

"OLD-FASHIONED WOMAN WAS A PAUPER"

DRAMA HOWARD SHAW



Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Leader of the New Women of America



For That Reason, Says the Leader of the Suffrage Movement, There Came an Era of Divorce and Discontent That Will End Only When Men Grow Better

WHY this era of divorce and discontent?

Man. This, in a word, is one answer to a question often asked. Man and his morals, or lack of morals, are at the root of the trouble. That there were fewer divorces when the old-fashioned woman had her day was because she was nothing more nor less than a pauper, dependent on her better half for everything. Those are the views of the Rev. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, the national suffragist leader and one of the world's most ardent advocates of the cause. She has made a careful study of the divorce question, and she presents some new and interesting views on a subject that is becoming so grave that even the interest in the presidential possibilities

does not stop the debates, discussions and court wrangles in every part of the country.

For instance, Walter George Smith, an uncompromising foe of divorce, who resigned from the board of directors of the University of Pennsylvania a few years ago after a controversy on this subject, claims that the present ratio of one divorce for every twelve marriages is growing, and asserts that divorce cases are heard almost daily in 3000 courts in this country.

In view of such startling statements, it is interesting to know the ways and where-fores for the dissolution of so many marriage contracts. And as most of the complaints are filed by women, it is fitting that such a progressive member of the sex as Doctor Shaw should say what she thinks of the matter.

the woman of bygone days. She is just as gentle and sweet, and while she retains her feminine qualities, she is firmer and has the courage of her convictions. Without a doubt the other woman rebelled in her heart, but she didn't have the chance that the modern woman has of expressing her feelings.

Then Doctor Shaw showed how the suffrage question, indirectly at least, was due to the change in affairs. "Though the giving of the ballot to women has nothing directly to do with marriage or divorce," Miss Shaw said, "it will soon be seen that suffrage will make marriage more stable. In states where there is equal suffrage there are comparatively fewer divorces than in others. Why? Because of the fact that in the former states the sexes are absolutely equal. The men respect the rights of the women and understand their true position. They have adopted the rule of equality in their home lives.

"There is no real happiness except between equals. Real happiness or real development in marriage does not exist unless the contracting parties understand the rights of one another. Where one is considered more important than the other, there is bound to be friction.

"The best proof that I can advance that there is real love and happiness between couples who understand and appreciate each other's rights is the fact that of all the marriage ceremonies that have been performed by women ministers, to my knowledge,

there never has been a divorce or even a separation. I myself have performed many of them, and the marriages have been ideal. Because a man who will permit a woman to unite him in matrimony does not consider himself her superior, and his married life is bound to be a happy one. He gives his wife the right to think and to be an individual. Consequently, happiness must follow.

"It is not right to force marriage on any individual or to insist on early marriages. In such cases the unions are not holy ones.

"Many of the college women and the so-called modern women, those who think for themselves, do not marry until they reach middle life. The protest against this state of things is that they do not have many children. But their children live. And isn't it more important for one born child to live than for a mother to bear two children and for one to die? Moreover, statistics that have been compiled on the marriages of college women show that there have been very few divorces. Doesn't that speak for itself and prove that equal marriages have the best results?"

suffrage, our hopes and beliefs all dovetail into each other. On that subject alone we agree."

That woman suffrage is at least tending toward fewer marriages, and probably more carefully considered ones, was shown by the statistics compiled recently by Edward P. Fund, the marriage license clerk of Sacramento, Cal., which showed that there was a marked falling off in the number of licenses taken out during the three months after equal suffrage was granted to the women of the state.

Butt Wins, But Still—

BUTT was tired of it. Tired of having some one break in and finish every story he started to tell. For Butt always had been careful to spring new ones only. He determined to put a crimp in the practice.

So, in the law library the other day, he called the bunch together, saying he had a good one and now: "Over in Ohio," began Butt, "a hearing was in progress before pompous old Justice of the peace who, for years, had been the presiding officer in a local lodge and who prided himself on his knowledge of parliamentary law. It was a criminal case, and the attorney for the defendant, aware of this predilection of the court, arose and made a formal motion to discharge the prisoner for defects in the form of the affidavit.

"Is the motion seconded?" asked the court. "A brother of the defendant arose and seconded the motion.

"Any remarks?" "The prosecuting attorney sprang to his feet and attempted to point out that this was not the proper method to pursue in disposing of motions, but—" "Shades of the antique! The village chestnut tree shook again!" exclaimed Parsons, one of the bunch. "Let me finish it for you. The justice counted the eyes and says, and, finding that the eyes had it, he sustained the motion and discharged the prisoner." "Not in this case," said Butt. "That may be another citation. In this case the justice decided that the motion was well taken and that it was his duty to take judicial cognizance of the fact that the prosecuting attorney was the only lodge man present who had kept up his dues, and the only one present, therefore, entitled to vote. He overruled the motion and held the accused for court."

THE OLD AND THE NEW

Later, at the loungers, Butt's turn came. "An Irishman," said he, "was given a holiday, and decided to spend it hunting. While at the bottom of a deep ravine he looked up and saw a large owl sitting on the topmost limb of a tall tree which stood on the bank. The owl, who had a careful aim and did not miss, striking limb after limb in its descent, and after reaching the ground, continued to roll down the side of the ravine over rocks and stumps until it came to a stop at the hunter's feet. The Irishman looked at the owl and then up to—" "Hoary, hoary with age!" broke in Meyers, one of the loungers. "Why, even the raconteur felt that story. The Irishman looks up and says, 'That may be another citation. In this case the justice decided that the motion was well taken and that it was his duty to take judicial cognizance of the fact that the prosecuting attorney was the only lodge man present who had kept up his dues, and the only one present, therefore, entitled to vote. He overruled the motion and held the accused for court.'"

"WHAT do I think is the cause of the numerous divorces in this country at the present time?"

Without waiting to catch her breath, Doctor Shaw had her answer ready. There was not the slightest sign of hesitation. With her lips never parted she is the reason she is so interesting as a public speaker. She is never so happy as when in a debate, and is always prepared to reel off replies to a volley of crossfire questions from her opponents. She can talk for hours and never tire. And she is just as pleasing as a conversationalist, for one has a better chance to study her characteristic expressions and also to wonder at her remarkable vitality.

To get back to the subject, on this particular occasion Doctor Shaw's answer came like a bombshell into a peaceful valley: "The lax morals of the men." And it was a man she was speaking to, but that didn't matter. She is accustomed to telling men what she thinks of them.

In a moment, however, Doctor Shaw explained herself. She didn't mean that men were any worse than they ever were, but that, on the other hand, women were merely coming into their own.

The old-fashioned woman took everything. She had to be submissive and dependent, the new woman doesn't. She is showing her husband that he has to mind his p's and q's to keep out of the divorce court, because she can get along very well without him; and he can't have everything his own way. What's more, she proves it, as the statistics will testify.

This is a domestic revolution that Doctor Shaw thinks just had to come, and that it couldn't be held back much longer. "Women are more independent in their mode of thinking," she says. "They no longer allow themselves to be trampled on, and won't submit to the careless or domineering ways of their husbands."

AN "ODOROUS" COMPARISON

Then Doctor Shaw drew a comparison between the modern woman and the old-fashioned one. You who have looked up to the latter as an ideal of loveliness and virtue mustn't get shocked when Doctor Shaw calls her a pauper, until you hear just why the well-known suffragist, physician and minister considers her such.

"Alexander Hamilton once said that man controls the physical substance of the moral being. He was speaking of the negro slaves, but the same words can be used in reference to the wives of today. In bygone times the men controlled their wives absolutely, but now the women are showing that they are no longer going to be dominated, and insist that they be their husband's equals or no wives at all. How well they are succeeding is shown by the divorce courts.

"The old-fashioned woman, the wife and mother, was only a pauper. The law gave the husband everything. She got nothing. She had to trust entirely to his generosity and had to overlook all his faults. She couldn't say anything; for what right has a pauper to dictate, or even complain, to the one she is depending upon for her support?"

"Moreover, the law considered that the father was nearer to the child than the mother, and in case of a separation gave the children to the male parent. If he died, he could even appoint, by will, a guardian over his children. And many a mother clung to her husband, no matter what his abuse or neglect of her, or his moral standing in the community, so that she would not be separated from her offspring.

"Motherlike, wasn't it? For what will a mother not go through for the love of her little ones? Women of all times have been the same in this respect. And that was the problem that the old-fashioned mother had to battle with, and she sacrificed everything for the love of her children. If she left her husband, she could no longer care for them or look out for their welfare.

"Where these holy marriages? Because there were fewer divorces in those days than now, does it signify that they were holier? Most decidedly not. People then abided too much by conventions and conventionalities. Safety lived together only from fear of what the outside world might say or think. And why did this condition exist? Because the man and wife were not on an equal standing. And, therefore, their marriage was not holy.

"The morals of the old-fashioned girl were looked after by her parents until she was handed over to her husband, to be his wife more than his wife. It wasn't considered her business what his morals or desires were outside of the home and fireside.

"Today it is different. A woman will no longer submit to such foolishness. She is tired of being the

understudy, and is showing that she has her rights, and that they must be respected; that she is the equal and not the inferior of her husband, and that her children belong to her as much as to the man.

"The woman of today is of a higher standard than

Women Bankers of Texas..



Mrs. Samuel R. Coggin, President of the Coggin National Bank, Brownwood, Texas



Miss Minnie Hester, Cashier, Lee County State Bank, Lexington, Texas



Miss Robbie Cariker, Cashier of the Cushing State Bank, Cushing, Texas

ONE attraction that cannot be denied to Texas is pretty bankers. In witness whereof, notice the accompanying pictures. Two lovely cashiers is a pretty good record for one state, let alone one that is just at the beginning of its development—in reality, a land of untold promise. In both cases it was a process of evolution

that brought the young women to their present positions. Miss Minnie Hester, of the Lee County State Bank, at Lexington, was a school teacher, a stenographer, a court reporter before she assumed a clerical position in the institution of which she soon became the operating head.

Miss Robbie Cariker likewise took a perfectly natural ascent to the cashiership of the Cushing State Bank, at Cushing. While she was

assisting her father in the conduct of a drygoods store, her brother opened a private bank in the front of the building. This she also looked after to a great extent. When it was converted into a state bank, nothing was more natural than that she should be chosen as its chief executive.

In addition, Texas also has a feminine bank president, and her career is wonderfully interesting.

TO MRS. SAMUEL R. COGGIN, of Brownwood, Tex., belongs the distinction of being the only woman president of a bank in the state of Texas. This is the Coggin National Bank, capitalized at \$200,000.

"I am a banker by inheritance, but a ranchman by profession," explained Mrs. Coggin, as she outlined the work in the bank left by her husband, the late Samuel R. Coggin, of Brownwood, one of the widely known cattlemen in west Texas, and told of her especial fondness for the ranch and her interest in cattle. She is at home in the bank as its president, but twice a year she goes to the ranch and personally conducts the "dipping" of the cows.

As a girl of 18, Mrs. Coggin made a trip to Georgia, where she visited relatives. Never having seen a railroad for railroads up until the early eighties were very scarce in Texas—she journeyed to Fort Worth from her home, a distance of about seventy miles, by private conveyance, and there took the Texas and Pacific, at that time the only railroad in Fort Worth.

Instead of bringing about the hoped-for indifference, the separation only made the attachment stronger, and on October 11, 1881, she and Doctor Smith were married. With this union came many changes for Doctor Smith became ill shortly after they were married, and in two months and nine days he died.

Retaining charge of the two stepchildren, the young widow found a school and began to teach. This continued for three years. While in search of a school, one year, she went to a small island town, Mineral Wells, where among the strangers that she met was Samuel R. Coggin, a typical west Texas bachelor. After a courtship of several months, they were married.

A PICTURESQUE JOURNEY

At that time the railroad had not gone to Brownwood, the nearest railroad point being at Cisco, sixty miles away. The big road surveys were used as means of conveyance, and a single horse was a rare sight, for all of the ranchmen prided themselves on their fine-blooded teams.

The drive was made to Brownwood, and there at a two-story rock house, which is one of the landmarks of Brown county today, Mr. and Mrs. Coggin spent the first eighteen months of their married life. The orphan girl, Lizzie Smith, was carefully reared and educated. After graduating at the Daniel Baker College, at Brownwood, her education was furthered at Kidd-Key, a girl's college at Sherman. She is now Mrs. William Poindeexter, of Cleburne, the wife of one of the prominent attorneys of Texas. In the last gubernatorial

Huntsville, where she graduated at the Sam Houston Normal.

On the Coggin ranch, twelve miles from Brownwood, 600 acres are under one fence. A lake of 100 acres, which is supplied with bass, contains the water with which the improved land is irrigated.

In order that they might come and go from the ranch as they chose, Mr. and Mrs. Coggin built a six-room rock bungalow, which contains all of the modern improvements. When living in town would become tiresome, they would drive out to the ranch and spend a week or two. In the spring and summer fishing in the lake is always good sport, and frequently one catches a bass of three or four pounds. In the fall and winter birds are plentiful.

Several years ago Mr. and Mrs. Coggin built a sixteen-room home in the suburbs of Brownwood. This is of colonial architecture, and is one of the prettiest in that whole part of west Texas.

At all of the meetings of the directors of the bank, Mrs. Coggin was present with her husband. Afterward, any of the details that she did not understand Mr. Coggin explained to her. At the death of Mr. Coggin, September, 1910, Mrs. Coggin was prepared to manage all branches of his extensive interests. Knowing this, at the first meeting of the stockholders after Mr. Coggin's death she was unanimously elected president of the bank, which office she has held since.

Mrs. Coggin does not believe in women's rights, and declares that she is in the business world simply because she was the victim of circumstances. She believes that a woman's place is at home.

Not Used to High Life

IT WAS a settlement in the foothills of the Alleghenies. The half dozen houses were built of rough-sawn boards and set among the tall trees. There were no fences, no sidewalks, not even a bridge across the small creek. The road had not been worked, and it was full of stumps and boulders. The postoffice, store and boarding house were in one frame building. A countryman had driven in with a fine young horse which he had bargained to sell. The prospective purchaser met him in front of the boarding house and got into the buggy. As they started away, the horse slipped, and the countryman got him under control and prevented a runaway with great difficulty. After the horse had been quieted and was trotting along normally, the countryman remarked to his companion:

"Mister, I don't never tolerate no no horse of no color but this 'ere one has to be excused. This is the first time he's been off the farm, an' he ain't used to high life."