

Should Men Rule the Home?

There is a great tendency in the present day, among a certain advanced section of women, to protest against a man's authority in his own household.

Men and women, they say, with truth, are equal in sense, judgment, and power of control. At least, they should be. Why, then, should a man be master? The answer can only be that every government requires at least a virtual head, and that a man's superior strength gives him the natural right to that place in the family.

Of course, well regulated couples don't quarrel over this. They follow out the admirable rule that the woman should have her way in all small matters, the husband his in all vital ones. But, as it is only the great matters in which government is called in question, the method is the same.

To tell the truth, women may talk as they like against government, but there isn't a woman living who doesn't, in her heart of hearts, enjoy being governed, if it is a just rule, and one held by the man she loves. Only a thoroughly weak and foolish woman rebels against such a sway.

The stronger a woman's own will and mind are, the more intense the pleasure it gives her voluntarily to bend them before others that are stronger. A weak woman can never know the delight of surrender to a strength she loves, that is one of the crowning joys of marriage to the woman of strong will and character. These are not the women who cry out against domestic tyranny, and say that the woman should be the head of the man. She would not lose the delicious sensation of giving up her own strong will to one that is stronger for any feeble satisfaction of having her own way.

But it is only by the man she loves that a woman delights in being governed. Unloved mastership is irksome, and makes itself felt as such. When the rule is unjust, or comes from a source where there is no love to sweeten it, then government does not appeal to any woman's mind as a delightful thing.

And how few men, comparatively, understand how to govern their household so that their government is a pleasure! The hand of steel in the glove of velvet is the ideal way—strength behind, but gentleness in front. With a good many of the lords of creation it is all steel and no velvet anywhere; that may compel obedience, but

that does not make it willing; and that a willing obedience is worth ten thousand times an obedience that is forced and reluctant is a secret of good government which a man must learn early, or he will never be able to drive the family four-in-hand without an upset.

For instance, a man who is sensible does not waste power by issuing too many orders. He lets his wife have her way in all the little details of everyday life, knowing well that those details make up much of the importance of daily happiness to her. It is in the really great matters—the important matters—that he makes his authority felt; and when he once decides that a thing must be done, he is firm in sticking to it; he does not command, and then change his mind or spoil his decisions by vacillation.

If a man understands how to reign in his own kingdom, he may go on being undisputed sovereign without a rebel among his willing subjects.

Empress of Russia and the Crown Jewels.

The young Tsaritzita of Russia has the largest collection of Crown jewels to select from of any Royal Consort. There are some amongst the Imperial collection which can only be worn by the reigning Empress, and these are so numerous that she could hardly use them all. There are many of antique design which are very curious and of enormous value. Amongst these is a shawl of beautiful filigree work in gold, a mass of diamonds, which has never been worn. The young Empress does not care for jewels, and only wears them in any quantity on State occasions.

A Celebrated Woman.

The Peking correspondent of the "Celestial Empire" (Shanghai) writes: "The Empress Dowager has a better face than you might think. There is a round forehead, with black, sharp eyes underneath it. Underneath them there are flat, florid little cushions of fatty flesh, and, between, a long straight strong nose. Underneath this a large upper lip and a larger mouth with big gullies cutting down from the nose under the chin, which is small, or looks small because of the heavy flesh hanging down from the cheeks. Her shoes are very high, so that she looks the height of the average woman."

Women and Clubs.

It used to be said that women are not clubbable, but the number of women's clubs now in London, and daily increasing, seems to disprove this statement. During a recent visit to London I was shown over one of the very latest of these additions, the "Ladies' Field Club," before the opening, and was much struck by its completeness, and the way it followed the lines of the masculine club. The decorations were mostly in green, and everything was thought of for comfort and sociability. There were a smoking, billiard and card room, a beautiful dining room, a reading and reception room, also a retiring room, where a celebrated coiffeur and beauty specialist has an installation for the beautifying of the "outer woman." There are also, I believe, to be arrangements made for the housing of the ladies' pets. A staff of between 30 and 40 servants is required to run this latest ladies' club, including an experienced chef.—Lady Correspondent of "The Woman's Age."

Things to Remember.

All vegetables gathered fresh from the garden cook in less time than do those bought in the markets. The time given for green beans in this table is under rather than over the amount necessary.

When entertaining a company it is well to remember a little table of quantity, which requires:

1 quart of oysters to every three persons present.

5 chickens and 15 heads celery, for salad, to every 50 guests.

1 gallon ice cream to every 20 guests.

6 to 10 quarts wine jelly to every 100 guests.

130 sandwiches to every 100 guests.

4 dozen biscuits for every 20 guests.

There is another table, which I call the table of propinquity, which it is well to know, as it keeps in mind the fitness of things in preparing a menu. Every one knows that roast pork should have its accompaniment of apple sauce, but there are other combinations equally fitting, which are often overlooked, to the discomfort of the gastronomist.

Receptacle for Photographs.

A useful article to hold cabinet photographs may be made at very little cost in the following way: Procure a piece of deal, 24 inches long, 6 inches wide, and one inch thick, and plane both sides. Make one end round for the top, and about two inches from the top bore a hole. Then get some plush and cover the whole and nail it to the back. Next procure four pieces of cardboard, eight inches long and 1½ inches wide, which also cover with plush. These should be nailed at the sides with brass tacks at equal distances of six inches. To complete, put a piece of ribbon matching the plush through the hole, and it is ready to hang. The photographs should be put in cornerwise, as the effect is much prettier.

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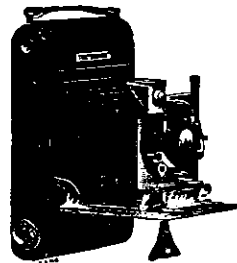
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