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## Here's Howe

By E. W. Howe

Friends Hard to Handle — Don't  
Welcome Sin Learning the  
Ways of Women

There used to be a man who told me I should marry again, and had a woman picked out for me. Somehow I could never squelch him, I had known him so long, although I had never intimated to him that I needed such advice. His assumption that I needed his assistance was extremely distasteful to me; no doubt he spoke to women unknown to me, and made me ridiculous, but I could not help myself. Fortunately I am rid of this man, as he died some time ago, but others remain to keep me sufficiently humiliated. One of the heaviest burdens of my life has always been numerous persons among my acquaintances who make a fool of me, and I have never been able to get rid of them. According to my standards they are grossly impolite, but they seem to have friends, and prosper. I get along well with active enemies; they at least only scowl at me, and finally they quit talking about me behind my back—but I cannot handle some friends so successfully.

I am firmly convinced that the most sensible effort in which a man may be engaged is to do the best he can with such powers as Almighty God or heredity has given him. There are so many weak and unfortunate that I cannot help them all, but may I help myself? . . . I must eat to live, and food is contrary and malicious. At 9 a. m., when suffering distress from unwise or overeating, I resolve to do better thereafter, but four hours later, with agreeable friends at table, I forget the solemn warning and resolution of the morning. . . . With my striving I make a little progress. Am I a fool for not making more, or have I inherent weaknesses of body and mind that tie me hopelessly to sin? Some say they can pray for strength, and receive it. Others say they are able to exercise their will, and overcome evil; but I have observed that both these boasters are usually as weak as I am; so generally so that their methods do not impress me. . . . Is sin the seed planted in man to inevitably destroy him at eighty, or earlier? . . . Anyway, I am able to regulate it a little, to my advantage, and shall persevere; I am still convinced that there is most comfort in life for those who resist sin as much as possible, instead of welcoming it.

I often think of a saying by Napoleon: "I will be compelled to go to school again," he said, when contemplating his second marriage, "to learn the ways of new woman." . . . Napoleon was a king; the girl he was to marry a princess of a subject nation. She had been brought up in the simple German way; she had been assigned him for breeding purposes (and I do not say this in an offensive way, but as a mere statement of fact). . . . Why did he not say to this girl, as he said to his subjects: "Learn my ways." . . . Well, the most powerful man cannot do that with a woman. Let a king arrange for intimate association with a peasant woman, and he has another war on his hands. He is no longer king of his country or of himself. He has divided his regal power; he may be a Senate of the firm, but must wrangle with the House before his acts are constitutional.

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