

WOMEN'S EXTRAVAGANCE IS OFTEN MEN'S FAULT

(Helen Oldfield, in Tacoma Ledger.)
 There are a few attributes of the "eternal feminine" which are more strenuously insisted upon than that of feminine extravagance. Yet, for all that, it is to be doubted whether, in point of fact, the extravagance of women exceeds that of men, perhaps even whether it equals it. Indeed, it may justly be claimed that a woman, however lavish of expenditure, is more or less certain to demand a quid pro quo for her outlay, and rarely attains to the point of spending wealth with the recklessness which men "plungers" often display. Even Cleopatra, with her famous draft of dissolved pearl, had in view a definite end, the desire to impress and astonish Mark Antony, even as many a woman since her day has sacrificed more or less in order to fix the attention of the man whom she has wished to attract.

From the beginning the "excuse of Adam": "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she tempted me," has been a favorite one with all mankind. "Cherchez la femme" is the old French proverb. "There is never a bit of mischief but a petticoat is at the bottom of it," says the old English version of the same maxim.

When a man covets the earth it usually is in order to give it to some woman; that is indisputable, according to both history and tradition. And when, having, with much pain and toil, secured a small part of the universe, he presents it to the lady of his choice, it happens, perchance, that she treats the gift lightly, plays with it, breaks, perhaps even throws it away. Then straightway, he is indignant, and holds her sternly responsible for her carelessness, which may be due to ignorance; and forgets entirely that he himself is to blame in that he has made no effort to impress her with a sense of its value.

A woman, almost any woman, will take infinite pains, no end of trouble, to please the man whom she loves. No sacrifice is too great for his sake; she will do anything, bear anything, so long as she believes in his devotion to herself. Wherefore, if he choose to treat her as a child, a plaything, he has no just cause to resent the fact that when he desires to find in her a helpmeet, counselor, and companion, she fails to rise to the occasion. If often is said, and truly that with many men what are virtues in a sweetheart become grave faults when the sweetheart is a wife.

There is an ancient and threadbare conundrum which defines matrimony as a matter of money. There is more truth than wit in the sorry jest, not because there are mercenary marriages but because financial difficulties and squabbles over bills and ex-

penses wreck so many matrimonial ventures.

Love of the genuine, permanent variety does not go out of the window when poverty enters the door. On the contrary, it stands its ground bravely and does battle with the wolf in behalf of its beloved. But, what can a man expect when, instead of treating his wife like a reasonable human being, making her his confident and co-worker, he keeps her in the dark as to his financial status, allowing her to run bills blindly, and then blames her when, through ignorance rather than malice aforethought, she involves him in debts which he cannot pay?

It is to be feared that many men marry upon false pretenses in that the women whom they marry are more or less uninformed as to the precise amount of their incomes, present and to come. And when a man who has conducted his courtship upon a basis of \$5000 a year marries upon an actual salary of \$1000 there is certain to be unpleasantness, not to say trouble, in camp. It is no disgrace, indeed, it is not always an inconvenience not to be able to afford all the luxuries of life; the shame consists in pretending to that which one does not possess; in buying what one cannot pay for honestly.

Nothing can be more foolish than for a young couple to start married life with a grand splurge, spending the few hundreds or so in the bank in unnecessary extravagances which will do them no practical service when the money is gone. Even where there is a solid reserve fund available it is ill advised to draw upon it heavily, or even to abstain from adding to it, if possible, at the outset of matrimony. When once the initial expenses of the wedding and house furnishing are over, the cost of living ought to be, and usually is, less for a time than it will be thereafter. Everything is new, and with ordinary care there should be no outlay in replacing or repairing for some time. A newly married couple, unless they are people of wealth, are not expected to entertain upon an expensive or lavish scale. Later on things may be different, and more money will be needed for all kinds of things; wherefore it is well that provision shall be made for emergencies. A wise old man used to tell his children that he always had found it much easier to do without a thing which he had money enough to buy at any time than to be deprived of it for lack of means to procure it. It is easy to pass from comfort to luxury, but when a luxury must be relinquished, the force of contrast makes the comfort of yesterday the discomfort of today. Those who are content to begin life

together in circumstances which are well within their means will be spared all the troubles and misfortunes of those who cannot pay their way. Better, a hundred times over, to begin in a five roomed flat and end with a mansion in town and a place in the country, than to reverse this order of things.

In spite of the fact that when the bride has money it is apt to be a source of disagreement, it is an excellent thing for a wife to have an assured income of her own. It ought also to be an infinite relief to a man to know that his wife has money which is beyond the reach of his own success or failure. And, that this may be so, a woman's property should be settled upon her and her children "as tight as the law can tie it." Otherwise she may be unable to refrain from surrendering it, should occasion ever rise.

Whatever a man's income, be it large or small, his wife has a moral right to a certain portion of it, upon which she can depend, and this should be given to regularly, without her being compelled to ask for it. It is a humiliating position for any one to be left without a dollar to pay an expressman, nay, worse, not to have the small amount due on a letter delivered at the door! The average man dislikes exceedingly to be continually asked for small amounts of money, but he rarely appreciates how galling it is to his wife's pride, her self-respect, to be obliged to make such requests. Let every man be honest enough, and loving enough to give his wife a fair idea of his financial position, and trust her to conduct herself accordingly, nor leave her in ignorance when serious trouble is threatening to engulf her as well as him.

Moreover, it must be remembered that economy and extravagance are relative terms; what is proper and becoming in one woman may be nothing short of criminal in another. When a multi-millionaire's wife spends hundreds of thousands of dollars upon jewels she merely is making a safe investment; when a clerk's wife runs into debt for a brooch or bracelet she perhaps is taking a step upon the road to ruin. Women do not know always what they stand upon, and it is the duty of a wise husband to enlighten his wife for her sake and his own.

"Queen" Krupp.

They call her Queen Krupp and she is the richest girl in the world, and she is going to be married. It is a romance. All the power in the 3,500 engines and the 200 steam hammers that make the world's greatest guns in the Krupp works at Essen, Germany, couldn't keep this slip of a girl, who, to tell the truth, is built on the roly-poly order of a dumpling, from falling in love, and she chose, or he chose, whichever you please, Herr von Bohlen-Halbach, to be the keeper of a heart and fortune.

He is a diplomat by trade, and it is lucky that Antoinette Bertha Krupp has an assured income, for diplomacy doesn't pay very well in these days, and a first-class tailor can furnish more food and clothes for his little wife than the average man in the diplomatic service.

Now the man—but who cares about the man?

Let's get at some of the facts about Miss Krupp:

- She leads the simple life.
- She romps, skates, golfs.
- She dresses simply and cares little for society.
- She is fair, rather pretty, of medium height.
- She owns the town of Essen, with 250,000 inhabitants.
- She has over 40,000 employees.
- She owns enormous manufacturing plants and 547 iron mines.
- She owns bakeries, slaughterhouses and general stores.
- She owns the cottages that most of her employes live in.
- She has a watch brigade of 900 men to guard the town, and her private residence.
- She has her private body guard to shoot away anarchists.
- She owns churches, hospitals, hotels, art galleries and museums.
- She has a net income of about \$3,000,000 a year.
- She has a reserve fund of about \$100,000,000.
- She has only to go back to her great grand father to find a humble blacksmith.
- And she really takes a great interest in her people and the work of her factories.

Now you see what sort of responsibility has fallen to Herr von Bohlen-Halbach

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THE CEDARS OF LEBANON

On both flanks of Lebanon we encountered the ruins of ancient temples, in every case erected on conspicuous sites and amid scenery of rare beauty and impressiveness. One was upon a summit near the famous Natural Bridge, half-way up the mountain side, which commanded a view of Beyroun and of a long stretch of the sea shore northward. Another was at the head of the Adonis river, where it burst in great volume and fully formed, from the base of the upper limestone which crowns the summit on the east. Here from time immemorial Adonis had been worshiped with lascivious rites, until Constantine, in the fervor of his recent conversion to Christianity, decreed its destruction. On the eastern side of the range at Zammuneh, about half-way to Baalbek, we encountered again the foundations of an immense Phoenecian temple, concerning which but little has ever been written. It is nearly across the mountain opposite the Temple of Adonis, and like that it was located where an immense stream of water gushes from the mountain side and amid most impressive scenery. Of Baalbek, near by, it is not necessary to speak, nor is this the place to give details concerning the ruins of various other smaller temples which are found in this locality.

As one stands upon the summit of Lebanon, 4000 feet above the cedars, and looks down upon this ancient grove and upon the still more ancient moraine upon which it is growing, and his eye takes in the sites of these ancient temples on the western flank and the vast expanse of the Mediterranean beyond, and, turning to the east, sees the plain of Coele-Syria spread out before him, with the distant ruins of Baalbek in the center, he can but feel as never before the force of the words of Holy Writ "all flesh is grass and as the flower of the field it perisheth." Over this field in successive waves have come and gone all the great nations of antiquity. Here are the relics of the Assyrian, the Babylonian, the Egyptian, the Phoenecian, the Grecian, the Roman, the Moslem and the Crusader. Each has done his part to destroy its noble covering of forest and to add to the desolation wrought by his predecessor. If the process could be reversed, and the greed of man restrained, and proper protection be given to the reforesting of the region, the cedars of Lebanon might yet become, as in the days of the Psalmist, the glory of the whole mountain system. It is the man who has wrought the desolation and practically destroyed those groves which the poet has fittingly called "God's first temples." When shall we restore them again?—George Frederik Wright in Records of the Past.

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