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LIBERTIES OF GIRLS.

MARION HARLAND'S WISE WORDS TO THE YOUNG GIRLS.

The Sex Mystery of a Broadway Car—Was it a Woman?—The Injurious Influences of an Exclusively Young Company—Girls at Unchaperoned Entertains—Liberties That the Laws of Good Society Prohibit.

(Copyrighted, 1888.) She stands before us with wide, young eyes full of protest and pleading, a mousty pout on her lips, brave in her ignorance of Mrs. Grundy's ability to make sin, and confident in her own powers of self protection.

The world offers to sight and affections no fairer or sweeter creature than a frank, refined, whole-souled, unspoiled American girl. To curb her by conventionalities, to hedge her in by restrictions, seems like a wrong done to her innocence.

Everybody knows the rest of it, riddled into rags by over-much quotation; all crispness and beauty taken out of it by flippant iteration and parody, until the liveries of the angel lackeys are out at elbows.

Yet somebody repeated it, only *demi-sotto voce*, in a thronged street car the other night, and two people nearest him laughed—one in echo of his ironical tone, the other compassionately.

In the aisle, equidistant from the two ends of the car, had stood a figure which, by reason of the crowd sitting about and standing with it, we could trace only as far down as hips and elbows. A crop of dark, close curls appeared below the brim of the Derby hat at the back of the head.

For eight or nine blocks curiosity simmered repressedly. Nobody stared openly, except two workmen with pails on their arms, but everybody saw and watched. Those closest to the object of interest had but a trifling advantage over those who were remote, so wedged in were the lower extremities of all by the up town stream of home-seekers.

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that foolish things may be said and done in a company of fifty or two hundred young men and women if left to themselves.

"I didn't feel respectable!" was the retort of a girl who, for the first and only time in her life, was "caught," to use her phraseology, at one of those unchaperoned entertainments, because she chanced to be spending some days with the family who gave it.

"I wonder why Mrs. A. was so particular in asking if there was to be a chaperone in each sleigh?" said one girl to another as a gay party stood on the snow one moonlight night awaiting the coming of two-four-horse sleighs.

"Oh, that is one of her foreign fads!" rejoined the other. "When she heard there would be but one matron for the whole party of us she stipulated that her girls should go in the same conveyance with her. I suppose she cannot trust them without an overseer. I shall make it a point to go with the unmatronized mob!"

She kept her resolution, and the mob asserted their right to the name by racing, hurrahing, singing, drinking and comic songs while passing through town and village streets, driving upon drifts to give the escorts an excuse for holding the girls in their seats, and other pleasant eccentricities for which the sober men of the party afterward made humble apology to chaperone and mothers.

"It was disgraceful," they confessed, "unworthy of well-bred mill-hands, not to say of those who call themselves ladies and gentlemen. But put twenty-four young men and women in a sleigh behind a lively team, when the moon is at the full, and the air as exhilarating as iced brandy and water—and what can you expect?"

While we are receiving testimony from those most interested in this matter (and it is all authentic), let us hear another girl, bright, fond of fun and talk, and always sure of eligible partners wherever she goes.

"If I attend a reception or ball without my mother, I lie awake after getting home, reviewing what I have said and done that night, lest I may have been guilty of some absurdity or indiscretion. If mamma is in the room, I am entirely at ease. Should my spirit carry me too far I should know it at once from her eyes. She acts as a safe guard, a balance-wheel, you know, and is, oh, such a comfort!"

The same comforting influence pervades the mother's own drawing-room when she helps receive and entertain her daughter's visitors. It is a bad sign if a young man "does not care to call at a house because the old lady is never out of sight," and a pleasing indication of the healthfulness of the friendly association on both sexes when the home mother is appealed to as a benign arbiter, a co-respondent in whatever interests "the children and their friends."

Young girls in good society, especially in cities, no longer take country and park drives en *tele-a-tele* with young men to whom they are not betrothed or related by blood. Our grandmothers saw no shadow of impropriety in the practice or in the acceptance on the part of a young unmarried woman of the escort of a bachelor near her own age for a journey by land or water.

This last action in the girl's to-day would be severely criticised unless, again, there is an acknowledged engagement of marriage between the two, and even then two much circumspection cannot be exercised by the betrothed pair, as the records of privately circulated and newspaper scandals prove.

In the very fearlessness of her purity our girl is prone to give occasion for blasphemy to the enemies of "whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report."

It is a sharp and sad lesson that makes her to know for all after life, that the good does not always look good, that fairness may not be made to seem foul if opportunity and ill-will serve one another in the devilish work. For her own sweet sake prudent custom provides her with watch and ward. Now, let her lay to her hurt delicacy this lesson, not that we fear lest she will come to wrong, but because nature and humanity cry out against the approach of evil that may overshadow her spotless fame.

Men guard most jealously that is most precious, most pure, most passionately beloved. It is the right of women—as women—to be kept clear of the fogs of malign gossip, the mud of slander, of whatsoever will injure her in the regard of true manhood, or this is a yet graver evil, detract from her self-respect. This right and the determination to maintain it lie at the base of most of what appear, to untrained eyes, rigorous and needless regulations.

To make one's self conspicuous by open contempt of conventional and, in the main, wholesome social laws is the first degree of the descending scale. To be fast, loud, high, fly (how many synonyms our national slang dictionary offers for the next allied), is so nearly and so dangerously allied to culpable indiscretion that the slander mongers, belonging as they do, to the "impressionist school," seldom pause to discriminate between them. They never halt to distinguish actual imprudence from positive—and remediless—infamy.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria, When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria, When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria, When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Avoid the Small Annoyances of life if you would be happy. A very slight headache will make us miserable and give a sense of discomfort to all with whom we come in contact. Nature's intimations are seldom pleasant, but they should be valued as pointing out a cause and demanding a remedy. Never has a remedy given equal satisfaction in all diseases of the liver, stomach, and bowels as have Hamilton's Pills of Mandrake and Butternut.

To prevent serious disease, regulate the stomach, liver, bowels, kidneys and blood with Burdock Blood Bitters. Remember that prevention is better than cure.

Important to Working Men, Artizans, mechanics and laboring men are liable to sudden accidents and injuries, as well as painful colds, stiff joints and lameness. To all thus troubled we would recommend Hagar's Yellow Oil, the handy and reliable pain cure for outward or internal use.

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