

In the Realm of Women --- Some Interesting Features

CONSTANT PAIN AFTER EATING

The Tortures of Dyspepsia Corrected by "Fruit-a-fives"

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The Promoter's Wife

By Jane Phelps

AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR

CHAPTER XXIV.

I had played but a short time before the bell rang, and Mr. Frederick's card was brought to me. I was calmer. Music always soothed me, so I asked aunt to receive him, telling her I would be down in a moment. I could not forget that this man, kindly, clever, if a bit uncouth at times, cared for me. Woman-like I wished to appear to advantage to him even while I thought of him only as my very good friend.

I smoothed my hair, just touched my pale cheeks with rouge and powder, then joined him and aunt. I heard you playing; do not let me interrupt you," he said after greeting me warmly. "I am very fond of music altho I know nothing about it—I simply know when I like it."

"You probably are a better judge than most people who claim to know," said lightly. "I was playing in the dark. Mr. Forbes is out, and so aunt and I were amusing ourselves."

"I had hoped to find him at home," I sensed an undertone of disappointment in his voice, and felt anxious at once. What was it he had to say to Neil? I so wished he would tell me. Perhaps he would if I tactfully led up to it.

"Aunt has been trying to impress Neil with his duty to himself. That he really does wrong to attend to business in the evening. She hasn't yet been successful, however, as his absence shows."

"It is too bad we men have that habit," he turned to aunt. "But sometimes it seems necessary. There is so much competition now-a-days, and so often men come from a distance and have to make the most of their time. That is especially so in New York with big concerns, or with men of large interests. I guess it does make it sort of lonesome for the women folks," he added in his kindly way, "but most of them are willing to put up with it, if it means more money."

"All women are not mercenary," Mr. Frederick. Aunt returned in her

most severe manner.

"No indeed! many of them not enough so. But it costs a lot of money to live in New York—to live well. It keeps men hustling pretty lively. I often think how lucky I am not to have to live here. It's a great town all right—the greatest in the world. Fine to come to and let off steam. But after a few days of it I am ready for my little western town, where a man can wear a soft shirt, and let his manners correspond with his shirt. Here every one seems to be starched up, all glossy and shiny on the outside anyway. A bit uncomfortable for some of us who are used to being well—just sort of natural human beings without the frills."

"But society calls for form and for manners. I should think those Western mining towns would be, well, rather demoralizing," aunt replied. I could see she did not understand at all Mr. Frederick's simile, or his point of view. She was most conventional in all her ideas and actions.

"Not at all dear madame! sometimes I think they bring out the best there is in a man—a real man. The one who becomes demoralized in a mining town would become equally so in New York or any other place. Water seeks its level, you know. I am a great believer in the theory that often hard knocks in the beginning of a career bring out the best there is in a man, easy places of the world make men soft."

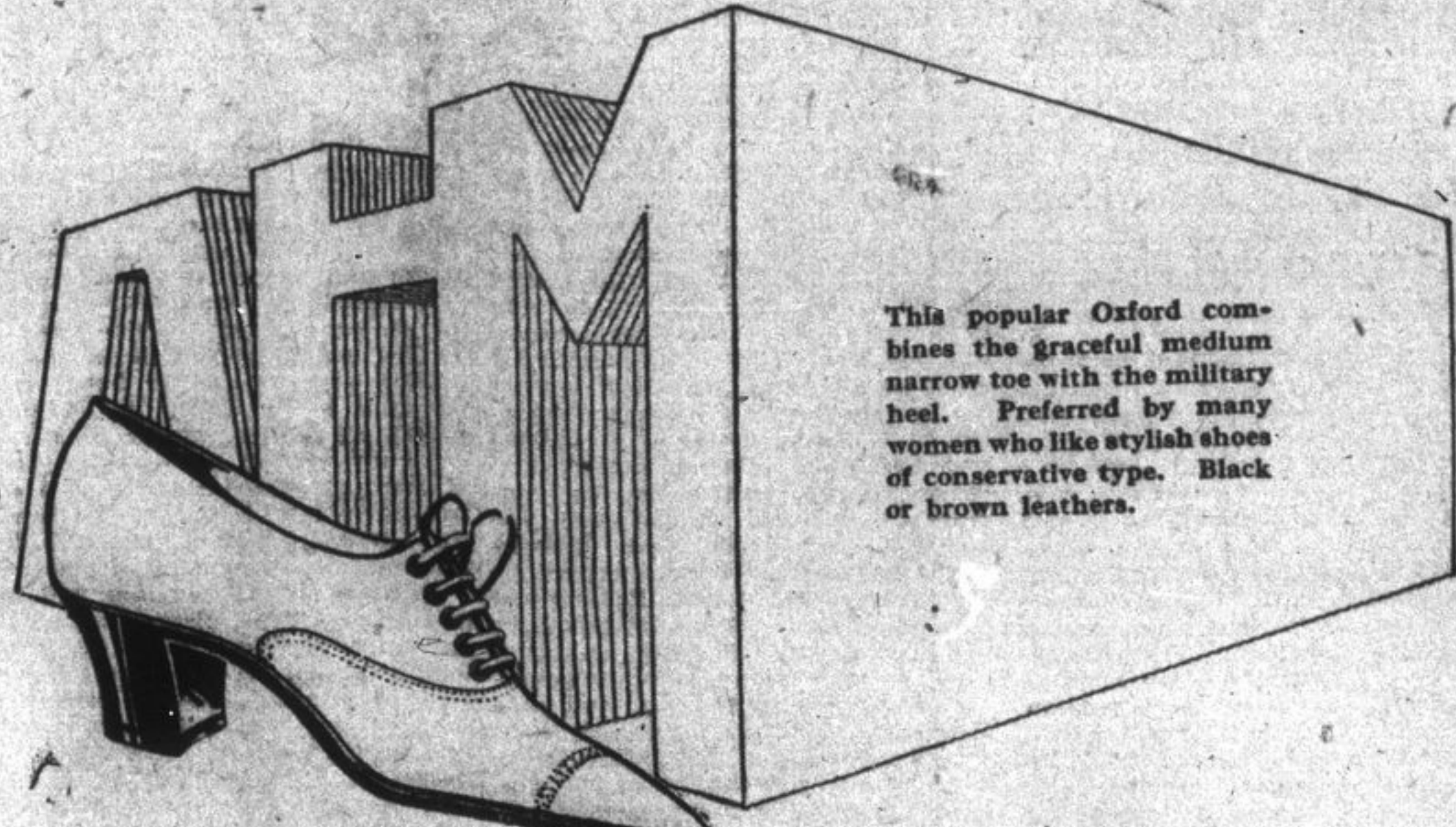
I loved to hear him talk, to watch the play of expression on his strong face. But just then I was more interested in knowing what brought him, than in hearing him discuss theories with aunt. So I interrupted. "Have you seen Mr. Scott lately?" I would find out if he had changed his mind and been with Neil the night before.

"No, not for a few days. Scott is a good sport, common, perhaps, and a bit vulgar sometimes," with a depreciating glance at aunt, "but honest all the way through."

"Yes, I have heard you say so. I think him a good influence for Neil," I replied a bit timidly.

"I don't know about the good influence in some ways. But he is straight as a string in business. A bad man to make an enemy, we will go into the library." Neil had ignored me, addressing his remark to aunt. I so wished they had remained in the music room. I wanted to hear what they said. As I bade aunt good night a few moments later I wondered what had happened—had Neil offended Mr. Scott, and would he be his enemy?

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TALKING IT OVER

—With Lorna Moon—

A Cloak—But Not of Charity.

But like the cloak of charity it is being used to hide a multitude of sins; I speak of the new cloak, introduced in all good faith by the designer, as a way to wear above an afternoon or dinner gown.

As an after four o'clock, or matinee garment it is a blessing, allowing more scope for variety than does the dress suit of velvet or satin that we have been wearing in the past few years.

But what do we see? Everywhere, at every hour, cloaks, cloaks, cloaks. Mistress Housewife throws it on over her house dress and rushes over to the corner grocery to get the vegetables for lunch. Madame of the limousine (who really should know better) steps from her car at nine-thirty in the morning on shopping bent, wearing a ruffled satin, feather-trimmed cloak. And the lady of the keys trips down at eight-thirty for her daily sojourn in front of her Remington with a flowing cape over her office skirt, and shirt waist.

As a nation, we have always been noted for the large amount of clothes we own, rather than our good taste in wearing them; but this cloak epidemic is the worst thing that has assailed us yet.

It is easy to see how it happened. Instead of buying her spring suit as usual, little Miss Working Girl spent her money on a cloak because it was the newest thing; all unmindful of the fact that, while a suit can go anywhere, at any hour, except in a formal evening affair, a cloak in all decency dare not show its face before noon, and then it must be very careful where it goes.

The cloak is doomed, it has been strangled to death by the welcoming arms of sloppy dressers!



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