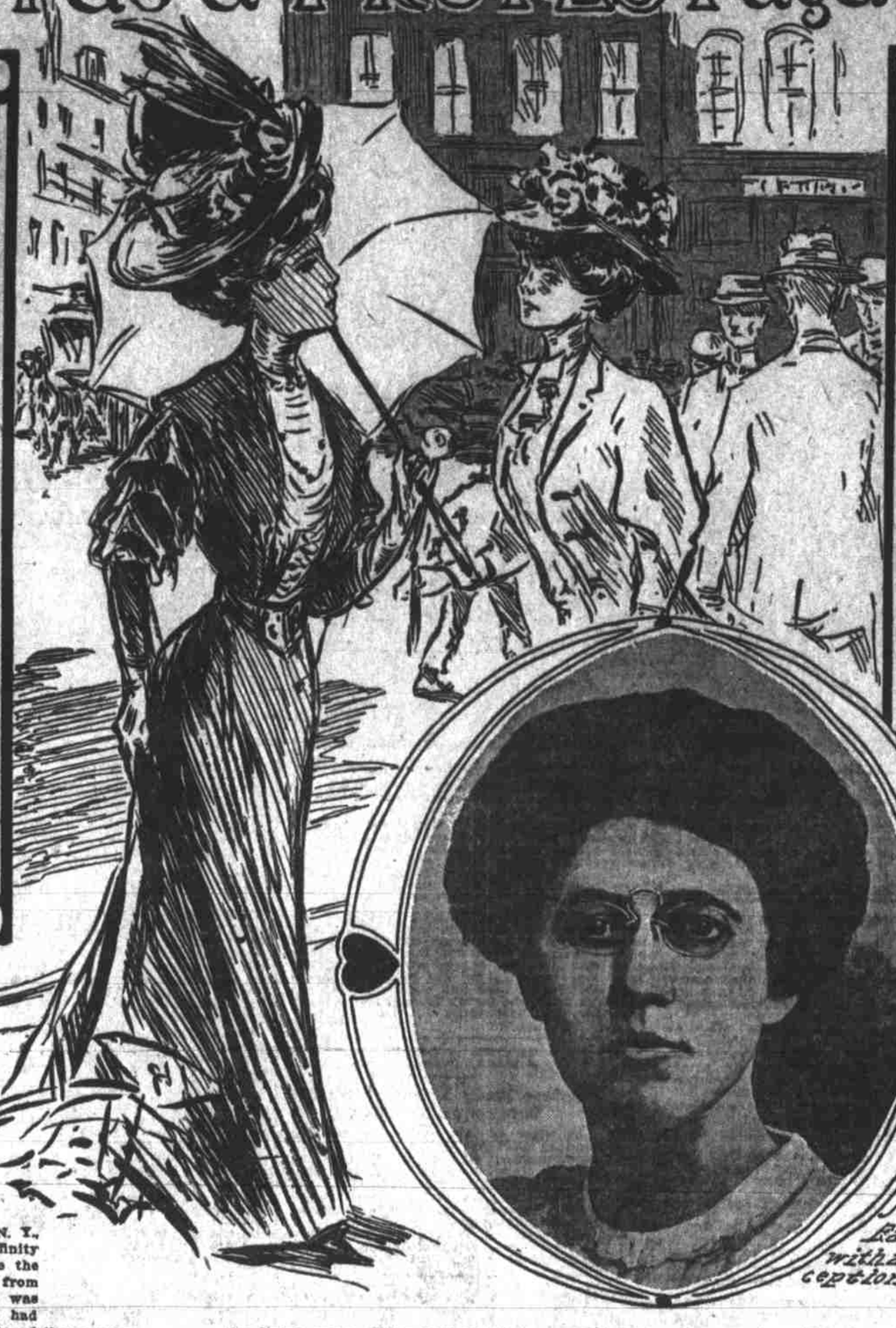
The BOYCOTT as a PROTEST against DIVORCE:

Mrs. William E. Carey Has Not Found Society at Her Feet. (Photo by Davis & Eickemeyer.)



Mrs. Ferdinand Earle, Who Met with a Chilling Reception from Neighbors.

Mrs. Perry Belmont.

Will Social Indifference Prove the Most Effective Remedy?

PICTURE one of the most brilliant social events of the season. The drawing rooms of the splendid mansion are crowded with women in beautiful evening gowns and with men faultlessly attired. An odor of flowers fills the air, which is pulsing with the hum of conversation and the soft strains of music.

Beaming with smiles, the hostess receives her guests. Finally the footman announces: "Mr. and Mrs. Percival Langdon Van de Vere."

Suddenly the conversation sinks to whispers; a sudden damp seems to pervade the brilliant scene. Bowing right and left, laughing vivaciously, Mrs. Van de Vere, the latest divorcee, sweeps into the room, graciously extending her hand.

There are few responses—a cold bow here and there. Many of the women deliberately turn their backs. The hostess shows signs of distress; she realizes that in being so generous with her invitations she has committed a great blunder.

For do not the matrons of her set deliberately "cut" Mrs. Van de Vere whenever they meet her on the street?

OF COURSE, it is a picture of the fancy. The social boycott has not yet been employed—that is, generally employed—as a weapon against the divorce evil, but may it not be?

Is not its sting being keenly felt by Mabelle Gilman Corey, who took the Steel Trust millionaire away from his faithful wife? Is not the new Mrs. Ferdinand Earle chilled by the social frigidity toward her at Monroe, N. Y.? Was not a similar aloofness on the part of social leaders gall and wormwood to the soul of Mrs. Perry Belmont for years after her divorce and second marriage?

These are notable examples of the effectiveness of an unfavorable sentiment toward certain classes of divorce cases. After all, the social boycott might do more to deter such divorces than anything else.

When Mabelle Gilman Corey sailed away to Europe a short time ago she carried a sorely disappointed heart. She had won a fortune, unlimited money was at her command, but the designs of her heart were unfulfilled.

The full brunt of a social boycott was felt by Mrs. Corey when she moved into her Fifth avenue mansion in New York. Her husband was head of the Steel Trust—oh, yes! But Mrs. Corey had been an actress, she had caused her husband to divorce a faithful, tried and true wife.

SOCIETY ON VIRTUE'S SIDE

Society took a virtuous stand, and Mrs. Corey's neighbors rode by her mansion, heads up in the air, never so much as glancing at the fair Mabelle.

She was invited nowhere. In her mansion she amused herself as well as possible, but the days were far from being joyous.

"I do not care for society," she declared, with a haughty toss of her curly head. "I am going to establish a salon—yes, and have interesting people come there; people who do things. I don't care for society; I am interested in the world of art, and music and literature."

For some reason or other the world of art and music and literature did not come to Mrs. Corey. Then she conceived a plan of securing a castle in Ireland and playing Lady Bountiful to the poor of that country.

So she sailed away, sad at heart, but defiant. She was disgusted by her failure to enter upon a brilliant social career. What was the use of having a magnificent home, jewels worth a fortune, automobiles to ride in and a regiment of servants, if one must remain a social nobody?

In a lonely part of the west of Ireland the Coreys have taken Dalgan Park Castle, owned by Lord de Clifford, who also married an actress, Eva Carrington, of the Gaiety Theater, London. There Mrs. Corey, perhaps, thinks she will be regarded as a person of importance.

Soon after Ferdinand Earle, the artist of "affinity" fame, returned to Monroe, N. Y., with his second wife—the affinity for whom he had set aside the first Mrs. Earle—a dispatch from that place stated that what was practically a social boycott had been decided on by residents of that section.

Probably the new Mrs. Earle, when Miss Julia Kuttner, had no social aspirations. The affinity scheme engrossed her attention. The murmurs of an outraged community at Monroe did not feaze Earle when he sent his first wife to France, with an understanding that she was to get a divorce in order that he might wed the "affinity."

Earle was following out his ideals, and the public obloquy made him appear like a martyr to himself and his friends. He went abroad with Miss Kuttner and lived in Italy. His wife secured the divorce in France, and Earle was married to Miss Kuttner. Then he returned to the United States.

His return, however, was doubtless not the kind he expected. When he arrived at Monroe he was hooted. He went to his house and a crowd of men and boys formed in the village. Armed with dishpans, discordant horns and other noise-producing instruments, they started for the Earle mansion, prepared to express themselves in a charivari. But Earle had heard of this, and prepared a banquet for his would-be serenaders. When they arrived he appeared on the porch of his mansion, his hand extended to the leader.

"Come in, boys," he said, heartily, "I have a little feast for you." Shamefaced, and stammering excuses, the crowd dropped their drums and horns and entered the dining room. When they left their comment was: "Earle isn't such a bad sort, after all."

Ferdinand Earle has a good heart, all his friends say. But there are certain social conventions which society will not permit being broken despite any magnanimity of spirit. It might forgive Earle, but it must show its disapproval.

So the neighbors of the artist decided to shun the new Mrs. Earle. When they meet Mr. Earle the men recognize him. Mrs. Earle by the women of Monroe is said to be regarded as a stranger.

RUINATION FOR ONE MAN

A number of years ago Frank A. Magowan was Mayor of Trenton, N. J. He was talked of as a future Governor of the state. When a poor man he had married a poor girl; when he got rich through rubber industries he tired of the wife of his days of poverty, and becoming infatuated with the wife of an employe, eloped West with her, secured a divorce from his wife and married the new charmer.

Upon their return to Trenton they were ignored by their friends. Magowan's business suffered, and within a short time he was ruined—financially as well as socially.

What is now happening to Mrs. Corey and Mrs. Earle happened to Mrs. Perry Belmont some years ago—it is only within comparatively recent years that she may be said to have returned to a measure of social success.

As the wife of Henry T. Sloane the now Mrs. Belmont was a social leader. At Newport she was regarded as among the prominent personages. She went everywhere and was entertained by everybody.

Then came the chapter of her life story that wasn't pleasant. Her husband divorced her and she promptly married Belmont. Society said little—aloud; it spoke in whispers.

But when Mrs. Belmont returned to the field of her former social successes she found the bars were up. Society withheld the hand of welcome; few persons accepted her invitations. She was virtually frozen out.

This condition of affairs lasted nearly five years, when some of her former friends began to rally about her, and a compromise was made by which Mrs. Perry Belmont and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, who led the social war against her sister-in-law, were invited alternately to functions. Things were so arranged that they never met. Such an arrangement was naturally humiliating to the divorcee, and she made a bold move.

She would win out or lose—but she would not lose without a struggle. Mrs. Belmont went to London.

Perry Belmont was an old friend of the Baron Alfred de Rothschild. The baron did not know nor care about any scandals concerning the divorce, nor had he any interest in Newport's social wars. A dinner was given by him to Mr. and Mrs. Belmont in London, to which were invited, among other notable guests, the duke and duchess of Connaught, Prince Francis of Teck and other persons close to the king.

This dinner marked the turning point of Mrs. Belmont's career. She could now snap her fingers at New York. Shortly after this dinner Mrs. Belmont met and chatted with King Edward at Ascot. Then followed her appearance at the royal ball in Windsor Castle, when President Loubet of France was England's guest. Her appearance at the grand opera scored another success. New York and Newport read of Mrs. Belmont's triumph abroad, and when she returned she found a different atmosphere awaiting her.

Any woman who had been seen walking with the king of England could not be ignored. Was it to be Mrs. O. H. P. or Mrs. Perry? The Belmont season was beginning. And the Newport crowd chose Mrs. Perry. When Mrs. James P. Kernochan entertained the Marchioness de Mores Mrs. Perry was present; Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont was not.

Then came a musicale by Mrs. William T. Bull and an afternoon party given by Richard Hall, the artist. Mrs. Perry was conspicuous by her presence; Mrs. O. H. P. by her absence. And so it went on. It was amusing.

It is not likely that Mrs. Corey or Mrs. Earle will find the icy barriers of protest melting as readily as did those confronting Mrs. Belmont. The woman who became the second Mrs. Magowan could not make headway against an adverse public sentiment.

"Undoubtedly social ostracism would curb the number of divorces, especially in society," declared a sociologist recently. "One thing dear to a woman is social recognition and success.

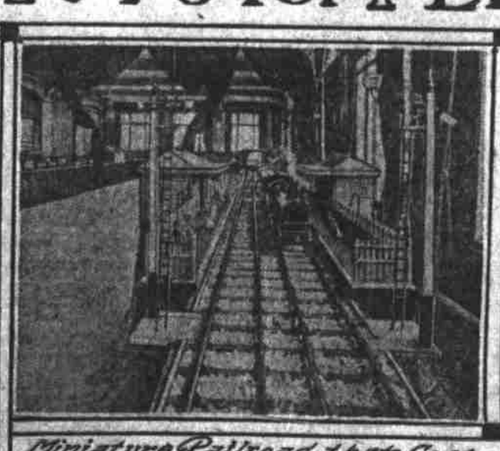
"In society divorcees have been regarded as quite an ordinary procedure; divorcees are remarried, return to the fold and find arms open to receive them. Perhaps they are all the more popular because of their matrimonial escapades.

"But if a good, healthy public sentiment were aroused and every man or woman figuring in an unsavory divorce scandal were coldly turned down, we should find that marriage would not be regarded so lightly; that men would not cast off their faithful wives for stage favorites, and that society would be cleaner.

"Before risking social ostracism, men and women would hesitate long ere they cast aside lightly the ties that should be sacred."

COSTLY TOYS for PETTED CHILDREN

A Perfect Little Automobile for George J. Gould's Son.



Miniature Railroad that Cost $50,000

Miniature Park, Costing $1,000 for a Philadelphia Child.

SUPPOSE you had unlimited riches at your command, what would you do for your children? That is, in the way of catering to their juvenile tastes and providing them with playthings and childish amusements?

Children, of course, do not appreciate the value of money. A 50-cent doll may give one as much pleasure as a $50,000 miniature railroad may give another—comparatives do not play a large part in a child's life.

In the homes of the land one encounters the 50-cent doll much more frequently than the miniature railroad, yet it is astonishing to learn what splendid gifts are provided for the little ones of today.

ONE would naturally expect the children of millionaire George J. Gould to have at their disposal the most expensive and complete toys that ingenuity could devise. Well, the Gould children are by no means toyless.

Some years ago it was announced that little George J. Gould, Jr., then 6 years old, awoke on Christmas morning to find among his gifts the most perfectly appointed railway train ever built. It was imported from Germany expressly for him, so the statement went at the time, at a cost of $500.

But miniature railway trains, while good enough in their way, were not sufficiently up to date. The result—special automobiles for the Gould children, each machine corresponding in size to the age and stature of the young recipient.

Even the youngest had a little automobile for his very own, a machine diminutive in size, but perfect in every part and calculated to endure hard usage for many moons.

Miniature railroads seem popular as gifts to the children of wealthy parents. One of these, laid for a young scion of the Vanderbilt house, was operated by electricity. There was a little car, a miniature of the father's private car, which ran merrily over the course. This young gentleman also had little automobiles and electric toys in great number and variety to banish monotony from his youthful life.

But the most famous—and, perhaps, costly—of all miniature railways is one on the estate of Percy H. Leigh, in the suburbs of Manchester, England. It cost in the neighborhood of $50,000.

The "country" through which this little railroad runs is a huge single-story building, 30 by 90 feet. Every detail is complete, from passenger and freight stations to the signal system along the route.

Locomotive and tender form a piece of machinery 5 feet long and 18 inches high. It runs on a 6-inch gauge track, and is an exact duplicate in miniature of an express engine on the London and Northwestern Railroad. The little engine and tender cost $1800, and took about nine months to complete. Nearly two years were required for building the entire system.

Charcoal is used for fuel in the locomotive, which can travel six times around the length of the system without renewal of fuel. The train makes a speed of about six miles an hour on straight stretches of track, although this speed is considerably reduced on curves.

There are both passenger and freight trains. The passenger train has four cars, and accommodations for first, second and third class travel are portrayed with faithful attention to detail as it is known in England. The freight train consists of ten cars and a caboose, and indicates facilities for handling every kind of freight, from coal to grain and cattle.

It isn't always the child of very wealthy parents who can boast of remarkably constructed and costly toys. Last winter the little son of George A. Woerz, of 1835 Oxford street, Philadelphia, was delighted to find among his presents a miniature amusement park, reproducing with fidelity the attractions of Willow Grove.

This model of the well-known summer resort was made of wood and metal by the father of the delighted little fellow. Mr. Woerz worked over the model for more than three years. Every detail of the park was reproduced in the replica, even to the electric lights, the moving dancers and waiters.

In all, Mr. Woerz estimates that the "toy" cost him $1000, to say nothing of countless hours of work. It occupies fifty feet of floor space.

For little John Nicholas Brown, for some years known as the richest baby in America, a fairy palace has been constructed at Newport, R. I. It cost over a million dollars. On the third floor is a large hall, 24 by 48 feet, which is the special domain and playroom of the petted youngster.

In the alcoves is a great mass of moving scenery, set pieces and other paraphernalia for games provided on a liberal scale. If young John and his friends wish to play Wild West they may find all the adjuncts at hand—mountains, camps, rocking horses, trees and wild animals.

Perhaps the most extravagant expression of a fond parent's love is to be found in the fairy estate being created near Chicago for young Lolita Armour, daughter of J. Ogden Armour, one of the world's money kings. It is believed that this fairyland will cost, when completed, between $10,000,000 and $15,000,000.

HER OWN WOODLAND

There Lolita will have her own woodland, filled with vines and wild flowers, and the forests will teem with all kinds of animal life. The grounds will be dotted with lakes and waterfalls, the waters will be stocked with fishes of many varieties, and upon the surface will ply yachts, electric launches and other boats of various kinds.

Briefly, this 9-year-old girl will be provided with the most beautiful palace of modern times, filled with every comfort that the heart could wish and every luxury that money can buy, and surrounded by such a dreamland as only the mind of the greatest landscape engineer could devise.

These are all special cases, you may say. Yes, but any fond parent with money can provide wonderful delights for his little ones at almost any large store.

One may purchase a mechanical acrobatic group of four persons for $500. The principal figure in this is 18 inches high, the others smaller, but their "stunts" are amazing.

For $150 one may secure a mountain scene with an electric train winding about the hills. A complete circus with mechanical figures can be secured for $175, and a German parade for $250.

There are steam yachts that fill every requirement of the small boy, and cost only $60, and the genius of toymakers has evolved a great variety of mechanical effects that are within the reach of persons of moderate means.