

IS THE AMERICAN WOMAN REALLY SPOILED?

"The American Woman Is in Great

Danger of Becoming Spoiled."—W. T. Stead, in Last Sunday's Journal.

Dr. Morgan Dix Says:

NO, I do not agree with Mr. Stead in his statement in the Sunday Journal that the American women, as a whole, are in danger of becoming spoiled. A few, perhaps, are getting spoiled, but they are the ones who, through mistaken ideals, have begun to follow wrong leaders of their own sex, becoming too radical and advanced in their notions. Now, such women as these are getting spoiled, truly, but not spoiled in the way I understand Mr. Stead means. Certainly by unsexing themselves and putting on bloomers they are not influencing the American men to become their slaves. They are not the sort of women for which the American man will enslave himself.

The ordinary American women, as we find them every day in the home and in the church, are not, so far as I have observed, spoiled or in any danger of becoming so. In the church, for example, the American woman of the present day is doing a much greater and better work than did the American woman of a quarter of a century ago. The idea that American women are spoiled arises perhaps in the mind of the foreigner, from the fact that the American man places woman on a very high pedestal and to a certain extent worships her. This homage, however, I do not think will ever spoil her. But it seems to me this is an accusation against which the American woman ought to be able to defend herself. If she is really "spoiled," then she is probably all the more capable of answering for herself without any help from the members of the opposite sex.

Sir Edwin Arnold Declares.

FROM what I have seen during my visit to your country, it has seemed to me that no American woman should ever be anything but happy and contented. I once saw an American girl looking sad and I said to her: "What! You sorrowful? You are an American girl! What is it you want that you have not got?" The American woman has more advantages than any other woman in the world, but she knows how to bear her good fortune and shows no tendency to become spoiled by them. She is a queen, and the American man is her subject, always delighting to do her honor and homage. She is a good housekeeper and as good a mother as the English woman. I make this statement as a compliment, for I consider the English woman a perfect mother.

Sir Walter Besant Believes.

CERTAINLY the American woman has every advantage she can wish for. She has made her place in the front and seems to be capable of making her way against all opposition. Whether or not all these advantages which the American woman enjoys are good for her I cannot say.

Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake Observes.

I cannot agree with Mr. Stead in his views expressed in the Sunday Journal. When we think of the great number of American women who must struggle for their own living and earn their own support, often under great disadvantages, and when we realize that however great the gallantry of American men may be it does not go so far as to give equal pay for equal work, it is difficult to understand how any one can think our women are being spoiled by over-indulgence.

It is true that among many families of the wealthy, husbands and fathers are very kind, lavishing all that money can buy upon wives and daughters. But even in those circles men expect to return a great deal of devotion in looking after their comforts and catering to their conveniences, and many a man whose wife has all that wealth can give lets her suffer because he seeks his pleasures away from home.

But, after all, I believe the American women are the happiest women in the world, because they have more liberty and more equal and chivalrous devotion from men.

By Chester Bailey Ferrall.

SOME American women are "spoiled," some are not. Some are "spoiled" because they insist upon it; others by the accident of their environment. Some are not "spoiled" because they have not the opportunity; others because they cannot be "spoiled." I think there are as many of this last and best kind among my countrywomen as in any other nation.

If you go to the opposite side of the world you find women in what seems to us a degrading subordination to men. But in the Orient, as everywhere else, women have their hold on men; and men can "spoil" them. It is only that the music is played on a different scale. American women are "spoiled." They are the best women in the world, and that is the only generalization that I stand committed to.

The Typical American Woman, As Drawn from life by Artist Charles Dana Gibson.



From "Pictures of People." Copyright, 1896, by R. H. Russell.

By Elizabeth Banks.

IS THE American woman spoiled or in danger of becoming so? Yes, comparatively speaking—comparatively, that is, with the English woman, with whom Mr. Stead was doubtless contrasting her when he made the statement in last Sunday's Journal. Mr. Stead's countrywomen are not spoiled, and they are not in any danger of becoming so, unless the men of England make a turn about face and, instead of being spoiled themselves, allow their womenkind to become so!

Now, the American man is not spoiled! He hasn't time to get spoiled. He spends all his time, and his money, too, in spoiling the American women, and in the art of spoiling he should be labelled par excellence. The spoiled American woman is a credit to him—sometimes; at other times she is a discredit. Take, for instance, the American woman who, with her daughters, goes over to Europe to educate them and get them and herself into society on the other side. In Paris and London you can find this particular specimen of the American woman by the hundreds. She leaves her husband at the New York dock with an affectionate adieu, and, holding her aspiring daughters by the hand, she sails away from her native land in search of other lands to conquer. The devoted husband goes to his downtown office to earn the monthly allowance required by the wife and daughters, and five or six years afterward the wife comes back and enters suit for divorce and alimony! This is a specimen of the "spoiled" American woman with whom the foreigner comes in contact.

The spoiling process of the female sex in America begins at birth. It is an understood thing in a family of boys and girls where limited means make it impossible to give the best to both sons and daughters that the daughters shall have the best and the sons take what is left. In England it is altogether different. The sons are first looked after and the daughters take the leftovers. In America the baby girl queens it over the household; in England the boy baby is monarch of all he surveys. Says the American father to his little son: "Give little sister the biggest half of your apple; let her have your steam cars to play with; give her your walking bear and your jumping frog. Little sister is the lady, you know, and ladies must always come first!" Thereupon little sister gets the big half of the apple and the walking bear, and when she grows up she keeps on getting the things she wants because, you know, "she's the lady."

In New York the Wall Street financier has losses and finds he must diminish his expenditures. He begins with himself and not with the female members of his family. He gives up his extra office clerk and trotting horses, while his wife and daughters still drive about Central Park in their victoria. But in London, the husband is apt to keep his trotters and advise his wife to give up her private brougham.

Then, too, the American woman, when she wants a thing, can generally get it by coaxing or at least crying at the American man. It is a way American women have with them—crying at their husbands and fathers. But shall the Englishwoman cry at the Englishman when she wants a new hat or parasol? Great heavens, no! She knows if she cried at him that would settle the case against her. He would say, kindly but firmly, "Maria, to yield to your tears would be to show weakness on my part! It would be spoiling you! I do not believe in spoiling women!" But the American man is not impervious to tears. He says: "What? Crying? There, there, now, don't cry! I'll get you the moon, yes, I will!"

Thus it is that the American woman gets "spoiled," according to the foreign definition of the word.

By Marie Studholme.

THE American women I have met are very charming. I see no very great difference between them and English women, and there are spoiled English women. I do not think one could say there are more spoiled American women than there are spoiled English women.

I have been so pleased with the American women that all I could say of them would be good. They are charming, and I think they are apt to have very good husbands.

By Rev. George F. Pentecost.

F RANKLY, I don't think our women are in danger of being spoiled, for they are that already. And why not? They are worth spoiling. I mean this: I have seen the women of all the countries of the world, and there are many splendid women everywhere, but the American woman is incomparable. The American man would be a brute if he did not "spoil" his wife and daughters. Why, we like the process of spoiling them as much as they like being spoiled. I should be sorry to have a wife or daughters who were not worth spoiling.

Far Better to Be Spoiled Than to Be Degraded like the Women of Many Foreign Nations.

Unanimous Agreement that the American Woman Is the Most Fortunate Creature on Earth.

What Will Happen When These 200 Cultured Boston Girls Arrive in the Klondyke.



MISS IDA HANSON



THERE WILL BE KLONDYKE COURTSHIPS



AND KLONDYKE WEDDINGS.



MISS ALICE TEWKSBURY.



BEFORE THE GIRLS ARRIVE



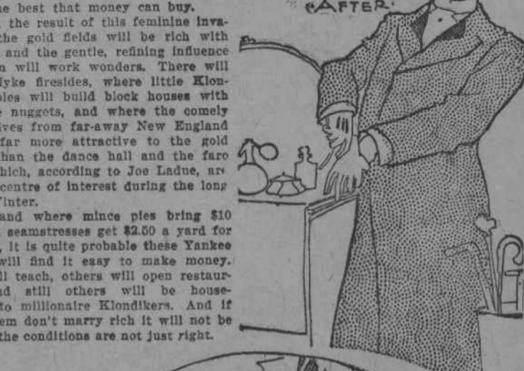
MISS MAY MORGAN.



THE LONG WINTER NIGHT NOW



AS IT WILL BE.



AFTER.



MISS FLORENCE WILSON.

natural that he shall want to present as becoming an appearance as possible and he will gladly welcome an opportunity to buy a complete outfit suitable for a man who is courting a girl, including clothes of the most fashionable cut, patent leather shoes, neckties and silk hats. Mr. Montmorency is evidently a close student of human nature and he knows that for a man in love, even a Klondyke lover, there is nothing too good when it comes to making his best girl a present. Therefore, along with the cargo of 200 girls, he will take a big supply of the foregoing articles of male and female adornment. In either case, of course, the Klondyke argonauts, who are expected to have money to burn, will pay the freight. It is safe to say that no such cargo of fair frailty has ever sailed the ocean on such a quest. It will be an Adamless Eden afloat.

Captain Montmorency in his search for the prettiest and most fascinating of femininity was last week in Boston, where the Journal correspondent interviewed him. Judging from the young ladies to whom he introduced the Journal man, he has certainly made a wise selection and displays excellent taste.

He has already succeeded in enlisting about 100 of the 200 New England girls whom he will take around the Horn. Scores of young women who have applied to him have been rejected. The captain insists that his party shall be made up only of girls who are physically capable of enduring the hardships of the rough Arctic life, and, moreover, that they shall be of unblemished character and shall have full consent of their parents or guardians.

No men need apply. The crew, engineers, stokers, etc., will, of course, be men. There will be a woman steward. Several young men have applied for passage. They offered to pay double rates and even to work their way, but Captain Montmorency has refused one and all. The fare for the trip is \$250.

"What are you going to do with the girls, when you get them to Klondyke?" Captain Montmorency was asked.

"Ah, that's another story," was the reply. "I don't care what they do when they get there. That's none of my business. I am going to take them there in good style and with all safety and dispatch, and I am going to take good care of them too, but when they get there they can shift for themselves. I can take care of them when they are all cooped together on board ship, but I don't believe there's a man living that can be a father to 200 girls after they get ashore."

The captain admitted that he had several little money-making schemes in connection with the enterprise. He believes that the presence of a large number of desirable young women in a country inhabited hitherto by the stern sex can be turned to profitable account. He confidentially informed the Journal man that secreted in a corner of the hold of his ship would be a cargo the like of which has never been seen in

desolate Alaska. There will be millinery, laces and dress goods of brilliant hue and delicate texture; jewelry and knick-knacks of all sorts, men's clothing, patent leather shoes and silk hats, and plenty of bright red and blue neckties, and in fact all sorts of things to please the women and all kinds of personal adornment for men to wear in order to charm the fair sex. The captain told the Journal man that he expected to realize over a thousand per cent profit on these goods.

"When the girls get there you can just bet that those rich miners will want to get out of their overall dude togs. And when they get stuck on some of the young ladies they'll want to buy them presents. How could they do this if it was not for my little cargo?"

"They couldn't buy any of this kind of stuff in all Alaska for love or money. This isn't the kind of goods the merchants up there have for sale. There isn't any demand for this kind of stuff now, but you can just wager that there'll be the biggest kind of a demand for it when they get some girls up there. I'll have the goods and they'll have the money. They'll have to buy of me and pay my price, and that's all there is to it."

And then, of course, there will be Klondyke courtships and Klondyke weddings. There will be Klondyke brides who will need a trousseau, and bridesrooms who have left their Sunday clothes in the States and who will want an entirely new

oufit, the best that money can buy.

In fact, the result of this feminine invasion of the gold fields will be rich with romance, and the gentle, refining influence of woman will work wonders. There will be Klondyke frescoes, where little Klondyke babies will build block houses with Klondyke nuggets, and where the comely young wives from far-away New England will be far more attractive to the gold diggers than the dance hall and the faro tables, which, according to Joe Ladue, are now the centre of interest during the long Arctic winter.

In a land where mince pies bring \$10 each and seamstresses get \$2.50 a yard for stitching, it is quite probable these Yankee women will find it easy to make money. Some will teach, others will open restaurants, and still others will be housekeepers to millionaire Klondykers. And if all of them don't marry rich it will not be because the conditions are not just right.