



AMERICAN WOMEN ABROAD

Kate Clyde Writes Unreservedly of Matters of Great Interest to Girls Who Long For Paris

It is no wonder that Europeans are concerned when you take into consideration the fact that the American woman would rather go to Europe than to heaven. I could tell you of some subterfuges almost diabolical in their ingenuity by virtue of which the head of the family has been made to "cough up" the wherewithal for a summer trip to Europe.

Doctors have been called in consultation and handsomely bribed by their fair patients to say that their state of health was so precarious nothing but a sea voyage would make them well again. But the limit was reached by one desperate woman who actually sublet the apartment over her husband's head, forcing that gentleman to take refuge at his club and causing him to tell her

that she might go to—say, Rotterdam—if she chose. Upon which, as he provided the money for the journey, his wife put it to a much better use by promptly taking the next steamer for Liverpool. And never in a single case has the woman been satisfied with one journey. Doctors have been called in consultation.



Evidently Europe holds no disappointments, for, no matter how rosy are the anticipations, realization more than comes up to the mark and drives the women to fresh plotting in order to gain another trip. And not only do women plot and plan to gain a summer outing in France or Switzerland, but some of them have ambitions which reach as far as living there!

How It May Be Done.

I know of one couple at present existing in a boarding house in New York who are saving up every penny (and who will continue to do so for the next three years) in a frantic attempt to get together enough coin to live in Paris one year.

She sews herself to death making her own clothes; he buys cheap neckties, wears one suit the year around and goes without smoking in order to put in to the bank his share.

Is it wonderful that most Europeans think what one Englishman had the impudence to remark: "That Americans must have a beastly country, don't you know? They are so anxious to get out of it!"

Well, in the long end it does no harm. Our compatriots come swarming over here, eager and thirst for new ideas and sensations, and then they go home much broadened mentally, and the country gets the benefit of it.

The only tragedies you hear about occur among the student class, and I could tell you things that would bring tears to your eyes.

Boys and girls come over to Paris from Kankakee or Dogtown-on-the-Prairie. They have just sufficient funds to last them two months, and during that short time they expect not only to gain a footing in Paris, but to set that highly sophisticated city on

fire with their own untrained genius. What is the result? Privations you read about in books. And, oh, you can suffer in Paris when you have no money for the extras which are necessities with us—fire in winter, light and pure water!

The American consul will tell you stories by the hour of cases of absolute starvation which have been brought to his notice, and the officials of the American embassy have paid more than one passage home and said nothing about it.

Some of these distressed geniuses are too proud to admit their failure or write home for money, and so it happens that they drift into all sorts of situations. One would be Raphael is now a waiter in a restaurant, another guides strangers through the Louvre, while two students, very well connected in America, actually worked in the sewers.

Of course in their letters home they speak of their paintings which are being accepted in the salon and of the many commissions they are receiving from prominent people.

Saddest of All.

The girls fare worse. I hardly like to speak of them because it always makes my heart ache when I see how women invariably suffer the most in this world. When they find they haven't enough talent or means for Paris they first starve and then drift, and most of them are human derelicts for the rest of their lives.

But for my part I think I would rather see my daughter dead than send her on her way to Paris, as so many foolish American mothers do, provided with insufficient means of support and with no letters of introduction.

It is all very well to trust to Providence, but as to flying in its face that's a different matter.

There is just one great truth which becomes very apparent to you all over Europe, and that is that the girl who has to earn her own living has the ghost of a show.

Not only are her wages starvation ones, but no matter how good her family and education she has no social standing whatever.

The fact that she earns her living is held against her as a fault instead of a virtue. She is suspected of all sorts of business tendencies, even if she parts her hair in the middle and is of the "prunes and prisms" type.

And, of course, it goes with her a waiter in a restaurant, out saying she is a free subject for ridicule or gossip since she has no man to defend her.

No wonder women like to come to America, where not only they make money, but they have matrimonial chances as well. For, thank heaven,

we have not progressed so far in our civilization that the humble day worker may not capture the heart of a millionaire or, at least, marry a young man with prospects, even though she bring not a penny to him.

You have to be a poet's dream of beauty in Europe to marry without a dowry, and even then your chances are two-thirds less than they would be with the cash. So reflect on that, ye maidens who find it slow at home.



A STUNNING BATHING SUIT.

Natural colored pongee is this summer forming some of the smartest bathing suits. The nautical costume illustrated is carried out in this material. The skirt is a circular affair having two plaits down the front seams. The round sailor collar and sleeve ruffles have scalloped edges worked with brown wash silk and further elaborated with French dots. The girdle is of brown wash ribbon, and the shield has an emblem done in several shades of tan and brown.

French and English women, poor things, can't carry off matters with such a high hand! They are taught by careful mamma that a girl's matrimonial chances are limited and that it is wicked to be wasteful, so wicked that punishment is almost sure to follow in the shape of an old maid's lot.

Here we call them "bachelor girls," and some married women envy them, but on the continent the word for an unmarried woman is plain old maid, and nobody stops to think about her except to pity her.

As pity is about the last thing any woman with self respect wants, I leave the situation to you! Is it wonderful that the unmarried woman is on her best behavior?

In the two countries mentioned men have women placed just about where they want them, and any being of the feminine sex who through choice or necessity elects to move out of the beaten rut has to play in her own life.

One Reason Why. I firmly believe that the reason why the American girl makes such a hit abroad is that she is perfectly independent as far as the men are concerned. She knows she can have all the chances she wants when she gets home.

European men are not used to this sort of treatment, and it places them to put forth their best efforts.

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the yard, by her own little self, and that's all there is about it. After all, we women are very comfortable in America, don't you know!

Kate Clyde
London.

TOO MANY PLAYTHINGS.

Never let the little ones have many or very elaborate playthings. A child's interest is so easily aroused that a large stock of playthings proves confusing and wearisome, besides which you are only making him blasé by giving him the best of everything while he is small. For the same reason all amusements should be of the simplest.



WHITE TAFFETA BLOUSE.

The elaborate blouse illustrated is of white chiffon taffeta. A bolero effect gained by gathering the material about an emplacement of lace. Val lace fans dainty epaulets on the shoulders and trims the moss green velvet revers. A jabot of lace falls over the deep green velvet girdle. On the sleeves appear lace cuffs banded with velvet.

The National Business Woman's League and Its Leading Members; An American Association For the Benefit of Women's Commercial Interests

THE St. Louis exposition of 1904 was an epoch in the history of womanhood in one respect. Never before had so many business women engaged in such varied enterprises come together as met on another there. Even the hostesses of the state buildings had to be business women in a way. A majority of the ladies were uncommonly attractive, tall and strong and intelligent. They became well acquainted. Between east and west lasting friendships were made. It dawned on these women as the great show drew to a close that their interests were one and that they would thrive best by working together and inaugurating each in her home a woman's mutual commercial movement. If it might be called so. The ladies thought, too, how pleasant it would be again to meet their new friends.

The upshot of it was that at the close

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MARY GARRETT HAY.

gaged in industrial enterprises of all kinds, from the woman who conducts a small millinery shop to her sister who manages a bank or a cattle ranch. They wanted every woman who earned her living to be paid worker to join with them stand together for their sex.

Not a few of the \$190,000,000 private

fortunes of today have been made from the toll of women workers who get no more than from \$3 to \$5 a week. Why should not women strike out for themselves, study business methods, employ the native shrewdness, the Creator gave them and use their own industrial powers for their own benefit? To awaken in them the determination to do this—what is more, to show them how to do it—the National Business Woman's League was started.

The first annual convention of the association was held in New York city in July, 1905. A deputation of strong women came like a refreshing breeze from the west and just did things without wasting time to consider whether they were conventional or not. Among these was Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford, state senator from Colorado.

Mrs. Bradford's legislative experience made her invaluable to the in-



LOUISE LEE HARDIN.

fact leagues as an organizer and parliamentarian. She lives in Denver and has served as clerk to the Colorado senate and has also been county superintendent of schools as well as an officer of the Colorado state educational department. At a reception to the league

mountains and to buy the two Calaveras groves of big trees in California.

A recent census in Bengal reveals the remarkable fact that in that province there are 4,000 baby girls who have been married, and of this number 600, all less than a year old, are already widows. "My husband is an inventor, you know," "So's mine," "Indeed? What has he invented?" "More excuses for staying out late at night!"

Without an opposing vote the governing board of the Franklin (Pa.) Methodist church has given notice

promoters in New York eastern women gathered curiously around Mrs. Bradford and begged her to tell them how it felt to vote for president of the United States. She told them how, on her way to take her little daughter to school, which she did every day, she



ELIZABETH TOWNE.

stopped at the polls and deposited her ballot. Mrs. Bradford is the national organizer for the Business Woman's League, and she and others interested have wrought to such purpose that there are now branch societies in forty-five states. As in case of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, each state has its own league president.

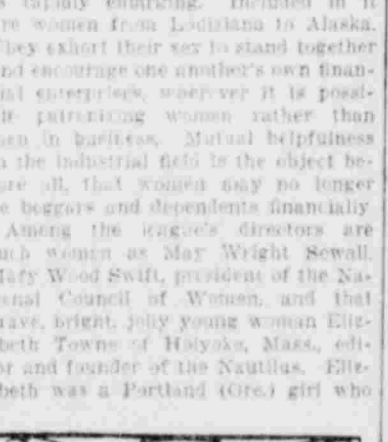
General officers of the National Business Woman's League are elected every two years. The president is Miss Louise Lee Hardin of Denver, who has yet another year to serve. The 1906 convention has lately been held in Chicago, when the year is at its best in the great city by the lake. In American cities outside of New York women's conventions are treated respectfully by the press.

Soon after its organization the league officers established the Business Woman's Magazine, a neat monthly devoted, as one might say, to the induc-

ment and commercial development of the woman sex. This magazine is also the official organ of the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs. It is published in Denver, and Miss Hardin is its editor. The league's membership is rapidly enlarging. Included in it are women from Louisiana to Alaska. They exact their sex to stand together and encourage one another's own financial enterprises, wherever it is possible patronizing women rather than men in business. Mutual helpfulness in the industrial field is the object before all, that women may no longer be beggars and dependents financially.

Among the league's directors are such women as Mar Wright Sewall, Mary Wood Swift, president of the National Council of Women, and that brave, bright, jolly young woman Elizabeth Towne of Holyoke, Mass., editor and founder of the Nautilus. Elizabeth was a Portland (Ore.) girl who

was married before she was fifteen years old and through much tribulation has come up shining bright as a teacher and inspirer of hundreds of thousands. What manner of woman she is you will know from an experience which I will tell you.



MAY WRIGHT SEWALL.

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I wrote Elizabeth asking her to send me her photograph that it might be half toned to illustrate this story of the Business Woman's League. I was an absolute stranger to Elizabeth, she never having heard of me, so far as I knew. By return mail came the photo



LILLIE DEVEREUX BLAKE.

and data I requested, with a note so bright and kindly that I shall keep it among my treasures. It began:

Dear Miss Gray—Greetings and good will. Now it is not often that a newspaper woman or anybody else gets such a salutation in answer to a business letter of inquiry. Its style is to be commended to all those who are rude and grumpy in their treatment of strangers. The ending of Elizabeth's letter was cheery as its beginning. Courage and wholesome health seemed to emanate from it. It said:

Here's all sorts of success to you, along with the realization of all you desire. Cordially yours.

ELIZABETH TOWNE.

Which wish I herewith hand on to the reader. One of the most alive and flourishing of the state leagues is that of New York. Its president is Harriette M. Johnston-Wood, its first vice president

discoveries of momentous importance which they believe she and her husband were on the point of making.

Mary Garrett Hay, so well known as a faithful worker for her own sex. Another of its officers is Lillie Devereux Blake. Mrs. Mary E. Lease is an active member.

Mrs. Wood is a lawyer in practice in New York city. The law firm of Wood & Wood means Judge William H. Wood and his wife, Harriette M. Johnston-Wood. She studied law after her marriage, and her husband knew her ability so thoroughly that he immediately invited her to become his partner professionally as well as privately. Within one month after her admission to the bar in February, 1905, she was pleading a case before the courts, and she has been busy ever since. Judge Wood declares his wife is of more help in a law case than any man he has ever associated with. She has a persistence and power of work invincible. She is especially strong in turning a case over in all its lights and examining every possible objection that



HARRIETTE M. JOHNSTON-WOOD.

can be made to her side of it. She is also uncommonly gifted in argument, which perhaps might not be wholly unexpected in a woman lawyer. Mrs. Johnston-Wood is still quite young and only at the beginning of a brilliant career.

LILLIAN GRAY.

girls who wedded titled Europeans and found it impossible to live with their husbands. There are fifteen of them, from Helen Morton, who married the Duc de Valenay, to Isabel Bance of Ohio, Baroness Brunsart von Schellendorf, and a sweet young American woman who married a British duke is said to be very unhappy.

Mrs. Mary D. Lydick, the famous harness maker of Huntington, Neb., has received a government contract to make harness for western military posts.

FACTS AND FANCIES GATHERED IN FEMININE FIELDS.

A woman is not a person, according to the supreme court of New Brunswick. This body recently refused to admit a woman to the bar. The statutes declare that any "person" passing certain examinations may be so admitted, but the court held that a woman was not a person within the meaning of the law.

Irish women now vote for all officers except members of parliament. The lord mayor of Dublin is a member of

the Irish Woman's Suffrage society and for several years has presided at its annual meetings.

It would give Dr. Oster a jolt to learn that one of the most successful teachers of riding in New York city is a little woman almost sixty years old. She has the reputation of having excelled all others in turning society girls into competent equestrians, and every day she may be seen on the by-ways and bridle paths of Central park.

Her calmness and coolness in managing unruly mounts is amazing, and she has shown great qualities of mind and heart on occasions when other riding masters have gone "all to pieces."

The executive board of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, representing forty-five states and 800,000 members, has petitioned congress to uphold the Morris act, conserving the forestry interests of Minnesota and also to create federal reserves in the southern Appalachians and the White