

Old Virginia Matrons.

The old-fashioned Virginia matron was not feminine in the modern sense of the word, which makes it synonymous with trivial, feeble and inane. She was feminine, however, in the sense of being and doing what is appropriate to woman.

A letter written by Mrs. Carrington, describing a visit which she and her husband, a soldier of the Revolution, made to Mount Vernon, just before Washington's death gives a view of the Virginia lady of one hundred years ago. After mentioning that Washington extended his retiring hour from 9 to 12 to talk about the scenes of the war, and that Mrs. Washington spoke of the days of her public life as 'her lost days,' she writes:

'Let us repair to the old lady's room, which is precisely in the style of our good old aunt's—that is to say, nicely fixed for all sorts of work. On one side sits the chambermaid, with her knitting; on the other, a little colored pet, learning to sew.'

'An old, decent woman is there, with her table and shears, cutting out the negro's winter clothes, while the good lady directs them all, incessantly knitting herself.'

'She points out to me several pairs of nice colored stockings and gloves she had just finished, and presents me with a pair half done, that she begs I will finish and wear for her sake.'

'It is wonderful, after a life spent as these good people have necessarily spent theirs, to see them, in retirement, assume those domestic habits that prevail in our country.'

The words we have italicized show that Martha Washington, instead of being singular, was a type of Virginia matrons. The words of Proverbs describe them: 'She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.' 'She girdeth her loins with strength, and maketh strong her arms.' 'She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.'—*Truth's Companion.*

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

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A CERTAIN Republican official has an old colored man in his office who builds fires, sweeps out and holds the fort while the official goes out to "see a man," or on other business. The other day a visitor met the old darkey on the street.

"Sam," he called to him, "is Mr. X. in his office?"

"Yes, sah; leas' ways he war when I come away."

"Well, I've got to go up to the next square; do you think he'll be there when I get back?"

"I don't know 'bout dat, sah, Yo' see, boss, hits a gittin mighty nigh on ter de time when yo' can't fin' no 'Publicans in der offices, an' I see a little shabby ebbery time I leas de boss dat' when I come bak dar'll be some Democrat er under settin' in his chear, jis ez if ho owned de whole shebang. Yo, bettah go now, sir, an' be shu' uv im."

"Yes," said Dudgey, rising with a sigh from the chiropodist's chair and looking at his pair of toothpick shoes, "there's the divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them as we will."

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