

Synopsis of Address Delivered Before the Sumner Institute, June 17, 1885, by W. C. Benet, with an Extract to full.

The speaker discussed "The American Woman"—how she is differentiated from her sisters in other parts of the world. Referring to the declaration of American Independence and the effects of subsequent struggle on the development of American character, the speaker found in the demands made upon the American Woman by the exigencies of that period, the rationale of the fresh, original, unique type of womanhood she produced.

Advancing to the consideration of woman's higher education, the speaker contrasted the rich provision now made for that end, with the meagreness and poverty of that which until few generations ago was regarded as all that a woman could or ought to know.

The speaker poured a broadside of good-humored satire into some of the aspects of this question, such as sitting on juries, going to the ballot-box electioneering, and the like portraying the grievous results in case husband and wife should happen to differ on these points and expressing the belief that the possibility of the realization of the "advanced" woman's hope was very shadowy and remote.

The privileges of the ballot-box, the jury box, the pulpit, the lecture platform, the forum, and all such kindred matters, the typical American woman does not desire to exercise.

But there are rights said the speaker, which women should claim, and receive. Among them is the right to rule society and its customs.

My desire has not been to preach to the American Woman, "Thou shalt" and "thou shalt not"—not say, "do this" or "don't do that,"—preaching the dreary religion of "Don't," as the manner of some is. I have not said to her, "don't be a lawyer," "don't be a doctor," "don't seek to go to Congress," "don't run for the presidency," "don't preach from the pulpit," "don't harangue from the stump."

The eternal verities are against her abdication, although some theories of to-day would favor it. But she will not mistake the brief spark of the firefly of a night for the steady lamp of God's eternal Stars.

The progress and perfectibility of man depend on the purity and elevation of home. Civilization, resolved into primal elements, consists in homes of purity and love; and the anchor of our faith in an ultimately perfect civilization is in woman, the mistress of the home.

Woman should be the sole judge, because she is the best judge of all that pertains to society. She has most at stake; and for her true nature, her deli-

cato perception, her quick sensibility, give her warning of approaching dangers before the duller nature of man can be aroused even to suspicion. And yet, ever anon, we see man presuming to invade the jurisdiction of woman; here an editor, there a clergyman, thunders his denunciation of woman's dress or fulminates against the social dance. Quite recently Carolina society and society in Georgia, have had to listen to or read sermons and articles on the subject of dancing. It is not my purpose, nor is this the time nor the place, to discuss the question of dancing. I only desire, in the name of pure girlhood and pure womanhood, to protest against this invasion of the rights of woman by either clergyman or editor.

Sorely those men who think otherwise, and preach "Thou shalt not dance" to woman, forget that we are not living under an Asiatic or Eastern civilization, nor under a Mohammedan dispensation, nor even under the stern laws of Moses. They should remember that we are living under an European, American and Western civilization, enjoying the glorious liberty of the Gospel of Christ.

Let them reflect that the orientalism which they seek to impose upon us, with its veiled women living in the seclusion of the harem, means for woman slavery and degradation; for man tyranny and immortality. Their efforts are as mischievous as they are vain.

History shows that whenever and wherever man gives law to society, immortality prevails and manners are rude. Pure morals and gentle manners can only flourish when woman reigns.

The recent sermon and subsequent discussion on dancing in the News and Courier, did more harm to the pure minds and hearts of youth, than the balls and dances therein denounced. I am reminded of what was told me by a holy man of God, who ministers at the altar; he said that all the impure writing of Byron had injured his moral nature less than had a sermon on dancing, which he had once heard preached by a distinguished divine of his church.

Men and brethren, whether clergymen or lawyers, let us leave the social question, as we should leave all social questions, in the clean hands and pure hearts of our mothers, wives and daughters. It is their right; it is their prerogative. It is their safety and ours. Where these angels of our hearts and homes rush in, we need not fear to tread. For their sake, let us not seek to subject them who were born under the Star of Occident to the trammels and tyranny of the Orient.

Let us humbly learn of them their sweet philosophy—which is the philosophy of Christianity—that "to the pure, all things are pure." Then, and not till then, may we hope to share with them the blessing promised on the Mount by the Son of Mary—"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

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If the American woman of the twentieth century is to be of the mannish type, more fond of publicity than of fire-side joys, bartering home for professional and political rewards—then the decline and fall of the Roman Empire was not so speedy, complete, and awful, as will be the American Republic, hurrying amid lurid lights into hideous ruin and combustion. If this great country is to lead the van of civilization, to be the exemplar of morality, the home of purity and of piety, it will be because America shall have taken, as her type and pattern of woman, the gentle, home-loving women of the South."

David Dickson's Money.

SPARTA, Ga., July 5.—The greatest interest is exhibited in the will of the late David Dickson, the farmer millionaire, who died leaving all his property except a small pittance to a negro named Amanda Eubanks. As Dickson gave liberal fees to several lawyers and his administrators to see that his will was enforced they are making strong fight. The white heirs of Dickson, who are scattered through Georgia, New York and Texas, have also employed able counsel and hope to attack the dead man's sanity. The will is to be probated on Tuesday, when the great fight will open.

An intimate friend of Mr. Dickson has just told the inside story of the will. Amanda Eubanks, the beneficiary, is the result of an early indiscretion of Mr. Dickson with one of his slaves. It is claimed that after the birth of this child Dickson took to reading his Bible and to prayer, and declared that it took a man of grit to take care of his offspring when placed in society and prejudice. Hence his will was intended to secure his own child, negro though she was, all that money could accomplish. In the will the lawyers are directed not only to see that his provisions as to his property are carried out, but to see that the woman is protected in all of her rights wherever she may choose to live. The woman is overrun with letters from negroes and whites all over the country.

The Coming Comet.

You may look out for a brilliant comet in the Southwestern heavens early in August or the latter part of July," said Professor John M. Klein, Kentucky's astronomer, to a Courier-Journal reporter. "Upon what theory do you base such a prediction? "Well, the fact of the matter is that I have noticed for several nights the unmistakable path or orbit of the comet. Look! Do you see that great streak in the heavens resembling somewhat the milky way? It is the path or orbit of a great comet, and that great streak of light is the gaseous matter that follows in the wake of a comet. It is impossible to see it at present, as it travels in the orbit of the sun, whose brilliant light during the day prevents the human eye from gazing at it. The deflection by the latter part of July or August will, however, bring it above the horizon during the early evening hours, when it will be plainly visible, and when it will be of the first magnitude." As Professor Klein has heretofore predicted and discovered comets with unflinching accuracy, the fulfillment of this prediction will be looked forward to with interest by the scientific world generally.

The Danger of Mock Marriages.

New York, June 7.—On October 9th, 1876, Miss Flora A. Hastings, of San Francisco, who was staying at Notre Dame Academy, Baltimore, underwent a mock marriage ceremony "for fun," with James O. B. Kelly, at Alleghany Station, Va., where Kelly lived. At the particular time mentioned, Miss Hastings, who was 17 years old, was the guest of Kelly's sisters, one of whom was her schoolmate. All the parties considered the scene as a jest and Kelly did not claim that Miss Hastings was his wife for years. In fact, the couple did not meet again until June, 1885, when Kelly at once claimed her, although she had been married to Winfield Scott Keyes by the Archbishop of San Francisco on April 25th, 1887. In July, 1883, Mr. Keyes brought suit, in the San Francisco Superior Court, to have his marriage annulled on the ground that his wife had been married to Kelly. Mrs. Keyes also brought suit, in this State, to have her mock married with Kelly declared void. Referee Abram Kling has rendered a report in favor of Miss Hastings, or Mrs. Keyes, and Judge Andrews, of the Supreme Court, yesterday confirmed the report.

A well known conductor was summoned to appear before the superintendent. "Captain," said the high official, "we appreciate your services"—"Thank you, sir." "Not at all, not at all, I assure you. Yes, we appreciate your services, but has it ever occurred to you that we would like to have some of the money that your trains earn? As long as you only took half we said nothing and even when you began to take two-thirds there was only a slight difference of opinion in the Board of Directors, but now that you have begun to take all, we cannot stand it. Times are too hard, Captain. Good-bye."—Arkansas Traveler.

Baltimore, July 7.—In the United States Circuit Court to-day, Judge Bond affirmed the decree of the District Court awarding three colored women damages of \$100 for having been expelled from first class sleeping apartments on the steamer Sue after they had purchased first class tickets. This settles the question so far as traveling on steamboats on Chesapeake Bay is concerned.

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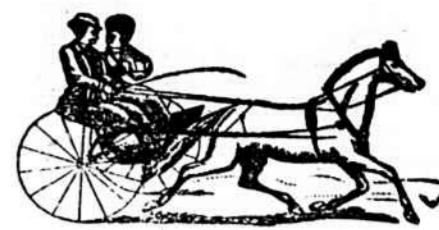
The above can be bought at private sale by applying to Parker & McGowan or Ferris & Cochran.

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