

CONCERNING THE LEAP YEAR_A LAMENT

On New Year's Day of every year, divisible by 4, formerly carefree and independently-gay single males the world over stare bleary-eyed into a cracked mirror at their bristly countenances. There comes over their features a contortion stemming from sensations of horror and apprehension. These emotions, in turn, are responsible to their realization that after their night of revelry they now face a year fraught with challenges of subtle deception, intensified to a degree with which they have not had to contend throughout the three preceding years. Yes, poor wretches, you have begun your harrided race through 366 days oozing with calumny, deceipt, and divers unscrupulous wiles all practiced by that frail, sweetly-flowered innocent-WOMAN. There she stands!-pure on her pedestal, her hair wreathed artfully about her apparently-guileless face, a smile of shy grace upon her lips, and her hands clasped demurely before her as tho' in a gesture of self-protection from the overtures of the supposed aggressor-MAN. But wait! There is some small detail which our eye, has misseed-she is wearing on her feet-not some small and dainty sandal-but, horror of horrors, sneak ers!

Bachelors of the world-beware-for now is the season of coy and ensnaring glances from sultry-lidded eyes, soft carresses from glue-covered gentle fingers, and talk of a June merger of two private corporations all sweetly tempered by promises of a lucrative bank balance (O shameless ruse).

Gentlemen, whom are we to blame for these catastrophic times? While persuing some ancient crumbling documents, which have come into this office's possession by means too nefarious to be mentioned, we found the following article in a paper dated 28 February, 1288 and of Scottish origin: "Today a statute has been ordained to the effect that during the reign of her most blessed Majesty, for each year known as "Leap Year", each maiden of both high and low estate shall have liberty to bespeak the man she likes,albeit he refuses her to be his lawful wedded wife he shall be mulcted for the sum of one pound or less (O,the pain), as his estate may be; with exception that he can make it appear that he is betrothed to another woman, he then shall be free. "A few years later a like law was passed in France, and in the 15th century the custom was legalized in Genoa and Florence.

It is to this foul piece of legislature that we are able to trace the precedents for our trying days of this, the year 1960 A.D. It is not inough that we must continually bear the burden of Adam's acceptance of feminine guidance(as a Hungarian sage put it: "Adam ate the apple and our teeth ache from it,") but we must be further weighted by medieval moronity which has evolved to a modern acceptance of devices more fearsome than any gothic torture chamber has ever housed. Gross injustice! What hope lies ahead for our beleagured sex?

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