

# The Daily Astorian

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ASTORIA, OREGON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1886.

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**WHY THEY DON'T MARRY.**

**How a Young Woman Explains a Social Problem.**

At a small party of workers and thinkers a few nights ago, says a letter writer, I was in a group that discussed the distaste for marriage which characterizes the girlhood of the day. One young lady had fortified herself with a newspaper clipping on the subject, which she drew from her pocket and read, as further substantiating her position. It was to the effect that husband-hunting maidens, young or old, were very much scarcer than of yore; that instead of being anxious to marry, girls were slow of inducement in that direction.

"It is true," said the young lady. "I scarcely know a girl who wants to marry. They are learning something in the way of a profession, something that will interest them as well as support them, two roles in which husbands just now fail. The truth is, we are all scared away from any desire to marry by seeing how well-shed those who do marry are. Where would we look for husbands? Among the 'snips' and 'sports' and characterless young men that fill our drawing-rooms? They are insufferable as mere acquaintances or beaux; who could cont.emplate them as husbands? I have always thought that if I could find a young man at all like my father I could love him and marry him; but that school of men has vanished from the younger ranks."

Nobody doubts that she expressed the convictions of a large representation of young women. Their lack of interest in marriage is not due to the larger activities which continue to attract before women, but to the unattractive, unreliable material in the way of husbands. Women are women, and would love and marry as readily to day as when the earth was new, if they came in contact with men who aroused their respect and admiration. The order of maidenhood that could content itself with an inferior article of husband, merely for the sake of being married, has also vanished. The young woman of the period has too much character and self respect to dread being an old maid so much as that she would contraind an uncongenial union to escape it.

The same evening I had a chat with my bright young hostess about inefficient young men, a sort of annex to the conversation just recorded. She wondered what would become of the human race if the men kept on deteriorating at the rate of the last twenty years. She declared it was almost exceptional for a young man of first class society to support their wives. They married into rich families, and at the end of two or three years were pensioners on the relations of their wives. "It is astonishing," she said, "how few young women who are supposed to be rich really depend upon their husbands for luxuries, or even support. Their fathers or grandfathers furnish the money that supplies their homes of ficer than the outside world knows of. Indeed, the daughter of the rich man is more to be pitied than the girl who fights poverty. She sees fewer real men. Naturally she fancies that her ideal men must be somewhere, since they are not within her own circle, and she looks for them in extraordinary shoes—on the box of her father's coach and on huckster's wagon's, or on the stage. Anything in the nature of efficiency attracts her, because she is sick of inefficiency. The man who can drive a coach may be very unsteady in his grammar, but his mastery of the horse appeals more to her imagination than the fine phrases of an inefficient dude. It indicates a certain degree of force and strength, and all women like that in men."

"Do you think the class of inefficient men are really increasing?" I asked.

"Alarmingly, and in all ranks of society, but most among the rich. I scarcely know a married woman intimately who feels secure, who has confidence in her husband's energy, ability, and efficiency. Look at the number of married women engaged in some kind of business! It all means something. I don't know what, but certainly it is the reverse of promising for the future greatness of man."

[Toledo Blade.

**Not Dangerous.**

A man who, in Kentucky, had shot a friend, was, on account of some informality of procedure, arraigned before court.

"Gentlemen," said the judge, addressing the jury, "it would be well on this occasion to take testimony concerning the defendant, to determine whether or not he is a man of peaceable disposition. Mr. Spillers," pointing to a spectator, "will you please come forward and be sworn?"

When Spillers had been sworn, the counsel for the defense asked:

"You don't consider Mr. Ackerman a dangerous person, do you?"

"Not at all, cap'n, not at all."

"You do not think he is in anyway a desperate character, do you?"

"Why bless your soul, cap'n, not at all."

"You would not be afraid of him, would you?"

"Lord love you, cap'n not a bit. Why, cap'n talk about bein' afeerd o' him! Jest let me tell you something. 'Bout two years ago, me an' Ackerman fell out. Shortly arter that I was goin' along through the woods. I wan't expectin' to meet nobody, and wan't particular on the look out, but I had my old fuses along with me. Well, Lord bless you, cap'n, the fust thing I knowed, Ackerman jumped from behind a tree an' cut loose at me with a pepper-box pistol, an' Lord love your soul, honey, I pulled down on him and filled him so full o' lead that he had to turn him over with a handspike. Oh, no, cap'n, a man that packs a pepper-box ain't dangerous. He's his own worst inimy, cap'n. Any other p'int you want to know?"

There were no other "pints."

[Drake's Travellers' Magazine.

**Bleached Blondes Doomed.**

Bleached hair is doomed, and the unfortunates who have lately acquired a growth will be accused of bad taste and considered out of the pale of fashionable society. Reddish blonde, known as Titian red, red brown, and delicate auburn are in constant demand. Black and dark brown can easily be given the desired shade, but the bleached blondes will have to shingle off their faded crop and grow a natural one, and meanwhile wear a wig or take advantage of the "jockey" mode.—[N. Y. Star.

**A Family Bickering.**

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