

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR WOMEN READERS

Cecile's Master

By ELLIOTT R. GOLDMARK.

Bang! Bang! Bang! "Ten, 7, 12," sang the marker, and looked with respect at the young girl in front of his firing booth in the amusement park.

"Ten, 7, 12—that's 29. Give you 11 if you take three more shots, lady. Only 35 in three shots and you get that fine china tea set."

Cecile Leslie shook her head. She had already spent 30 cents at the various concessions, and had only 40 cent left for lunch. A dollar doesn't go far at a seaside resort.

"Sure you'll take it," the man leaned over the counter and, in spite of his lazy drawl, showed real interest. Several passers-by had been attracted by the fine shooting and stood watching. Cecile crimsoned with embarrassment.

"Guess you got me this time, boss," he said cheerfully. "The crowd parted and the youth who had thus acted the part of providence led his captive before the trembling girl. Cecile clutched her property and seemed about to fall."

"It's all right," the young man was starting to murmur, when a blue uniformed policeman broke through the cordon of spectators and seized the thief.

"Have to prefer charges, lady," he said. "Better come along with me now. Case won't come up now, but you'd better—"

"This lady does not wish to prefer charges, officer," spoke up Cecile's unknown protector. "You can reach me at that address."

He handed the man a card, took the girl's arm and drew her through the little tables near the water and summoned the waiter with a gesture, "you're going to have a cup of hot coffee and then I'm going to see that you get home safely. A young girl shouldn't be out here by herself on a holiday like this."

"I assure you," he added, as the steaming drink was set before the girl, "that I'm absolutely respectable."

Cecile nodded with an answering smile. The coffee had gone to the right spot and some of the impenetrable mist returned to her. "I don't know about that," she replied firmly. "But I do know that I'm not going until I've been down the roller coaster a couple of times, and on the merry-go-round once, and—oh, yes, at least once on those swinging aeroplane things."

Her sparkling gaze dared him to step her. Their eyes met, each holding the other's glance. "You most certainly are not," the young man replied. "For if you try," he added, as Cecile's look grew belligerent, "I shall certainly pick you up and carry you to the ferry."

Cecile drew out a puff and applied it carefully, straightened her hat and prepared elaborately to depart. "Good afternoon, Mr. Man," she laughed. "I appreciate your prompt aid in time of need."

She nodded carelessly and turned. The youth rose slowly, took two long steps and was by her side. "You're going to the ferry," he remarked conversationally. One hand seized her shoulder and again the eyes met. Cecile turned crimson, then pale with anger, as she realized the man would do exactly what he had said. Stiffly she turned toward the ferry landing, the unknown by her side.

On the ferry she did not address a word to the attentive squire who, with knit brows, proffered a more comfortable chair, a box of candy and a shine from the young boot-black. In the little park on the other side she sat calmly down on one of the benches and looked up at her rescuer.

"I certainly shall not show you where I live," she began. Then she saw that the young man's handsome face was convulsed with mirth, and suddenly the humor of the situation rushed over her. With a shout of laughter she joined him in enjoyment of the situation.

Anyone passing through the square would have thought them insane, but surely Fate smiled quietly at the thought of the future of these two thrown together thus.

Imported Joke. Snob (at resort)—Hotel life is so intimate; one speaks to people that one wouldn't dream of noticing in ordinary life. Lady (the real article)—Oh, well, I don't suppose they mind much.—Boston Evening Transcript.

Australian Kumquat. The Australian lemon or desert kumquat is the hardest of all evergreen citrus fruits and grows in regions where the temperature sometimes falls nearly to zero.

Family Cow "Commutes." In Britania the family cow actually "commutes" across canals in flat-bottomed boats, morning and night, to and from the most favorable grazing grounds.

THE WOMEN OF CHINA

REALIZING INJUSTICE OF FORMER SOCIAL STATUS.

Have Been Suppressed by Tradition and Old Classical Teachings, But With the Introduction of Western Ideas They Are Learning to Take Their Place as Man's Equal.

Women in China have for ages been subject to the will of men. They were suppressed by tradition and the old classical teachings. Because they were taught generation after generation that the subordination to men is natural and logical, that men are unquestionably infallible and authoritative on all things, caused them to believe that they must submit to the whims and fancies of their male folks without a murmur; and consequently, they have accepted their lot submissively and complacently.

With the introduction of Western civilization women in China have awakened to the injustice of their social status in comparison to their Western sisters. Like their Western sisters they are now agitating for suffrage and social equality with men. The writer, however, believes that it will take some time for women in China, not because he belongs to the male sex, but because of the plausible fact that women must obtain intellectual training equivalent or nearly equivalent to men before they can expect economic equality. It will take time, especially in a country like China, where women were denied the privileges of a systematic intellectual training until the last few decades. Not so long ago, there were frequent cases where girls secured their education disguised as boys.

The western woman has been puzzled at the stagnation of China, and probably the majority of Europeans are still puzzled. It does seem strange that a country which constitutes one-fourth of the earth's population should be unprogressive when she is credited with having originated the compass, gunpowder, the printing press, the making of porcelain and pottery, the raising of silk-worms and the manufacture of silk, the making of cloisonné, the beauty and workmanship is possibly unparalleled, the cultivation of the soil, and the utilization of boiled water as a preventive of disease. There are relics of ancient engineering genius in China, some of which are classified among the Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages. They are: (1) The works of hydraulic engineering, chief of which is the Grand Canal, the longest canal in the world; (2) The works of wall-builders, which include the famous Great Wall and the less-known sea-wall, of more than one hundred and twenty miles in length, along the north bank of the Taicentang river; (3) The works of structural engineers, for example, suspension bridges, arch bridges and pagodas, among which is the famous cleft-sydra or water-clock of Canton. Why should such a highly developed civilization when Europe was in comparative obscurity?

One solution which is of no little importance is that women have been kept down in China. Women, the mothers of the race, have hitherto been denied adequate educational opportunities, and hypothetically, have retarded the progress of the Chinese race. It cannot be denied that woman has a great responsibility in the building up of a nation for she watches over, teaches and guides the child of to-day who will be the leader of the world to-morrow. The real purpose of woman in life, that is, the purifying, the spiritualizing and ennobling of society, call for the best that is in womanhood. To have a pure and elevating influence upon present-day society, she must be incorruptibly good. To make and mould human character to the highest level attainable, she must be infallibly wise. Goodness without knowledge is limited as an outlet of a useful life. Chinese womanhood is virtuous, but virtue cannot elevate the race to a higher level. An intellectual woman is one who is free in judgment and sound in reason, who finds her leisure in developing new forces of knowledge, and who by a scientific study and a real understanding of the country, helps to remedy the chief ailments. Therefore, it is evident that the suppression of women in China is in a large measure responsible for China's backwardness.

Contact with western civilization has caused women to wake up in China. Some have entered business as stenographers, bookkeepers and secretaries, and it is now to be seen whether it will be advantageous to have men and women work together promiscuously. Some have gone into the medical profession as doctors and nurses, others have entered the teaching profession, while still others have taken up journalism. Many colleges and universities in the British Isles and the United States are invaded by Chinese women students taking various lines of studies. Even political economy is not overlooked, and foremost in this line of study is Miss Ang L. Lee, Doctor of Philosophy, of Columbia University. Social science, of which child welfare is an integral part is making great headway in China.

Before the revolution Chinese women considered it immodest to mingle freely with men and to associate with persons of their own sex. Now women are given freer scope, and as a corollary, young girls are groping for their way in the dark. Something is needed to steer them in the right course and the influence of their more enlightened and educated sisters will be a great aid in guiding them in the right direction. Education is a force of paramount importance in producing a better type of womanhood in China, and with their admittance into schools much should be accomplished. The development of woman intellectually, morally and physically will tend to produce a better type of human being who will tackle the problems of the country energetically with perfect understanding and clearness of thought.



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