

# In The Realm Of Woman---Some Interesting Features

## The Woman Who Changed

By JANE PHELPS

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Coarse sandpaper is better than soap to scour kettles with.

**A MOMENTOUS DECISION**  
CHAPTER CIX  
After George left in the morning I wandered about the house unable to set myself at anything, even the simple household tasks I usually did in spite of having so many servants. The flowers for the table and library, other little things that I loved to do and which helped fill the morning hours. I tried to practise, then to play some new music but failed in both attempts.  
Finally I put on my street clothes and started for a walk. I tried to think I would not listen to Merton Gray, that I would send him word not to come. But I did nothing about it. The thought of the folks at home intruded; father, mother and the boys. David had seen that I was unhappy at times, but I knew he as well as the others would be terribly shocked should I do so unconventionally a thing as to leave my husband, to say nothing of going with another man.  
Had I stopped loving George? Did I love Merton Gray enough to do as he asked? If I could only decide those questions, I thought as I walked along the busy streets, fortunately meeting no one whom I knew. Had I, I should have passed them without recognition. My mind was pre-occupied to such an extent.  
Like a flash it came to me. Tell Mrs. Sexton. Ask her advice.  
Impulsively I turned and changed the course of my walk. But she lived at some distance and it now seemed as if I couldn't wait, so I hailed a taxi. Fortunately she was at home, and received me most graciously; although I imagined I saw a flicker of surprise in her face at my early call.  
Helen Asks Mrs. Sexton's Advice  
She took me into her cozy little sitting room, insisted upon my removing my wraps, then said:  
"I shall keep you to luncheon, all day if I can. This is good of you. I was feeling a bit out of sorts this morning. I have not been as well as usual lately." She then asked about Bar Harbor, had we a good time, etc.  
I chatted with her, glad to put off the discussion as long as possible, yet longing to have it over. After a time I said:  
"I am going to shock you, Mrs. Sexton."  
"Really, well go ahead! Perhaps I need a shock of some kind." She smiled as she said it, but there was also sympathy and understanding in her face.  
It was strange how my feelings about Mrs. Sexton had changed. I once had so disliked her that I would have gone home rather than keep her with me longer; and had begged George to send her away. Now of all the people I knew in the world she was the only one to whom I either could, or would go to ask advice. I realized that not even to my own mother could I confess what I was going to confess to Mrs. Sexton: That a man other than my husband had made love to me; had asked me to leave George and go away with him.  
In spite of her remark concerning a shock being welcome, I almost hesitated to speak of my errand, so really ill did Mrs. Sexton look. When I said so she returned:  
"I am much better than for several days past. Nothing you have to tell me will injure me, it may help by taking my mind from myself, my pains and aches."  
"Then I told her. I blurted out the main thing at once.  
"Merton Gray wants me to go away with him."  
"Yes—I am not surprised that he should want you. I have long known he loved you. I AM surprised, however, that he has spoken. I thought he knew you loved your husband."  
"That's just it! I don't know that I do love George; and I don't know but I do. I care a lot for Merton, am always contented and happy when with him. He is never cross and impatient, never critical of me, of my actions. He accepts and loves me as I am. He does not try to make me over." I said the last bitterly. As always when I thought of what George had told me, that he deliberately intended to make me over to suit himself; that he had considered the kind of finished product I would make when he asked me to marry him.  
"Merton is younger in years than your husband, and infinitely younger in disposition. That is one reason you are more in rapport with him. But because he has those characteristics you must not imagine yourself in love with him. I do not say you are not, I simply want you to look at the question from all sides."  
"I have tried to, Mrs. Sexton. I have honestly tried to do so. I couldn't sleep a wink last night. I couldn't decide. Merton is coming for his answer this afternoon. I must decide." Then I added "George cares for Julia Collins, I know he does! He is always hanging over her, no matter where we go; and she takes such liberties, seems to know that he will approve whatever she does. It has been a horrible summer for me, and I have the very thought of going through the winter. I shall be criticised by George, almost insulted by her. I know."  
(To be continued)

**TALKING IT OVER**  
With Lorna Moon

**The Venom Distiller.**  
"I am vehement on the subject of Venom Distillers this morning!" said the Comfy Lady dumping her knitting bag on the table with unnecessary vigor. A chuckle went around the table—it was so unlike the Comfy Lady to be vehement about anything! Even the Drab Spinster stilled the clicking of her needles a moment to scan the Comfy Lady's face.  
"You may STRAFE for five minutes," said the Pretty Blond, glancing at her watch in mock seriousness.  
"Five minutes isn't long enough. I'm afraid it is going to take me much longer than that to feel charitable all the way through again."  
"It helps sometimes—just to talk it over," said the Mother of Two Sammies, with a sympathetic smile.  
"Yes, it does," answered the Comfy Lady slipping into a chair, "yesterday afternoon a little girl friend of mine called up to say that, after many hours' hard labor on an old opera cloak and a muff that had seen its best days, she had evolved a dress that was 'simply stunning,' the whole thing had cost her fifty cents plus a lot of work in her spare time. She said that she would wear it at the club meeting that evening and she hoped that I would be there."  
"I was there. As she came into the club room she was a breath-taking vision, she hadn't over-estimated her success with the dress. I viewed her with pride. An arch Venom Distiller also caught sight of my friends and the forked tongue came into play at once, with much arching of eyebrows she whispered to her companion, 'The wages of sin!'"  
"Later in the evening I made an effort to introduce my little friend to the lady with whom the Venom Distiller had spoken but she of course begged to be excused as she hadn't a moment to spare and must rush off at once!"  
"There are always so many cups ready to hold venom when it is artfully distilled. Perhaps if I were truly charitable I would be sorry for the Venom Distiller. She NEEDS pity, for in a world that returns sneer for sneer, frown for frown, hers must be a bitter lot."  
"What an ugly world it is in which she lives! A world of her own creation, where the innocent impulses of youth are twisted to look like ghoulish ghosts of sin. There is no injustice she commits against others greater than the sin she commits against herself. She is a sick soul, a heart in which the milk of human kindness has soured; if we could just remember that, she would be dangerous no longer, for she would find no cups in which to pour her venom."

**ENLARGED ARMY PROJECT IN U. S.**  
War Secretary Announces That New Plan is Under Way.  
Washington, June 28.—Secretary Baker disclosed to the Senate military committee that within three months an enlarged army project now being worked out will be presented to Congress to represent the maximum fighting effort of the country.  
Already the calculations upon which the pending army bill was framed have been exceeded and the war department is now revising its plans on an enlarged basis that means additional billions in money and additional millions of fighting men.  
Even if perfectly sound, overripe vegetables are not satisfactory for canning because most vegetables undergo a decided change in texture as they reach maturity and become fibrous or pithy. This not only detracts from their quality, but greatly increases the work of preparing them for canning or for drying, and, later, for cooking.  
One factor which makes for success in saving for winter is to have all the products as freshly gathered as possible. Vegetables which have been once allowed to wilt are not nearly as good in the final analysis as those which are canned, dried or stored when they are absolutely fresh from the garden.

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**War Garden Bulletin**  
Practical Daily Guide For Vacant Lot and Backyard Gardeners Enlisted in Greater Production Campaign.  
Issued by the Canada Food Board in collaboration with experts of the staff of the Dominion Experimental Farm.  
Get Them Right.  
Every vegetable used for canning, dehydrating, or storing should be in perfect condition. For satisfactory results it is necessary not only to have products which are absolutely free from decay but to catch them at just the right stage of development.  
Even if perfectly sound, overripe vegetables are not satisfactory for canning because most vegetables undergo a decided change in texture as they reach maturity and become fibrous or pithy. This not only detracts from their quality, but greatly increases the work of preparing them for canning or for drying, and, later, for cooking.  
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