

"WHEN IS AN OLD MAID?" IS QUERY PUT TO M'LISS

Spinsterhood May Be an Attitude of Mind Rather Than a Matter of Years—There Are Male and Married Ones, Too

I THOUGHT she had vanished long ago—the old maid. I had rather imagined that this much-maligned, seldom-mentioned creature had faded imperceptibly away; that she was as extinct as the horsehair sofa and tatted tidi.

But no! A correspondent reminds me that she still lives—and perhaps suffers. Though, judging from the tenor of the following communication, she can inflict pain as well as hear it. My correspondent writes:

Dear M'LISS—Will you advise me a little on the question I am about to ask you?

Whom should a man belong to mostly, his wife or his old maid sister? It seems to me that in these days the man who marries has to take his old maid sister's say before he takes his wife's. Also please tell me at what age is a woman an old maid?

First of all, "Philadelphia Wife," let us consider the period of life at which it can be safely said that a woman glides into—or perhaps it would be more accurate to say is pushed into—spinsterhood.

Just as the line of the sea recedes with the years and in time ten feet of beach may become 20 or 30, so also has the age of girlhood been extended, and whereas 50 years ago women who arrived at the quarter of a century mark became "lilies" (to use the French expression indicative of poor females who were considered too old to be eligible for matrimony), nowadays one can speak of a 35-year-old as a girl and be guilty of no insincerity in the remark.

Personally, I believe spinsterhood to be an attitude of mind rather than a time or condition of life. It denotes a certain "setness" of ideas and habits, a lack of pliancy and adaptability, the possession of which qualities is as sure a mark of youth as pink cheeks and glowing orbs.

It has ever been the custom to suppose that no woman exists or has existed so unattractive as not to have at least one man offer to lead her to the hymeneal altar. I disbelieve this. There are women so unyielding, one might almost say so granite, in their outlook on life that no man could find the inclination or the courage to propose the important leap.

But these husbandless ladies who keep cats, drink much tea and become thoroughly expert on how other people's children should be raised are not the only old maids in the world. Ah, no! This would be an Elysium, indeed, if that were true.

As a matter of fact, many wives are in reality old maids, because, fortuitously for them, they marry young, before their "setness" has had a chance to reveal itself as a deterrent to aspiring men.

Likewise, there are male old maids. Your so-called "confirmed old bachelor" belongs in this category. He is as set as a block of pigiron, and only the fire of a complete reincarnation could serve to melt him.

Summing up the discussion, then, I find that we have three distinct types of old maids—the married ones and the male and female unmarried ones. But do not make the mistake of believing that every unmarried woman no longer young is an old maid. This is a grievous libel.

As to the other query: To whom should a man belong mostly, his wife or his old maid sister? I should answer most emphatically, "To neither." He should belong exclusively and wholly to himself. Otherwise he becomes a worm not fit to wriggle upright.

The day of serfdom has passed, "Philadelphia Wife." I believe in rights for men as well as for women. But had you asked me, "The society of whom should a man prefer, that of his wife or of his old maid sister?" I should have answered unhesitatingly, "His wife's." But whether he does or not depends in large measure on her. Don't you agree with me?

Greater Sacrifice Maketh No Man Than This

The proprietor of a popular candy shop tells me that the decrease in his sales of sweetmeats during Lent is concrete testimony to the fact that mortification and abnegation are still practiced in the penitential season by the majority.

But real penance is achieved only by divorcing yourself from the most cherished of all your possessions. Consider the instance of a man I know who, after carefully nurturing a wee mustache for months, had the fearful conviction borne in on him that the good of his soul necessitated the giving up of the dear thing. With one fell swoop of the cruel blade the work of many months was cut down.

If such an act is not worthy of canonization, I ask you what is?

M'LISS.

Letters to the Editor of the Woman's Page

Address all communications to M'LISS, care of the Evening Ledger. Write on one side of the paper only.

Dear M'LISS—Will you kindly send me a list of gifts ranging from \$5 up to \$10 in price that would be suitable to present to a high school situated about 15 miles from Philadelphia? We want something useful and at the same time original. I would like to hear from you as soon as possible. When I wrote to you before I must comment on your speedy response to my inquiry. I was greatly pleased and felt free to ask you this time about something which is very important to the senior class.

I believe the following suggestions are within the price limit you set:

A rare tree of an unusual species. I have not consulted a horticulturist, because you ask for an immediate reply, but I believe the unusual Japanese umbrella kind will grow in this climate. It could be planted in the school yard and an inscription regarding its presentation. This

VICTIM OF PARESIS HAS A HOBBY FOR DIVORCE; FRIEND TELLS OF CASE

By WILLIAM BRADY, M. D.

MR. XYZ has been "treating with a nerve specialist," a friend writes: "His symptoms are: (1) stubbornness; he never was so before this trouble began. The trouble started suddenly a year ago—he ran away with some funds belonging to his employer, and though he went only 10 miles from home, he insisted he was never coming back. (2) He has taken a marked antipathy for his family and all his old friends. (3) He refuses to take medicine, declaring that he is as sound as a dollar. (4) He deceives everybody, and without reason, about the most trivial things. "He is 44 years old, has always been a man of good health, but drank considerably all his life, and is a heavy smoker. "He doesn't want to mix with people he has always mixed with. He has spells of despondency and crying, but usually is planning stupendous affairs and seems to think he has control of some mysterious but unlimited resources. He declares he can buy and sell Rockefeller, for instance. His eyes look stony, and he looks down all the time. He is inclined to say and do indecent, shocking things (though he has always been a clean-minded man) and is easily influenced by a despotic class of people who tell him they will do great things for him—people whose only desire is to get control of his business. "His hobby is divorce—he talks continually of getting a divorce from his wife, the truest woman in the world. He declares he will commit suicide rather than live with her, and he accuses her of the most inconceivable crimes. He is squandering his resources, disgracing his family and driving his wife to the grave. For God's sake, what can be done?" A better description of paresis, or "softening of the brain" as it is vulgarly known, could scarcely be written. There is but one thing to do, in the man's own interest and in the interest of his family.

What is myxoedema? What are the symptoms? Is it curable? Answer—The result of absence or inadequacy of secretion of the thyroid gland. Symptoms are mental hebetude, physical laziness, overweight, lack of perspiration, dry, thick skin, puffiness, pads of fat on the face, cold, slow pulse, subnormal temperature, sensitiveness to cold, drowsiness, thick lips, scanty or absent menstruation in women. It is curable by glandular therapy.

Mohair Again Mohair is "revived" for spring wear. It is so stiff and lustrous that it is an ideal fabric for the new cape collar and bouffant jacket. Mulberry is a new color, especially suited to the peculiar weave of mohair. Bolting green, navy blue and black are the new colors. A smart innovation is a frock of green Georgette, to which bands of green mohair are applied to the skirt. The close-fitting bodice is of beige style, fastening down the front with large pearl buttons. Long Georgette sleeves with a white cuff add chic.

Half-Mourning Blouse A new idea in blouses is a half mourning waist of black and white linen. Simulated shoulder straps are worked over the shoulders in chain stitch embroidery, with complete illusion of buckles also worked out in thread. The collar is very wide, and plaited across the back.

Help From on High "Stars of a summer night. Far in your azure height." You filled my soul with bliss. When I was looked up to where you gleam, I sighed my fervent dream. The chance for my King. —Punch Bowl.

SEEN IN THE SHOPS



PREPAREDNESS FIRST—THE CARTRIDGE SUIT

WHITE broadcloth is as fashionable now as it ever was, as proof consider this good-looking coat suit of navy taffeta with its white broadcloth shawl collar, cuffs and pipings. The name of the suit comes from the line in which the belt is treated—made of simulated cartridge plait at either side. These plaits are also introduced at the flare cuffs, to very good effect. The military lines are contradicted by the flaring, bouffant frill at the bottom of the jacket. The sash is edged with white broadcloth pipings.

The full, short skirt is edged with the white, like the sash, and in every way conforms to the decorations on the coat. Price \$42.50. A Tam O'Shanter toque of lincere straw has a wide black satin fold in self-color around the crown. An iridescent bird perches jauntily on the top of the crown. In any color, the price is \$18.50.

The name of the shop where these articles may be purchased will be supplied by the Editor of the Woman's Page, EVENING LEDGER, 605 Chestnut street. The request must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope and must mention the date on which the article appeared.

KILTIES KISS ALL GIRLS GOOD-BY IN LEAVING FOR THE TRENCHES

Ellen Adair Tells of Sad and Merry Scenes in Scotch Station as "Sandy" Leaves for the Battle Front

By ELLEN ADAIR

Written Specially for the EVENING LEDGER, EDINBURGH, March 14.

When Sandy MacTavish comes back to Inverary Marching to the pipers' military band, he will be a different man. He will be a man who has seen the world, who has known the roar of battle, who has seen the world through the eyes of a soldier. He will be a man who has seen the world through the eyes of a soldier.

"The Campbells Are Coming" echoes through the station. And the old familiar strains bring tears to the eyes of the old folk, who remember them in happier times. There's always a purling brook hidden heartache in the music of the Scottish pipes.

Out of Edinburgh's streets into the railroad station marches a curious little party, led by a kilted soldier, rifle in one hand, the other linked in the arm of an old man, bent with years. Immediately behind comes a string of relatives and friends, in the rear, younger brother is struggling under the weight of a tightly packed kit-bag—and all are singing.

For the returning soldier must be cheered on his way. Such is the creed of Scotland. "Sandy MacTavish" goes to make the smoke-clouded fog ring. Other parties bound for the same destination enter the station. Voices are raised, and "hoosies" punctuate the different songs.

At the barriers beside the big train the soldier stops. "No one but ticket-holders admitted," says the man at the gates.

"But this is the maid man," says the soldier, amazed. "Ye mean to say he's no' to get seen' the train away, and him with special leave from the night shift? Ye big stupid, stand aside, and let 'em pass!"

"Ticket holders only," says the guard laconically, barring the way. A dramatic pause. Then, "If my auld father's no' good enough to get into the station, then I'm no' good enough to go to France," says the big soldier angrily. "You just hand your tongue. This is a question of principle, no' of discipline."

The situation appears hopeless. For when the Scotchman talks of "principle," then be sure he's as dour and dogged and immovable as the Castle Rock. A sudden rift in the lute. Into the trembling hand of the "auid man" a ticket is thrust by a kindly spectator. "This'll carry you as far as the next station," says a voice, "and you'll be allowed on the platform now."

Through the barriers tramps a now triumphant and smiling soldier, the "auid man" proudly at his side. "Diddled them that time, didn't we, father?" he chuckles. "They're mighty fly, but no' fly enough!"

Here comes another soldier, one arm carrying his equipment, the other round the waist of a pink-checked girl. "I'll say 'lookin' for your letters, sunnie," he says, "and when I come back—"

"Annie presses it in arm. Her rosy face smiles up bravely, and for a brief moment she forgets the fear away down in her patriotic heart. In her glistening eyes one can picture the coming back—the little home—the big stalwart husband—peace after peace, happiness after pain.

The minutes—such precious last minutes—quickly pass. A little kiddie carrying his father's rifle staggers proudly behind another soldier. There's a quiet-faced woman, too, a tartan shawl about her and in the shawl a tiny figure that stares with eyes of innocent wonderment at the scene. "She'll be a big girl when you come back," says the woman slowly, "kiss daddy good-by, baby."

Seated on his kit-bag and cheerily polishing his rifle, sits Happy Harry, the delight of his regiment. He's only a little private, with red hair, freckles and such an impudent little snub nose, but the men all love him, for nothing ever daunts him, and troubles slide from his genial nature like water from a duck's back. "Listen to Happy Harry singing," cries someone, "it does your heart good to hear him. He never can hit the tune, but I'm thinking no music's better than his voice."

And sure enough, the voice of Happy Harry rises, triumphant and raucous, above the babel of voices.

GOOD FORM

Good form queries should be addressed to Deborah Rush, written on one side of the paper and signed with full name and address, though initials ONLY will be published upon request.

The unfortunate complications which arise from tale-bearing and dishonorable actions, for the writing of a letter and signing the same with a name which is not one's own, especially with the intention of deceiving the recipient of the letter, is not only dishonorable but criminal, as that sort of thing is plain forgery. In answering the letter, I would say I think it has been brought about by gossip and idle talk. Why let others write explanations for you. I should advise you to drop the whole thing and, above all, not discuss this evidently very ungentlemanly person with any of these so-called friends, people who run from one to another with tales making mischief are not to be trusted.

If, on the other hand, the young man in question is perhaps hurt by false stories having been carried to him, if you have really been good friends I would write him a little note, saying that there is evidently some misunderstanding which has been brought about by gossip and untruths, and you would be glad if he would give you an opportunity to straighten the matter out by talking with you about it. Do not get any one else to write for you; do it yourself. Some times with the best intentions in the world persons who try to fix up misunderstandings between others make matters worse. If the young man pays no attention to your letter, he is not worth worrying about.

A man asking you to go out with him five or six times cannot be said to be in love with you. I think this is what you mean by your question; he probably likes rather than dislikes you, but I would not think very much of it.

It is a mistake to let your imagination and appreciation of a casual politeness run into his actions. If girls only knew how often they lose a very good friend by being always on the lookout for a lover they would perhaps pause before trying to see love in every ordinary saying.

A Misunderstanding Dear Deborah Rush—Please aid me in my little trouble. I have had a little misunderstanding with a friend of mine. I have learned through other girls that a young man was talking about me, but I don't think it is the truth.

Some one sent him a letter telling him what he had said and another letter. I closed to which my name was signed, and I did not write it at all. The young man has stopped speaking to me and looks at me with a terrible expression. Another friend of mine wrote to him, telling him I did not send it, but that did not encourage him any. Kindly advise me what to do. Tell me if I should speak first or he, as he knows I am innocent. Please tell me if a young man comes for me if he asks me to go out five or six times. Thanking you for your kindness and trusting to hear from you through your column tomorrow evening or in the near future. M. R.

Your letter is answered in the first paragraph.

April Fool Stunts Dear Deborah Rush—Will you kindly publish some new April fool stunts, which girls can impose on boys and girls, especially the former. I thank you in advance. Yours respectfully, T. M.

A letter has been written to you with several suggestions.

Cafe Going Unhappened Dear Deborah Rush—Will you tell me if it is proper for two sisters of 20 and 21 to go to a cafe with two men, provided one of them is engaged to one of the men. E. M. P.

It is rather unconventional, as both sisters are pretty young, and it would not be considered quite in good form. DEBORAH RUSH.

Gorgeous Trimmings Paraseteries is a favorite trimming an evening gown. It is seen to good advantage on charming frocks of airy tulle; no touch here and there on the bodice, shoulder straps or the skirt lends poise to the whole. Opalescent bands are stunning, when combined with white or pink pastel shades of tulle. Another smart color scheme for the older women is gaining much favor, namely, gold cloth and rhinestones or tulle. The latter is most becoming to the matronly type. Incidentally, many of the smartest matrons are wearing shades of orchid and mauve this season, trimmed with bands of silver cloth.

Culinary Tip If you find your butter hard at the psychological moment in cake-baking, don't put it on the stove, or in a pan of hot water. The outside will soften and the inside will remain hard. The best way to do the trick is to pour hot water over the butter, and work it with a spoon or fork until it is like velvet.

Spring Skirts Skirts reach to the shoetops, no longer, no shorter. They measure two and a half to three yards around the bottom. They are cut circular, or have from two to three gores.

KISSES ALL THE GIRLS. Young girls felt themselves whirled aloft and kissed before the eyes of their startled relatives. Older girls were embraced with as much ardor as were the young and blooming. It took the united efforts of the railway guard, train attendants and onlookers to convince the gay soldier that the 12:30 p. m. was really waiting for his stalwart presence. Laughing, he hung out of the window and waved farewell.

A shrill shriek from the engine—a thunder of hurrahs—a strange tightening of the throat and the 12:30 was really off. There was a sudden quietness in the station. A gray, desolate look was on the faces of those mothers who would not weep—fathers, suddenly grown bent and tired, walked, strangely stern-faced, toward the exit—and girls, with tear-stained faces, were fingering rings and keepsakes.

The last to leave the station was the little Highland mother, who had come that day from the Island of Lewis to see her son go off. She walked out proudly, with her head up and her eyes shining. So might the Spartan mother have walked. Then a man in a dark suit stepped forward and, bending, kissed her passionately. It was "his" photograph. "Never lonely, for my heart is with you all the time," she was murmuring softly.

If You Love Flowers You Should Know The Century Flower Shop 12th below Chestnut St.

ASK FOR and GET HORLICK'S THE ORIGINAL MALTED MILK

Its cleanliness and quality will please you, too. Get it in cartons or cotton bags. They keep Franklin Sugar as clean and dry and good as when it left the refinery. Look for the name and picture of Franklin. In 2 and 5 lb. cartons and in 2, 5, 10, 25 and 50 lb. cotton bags.

Two generations have found satisfaction in FRANKLIN GRANULATED SUGAR

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Marion Harland's Corner

Baby Boy for Adoption I SHOULD be grateful to you if you would help me to find some one who wishes to adopt a beautiful six-week-old baby boy, who comes of a refined family. If my address is required I will send a stamped and self-addressed envelope for reply. MARIE.

Names for Baby I am a young woman who hopes to become a mother before many weeks have passed away. Will you kindly suggest to me a boy's name which begins with 'I' or a girl's name that begins with a 'P' or both? What outfit should one prepare for a spring-time baby? Or, if I am not too late in my application, could I get the benefit of your advice in the matter of embroidery patterns? If I am, please keep my name upon your books for anything some other kind person may offer. I hope I am not trespassing upon the generosity of the Corner? I may be able in my turn to be of service to somebody else some day. C. A. F.

Copies of a Poem Will you kindly inform me where I can get the poem by George M. Cohen titled "Life is a Funny Proposition All? Will you please print it? I will send a stamp for it. Mrs. R. I will be glad to receive a copy. My name and address are registered.

Copies on Request I am sending the poem "Upon the Floor," which was asked for by E. N. M. I haven't the other poem in my possession. Will some one please send me the world of the song, "Ole Younger"? I have a great number of songs and recitations that I will gladly copy for any one who wants them. I am only a 17-year-old girl, so can't be of much help to the beautiful Corner, but I will do the best I can.

Seeks Missing Relatives Will you please try to locate Mr. Martha C. Saul, my sister, and also Miss Castner, my nephew. I do not recollect if he has a middle letter in his name or not. Her husband's name is Samuel. "JANE C."

The petition is passed along to the Corner is gaining a reputation as a best friend in the matter of reminding neglected friends and relatives who have tried other methods of communication. The loss of an address through carelessness or accident is the cause of incalculable inconvenience and often of actual sorrow.

Real California System CAFETERIA

Now Open at 929 Market Street (Second Floor)

The advantages should appeal to you.

Long while ago some one asked about copying letters. I have no more to say yet, so venture to offer a brief description of one method which has been mentioned to me. The company just wants a price for a pen, paper, etc., which it requires you to buy from it before you begin work. Then the letters would take a few minutes (say 20 or 30) to copy, for which you receive a small sum per 1000.

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