

lightning I seized a half-burnt stick and dealt him a blow on the head, rushed at the tohunga and hit him with the wood in the face. I saw his nose was torn off, and it hung by a thread of skin. A whole host of details came into my vision and have remained in my memory: the half-dazed Maoris about to rush me, the horror-struck face of Mary's father, the charred trunk of my faithful gal's body—ugh! I turned to the door and rushed, bleeding and weak as I was, far into the bush, where my enemies dared not follow me for fear of the evil spirits that come out of the totara trees at sundown.

"I spent that night—God knows how! However, I got away from there. My jaw healed itself. I begged tucker from squatters as I worked my way up the coast towards Auckland. I haven't been here since then, boys. God receive my dead wife's soul! That's all, boys; don't laugh at me. I can't keep the tears back. Good-night, all!"

And John Dory made his way to his bunk under our "tucker-cart."

A Man About the House.

THE DEPRESSING RESULT OF ENTIRE FEMININE RULE.

"His every foot has noise, but As he comes up the stair."

The world of women has been brought up to the gratifying belief that no real home can exist without a woman's refining influence over it, without a woman's hand to guide and direct its affairs; and, let the truth be said, nine men out of ten will heartily confirm this statement. But what of the other side of the question? What of the home without a man? Well, it is useless to deny it, and I write from a woman's point of view, the house without a man in it or belonging to it is a house dull, stultified, yes, and forlorn.

Why and how is it? There is some explanation, perhaps, in the undeniable


fact that man is at the best a selfish creature by nature and heritage of superiority; he demands much more than he gives; and yet it is these seemingly unlovable characteristics which bring out the best housewifely qualities of a woman. But place her in a sphere of responsibility where she has only herself and her kind to "shut doors with," study or fend for, and she will straightway develop into a self-centred individual; the sacrifices and domestic upheavals cheerfully and gladly rendered and endured for the man about the house, she will resent as unnecessary and impossible of achievement.

I have been in many such manless houses, and never in one did I not feel this strange, depressing influence pro-

duced by solely feminine rule, an influence one feels directly one enters the portals; and the masculine hat boldly hanging in the hall as a dread warning of man's presence does not deceive us any more than it does the traumping fraternity for whose subjection it is displayed.

Chill Rigidity.

If there are ample means, a chill and fixed rigidity of routine will prevail; the daily round of duties will be a religion, never, on any pretext, to be departed from; and the number of small, irritating observances will continually grate upon the nerves of the visitor; and it is strange to note how even an intellectual feminine mind can become a victim to



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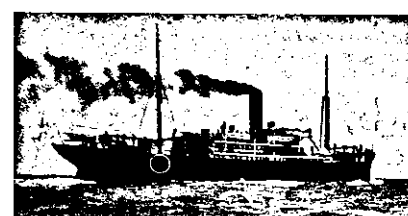
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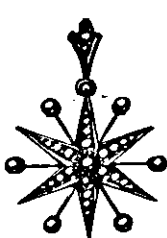
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