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ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1884

WOMAN IN EUROPE.

A Comparison of the Women of Two Continents.

The United States Unlike any Other Country ome Disadvantages of the European System.

half so many men, relatively, in war as it did in the Eighteenth, nor onethird so many as it did in the Sixteenth, and yet the slaughter in battle has contributed materially to give the woman a large majority in the recent tables of population, and to leave a considerable number of them without the possibility of finding bus-

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. The surplus of the fair sex, existing from the remotest times for the deeper the barbarism the greater the destruction of masculme life in war, as a general rule has diminished their social value, and led to the acceptance of prejudices and the adopt-ion of rules which discriminate against her in many respects. This discrimination seems to Europeans, as a class, to be a necessary result of the physiological differences between the sexes, but to an American, bred in a country where woman are in a minority, where the two sexes are equal in their common school educa-tion and their rights of inheritance, and where custom, accepted by generation after generation, has granted to the better half of humanity advantages, privileges and deferences unknown elsewhere, it appears cruel. In no other respect is the American Republic more characteristically differ ent from all other nations than in its treatment of women. The generosity

UNEQUAL SUPPLIES IN THE MARKET. Breadwinning is the business of men as a class, but unfortunately many of them select occupations not adapted to their capacities, or for other reasons, they do not attain any noteworthy success until after they have reached middle life, thus making themselves undesirable in the matrimonial market for many years. Besides, the persons not in demand as mates, on account of migratory within the circle of their hopes. habits-such as soldiers, sailors, peddlers and commercial travelers-and by gross dissipation are more numerous among men than among women.

Wife far more obedience, attendance and subjection in Europe than in facts the deduction may be drawn ican girls are generally unhappy that that condition of society is the Statistics were kept in two German best, other things being equal, in cities by American consuls of the rewhich the males are in the majority. sults of such ventures. In one place, That is not the situation in any part of Europe. I have not the statistics at hand, but they would probably show that there are ten per cent more women than men, and in many districts twenty or even thirty per cent more. This is a saving and it is itself. more. This is a serious evil in itself
—a much greater evil than an equal
excess of men would be—and it is

among his countrymen, asserts that
the American girls are spoiled; and
an American, long resident in Ger-

ness of poverty. TOIL AND WAGES. The hardship in the life of the men women, and they must bear much not generally the best representatives more than an equal share of the bur- of their respective classes den. The women in Europe gener-ally work much more than in America. An American who has resided stories, and women do a considerable part of this work. The female servant toils fourteen hours a day for monthly wages that range from \$2 to \$5-the Germany, and a little more in France trade union; she never strikes—she class, regarded as patterns of pro-cannot afford it. The proportion of priety. hopwomen and of women working INDEPENDENCE OF THE AMERICAN GIRL. wages is much larger in Europe than in America, but here, as there, she has little opportunity of reaching the positions which command the highest honors and profits.

WORSHIP OF MONEY. The superior value of money here adds much to the hardship in the condition of European women. Many travelers have written about the ex-cessive worship of the almighty dol-lar in the United States, and especially in California, but instead of stating the truth, they have asserted its direct reverse. As you travel westward from Constantinople to San Francisco the dollar gradually diminishes in sacredness and apparent size. It is an object of chase with Americans, and of idolatry with Europeans. Wealth is chiefly valued among us for the pursuit, and among them for the possession. The cockney snub is disgusted by finding that, in our country, the millionaire still adheres to his shop; whereas in England the merchant must withdraw from degrading traffic before he can become part of the upper crust. In the old world, but not in the new, mercantile business is a disgrace. It excludes

may be said that woman is and has or their talents they may command is near perfection, but now I appreever been a drug in the markets of the Old World. In our century this continent has probably not lost one social grades, with strict lines of separation, prevalent throughout Europe. their enjoyments.

COIN FIRST, LOVE SECOND. Money is the first consideration here in a marriage; first in time and first in importance. If the parties have property there is a written contract, the terms of which are settled before any engagement or love-mak-The matches are frequently arranged by the parents and sometimes they haggle for months before they agree how much each shall give the couple. It often happens that bargains of this kind are made for two who have never seen each other, sub ject to their approval after a brief meeting in the presence of the mother or a lady relative of the girl. The latter is not to say much on such occasions. It is expected that each shall contribute an equal amount in capital or its equivalent of business income, and the cases in which one party is rich and the other poor, or in which both, possessing money, unite without stipulation in regard to the pecuniary basis of the contract, are relatively very rare.

BRIDE AND GROOM. They do not meet alone until they marry, and it is not considered desirable that the girl should have an inshown to them and the trust given to them are considered by the English and Germans, as well as by the French, Spaniards and Italians, as wife takes the husband as a stranger injudicious and pernicious, as well as under a purchase; with her property, unexampled and wonderful. which passes under his control, she which passes under his control, she pays for him. The girl who has no money has little chance of getting a husband; if she has much, she and and her relatives state the sum publicly and request their friends to find a good match for her. The father tells his circle that his daughter is to have so much for a dowry, and young men who, on account of their wealth or official position, are considered desirable catches, not unfrequenty have written lists of all the downes

AMERICAN WIVES IN EUROPE. Law and custom require from the good wives is larger than of men America, and this is the one reason ands, and from these | why the matches made here by Ameraggravated by the exceeding density of the population, the hereditary character of poverty among the people generally, the low wages, the imany, and having access to the best society, says the German husbands expect their wives to attend on them and work like slaves. Marrying passable lines separating different among strangers or among people classes of society, the inelastic conditions of business, and the hopelessconsidered a sign of much prudence anywhere, and perhaps the European men who marry American wives and the American girls, who, away from home, accept European husbands, are

AMERICAN GIRLS IN EUBOPE.

The American girls who travel in Europe are marvels to the natives. for years in Munich says the Bavarian | How they can travel without mother wemen of the middle class "work like or sister, though in company of slaves," not that they love toil, but friends, how they can go about alone that their husbands demand it. In in the cities, how they can visit the the country the women are field theatres or make excursions with no laborers; in the cities, shop-women, escort save a young man, how they hucksters, wood sawyers, wood car-riers, hod carriers and street cleaners. men recently introduced, with up-Since each family usually occupies lifted eyes, confidence, easy grace, and only a single floor, or part of a floor, and the houses are high, much wood they can abash insolence by quiet and coal must be carried to the upper dignity, or punish it by crushing reproof, are matters of common won-der. The American girls in Europe include many giddy flirts, but as a class their conduct is considered aslatter figure for the best-in Southern tonishingly correct under the absence of restrictions. This is true, not only and Belgium, and yet a little more in England. There is no eight-hour movement for her benefit; she has no

> Since coming to Europe, I do not see so much objection as I did before to the American custom of allowing young ladies to receive visits of ger-tlemen, and go out alone with them to balls and picnics as well as to theaters and the houses of friends. The idea of allowing such freedom to girls astonishes and shocks German and French mothers. But the differ-ence does not stop there. The European young man is not only not per-mitted to see the girl alone in her own house, but he must not call on her, nor must he make frequent vis its to her family circle. That acquaint-ance which, in San Francisco, would permit a young man to pay a visit of an hour once a month to a girl, without suggesting any idea, save that of friendly attention, will not in Germany permit more than half an hour once in three months, and then the visit is made to the mother. The daughter here rarely goes to any place of amusement without the mother, and then the male escort, if

any, is usually father or brother. THE SEXES LIVING SEPARATE LIVES. This may be very safe for the girl, but consider the effect on the man, from presentation at court; it is in-consistent with the character of a "gentlemen." I am told that one of society of ladies, except those of his

Murray's handbooks relating to London has a passage somewhat like this: invitations to dancing parties in the houses on this street are very houses of relatives and friends, but houses of relatives and friends are relatives and friends. spacious and elegant; though owned then he meets girls whose education and occupied by merchants, are quite and circumstances make them shy good enough for gentlemen." nood enough for gentlemen."

The merchant, no matter how rich, Previous to marriage each sex leads is excluded from the highest social a separate existence, and after marri-rank; but money is, nevertheless, in Europe, the basis of all the chief habits of bachelorhood. The club, Many points in the condition of social distinctions; and if poor people the coffee house, the bear shop take women in Europe are strange to an American, but their examination will artists or authors are received into may consume as much money, but not diminish his pride in his own the best of society, it is partly becountry, if he has any. Generally it cause it is supposed that by marriage that the average American husband

> When I first went to the opera at causes many petty oppressions and annoyances of which women are the elsewhere-I was astonished to see chief victims, since they are dependent numerous ladies coming in singly or much more than men on society for in couples without male escorts and their enjoyments. ing to the occupants of the adjacent seats. In response to my inquiries for an explanation, I was told that half the ladies in the best parts of the house went in that way and that the average husband escorts his wife to a beer garden-here a very respectable resort -or to a promenade on Sunday afternoon, but seldom takes her in the evening to a place of public amusement. She goes to the therare with a servant girl, who re-turns to the bouse, and before the performance closes goes to meet her mistress in the lobby. The latter may be old and as ugly as sin-much more repulsive than some sius areand the servant may be young and pretty, but propriety has its demands, you know. - John S. Hi'tell, in Par-is writing to S. F. Bulletin.

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