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## HOFER BROS

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## THINKS WELL OF HERSELF

### An English Woman Says Men Would Marry Willingly

#### Gives as a Reason That the Woman Will Not Consent to Marry More Men

"A True Woman," in London Free Lance.

It is just what might have been expected from the modern man, this shifting of the blame for the decline in marriages onto the shoulders of the women. Man is piqued because he feels instinctively that he does not find favor with the fair sex, and out of mere spite he turns up his lordly nose and says that he does not marry because women are not good enough for him. He sets up a fanciful ideal, which he never for a moment expects will be realized, and says that he wants that, and will take care that he gets it. If by any freak of nature the abnormality which man upholds as the perfect woman were to be found, she would never find favor with the average "lord of creation," for by then he would have decided that the extinct Dodo was the proper mate for him.

The whole question is summed up in the fable of the fox and the grapes. Many would fly to our arms if we would let him, but the natural instinct in him tells him that he would be rejected, and, feeling sufficiently small as he is, he does not dare to risk further humiliation. No; the "brave, strong man" imitates the fox and tries to persuade his fellows that wearing a tail, in the shape of a wife—and that, after all, is the position he wishes to assign to her, a mere decoration or appendage—is not fashionable, nay, rather cumbersome. At the same time he secretly envies those who have been graciously accepted by the "very necessary woman."

In his chagrin man accuses us, whom he is dying to propose to, of being fond of amusement, and ranks this partiality as a sin. Who is the greatest patron of all forms of entertainment, I should like to know, man or woman? Do we require that one page at least of every daily paper shall be filled with accounts of sports? Do we form half of the audiences in music halls and theatres? Do we lounge around in billiard saloons or card rooms when we ought to be earning our daily bread? Are we ever heard to chuckle over "that awful spree at Jinks?"

The accusation is unjust, cowardly, but eminently manly.

If we are fond of occasionally calling on some friends of our own sex and discussing with them the affairs of the day, can we be blamed for wishing now and again to mingle with people who treat us as equals and not as mere toys or inferiors? For true appreciation we must fly to our own sex, even though we are charged with gossiping. Nor should we be upbraided for desiring to become strong, seeing that we are perpetually being sneered at as "the weaker sex."

What is there, I ask, to make us feel inclined to honor a man by marrying him? From the moment he first meets us he commences to treat us as if we were not endowed with reason; he talks to us as if foolish compliments were all that woman could possibly desire; he airs his own greatness, with the natural result that he makes us feel small, and he wonders that we are not in a hurry to accept this inferior position for the rest of our lives. Many a man talks far more rationally to his pet terrier than he does to the lady he takes in to dinner, albeit she may be far better educated than he is, and as acquaintance ripens his conversation becomes more insane, till, as he approaches the stage when he fancies he ought to suggest marriage, his adulation becomes positively sickening.

I do not say that a woman dislikes praise; no, she is fond of it, but it must be sincere and come from a man whom she can respect.

There I touch the two most necessary characteristics in the man whom woman wants to marry; sincerity and the power to command respect. Naturally we dislike compliments which we feel sure have been rehearsed to barmaids, or practiced on other women; while without respect there can be no true love.

Let a man by his life show that he is pure, straightforward, and truly chivalrous, and his words will then



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carry weight with women, even though he be not sufficiently noble to raise his conversation above the sugar stage.

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Leaves Albany .....	7:00 a.m.
Arrives Detroit .....	12:30 p.m.
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