

A Lay Sermon to Young Ladies.

BY DR. DIO LEWIS.

Now, ladies, I will preach to you just a little sermon, about an inch long. I don't often preach, but in this case nothing but a sermon will do.

Firstly—You are perfect idiots to go on in this way. Your bodies are the most beautiful of God's creations. In the Continental galleries I always saw groups of people gathered about the pictures of women. It was not passion; the gazers were just as likely to be women as men; it was because of the wondrous beauty of a woman's body.

Now stand with me at my office window and see a lady pass. There goes one! now isn't that a pretty looking object? A big hump, three big lumps, a wilderness of crimps and frills, a hauling up of the dress here and there, an enormous, hideous mass of hair or bark piled on the top of her head, surmounted with a little flat, ornamented with bits of lace, birds' tails, etc. The shop windows tell us, all day long, of the padings, whalebones, and steel springs which occupy most of the space within that outside rig.

In the name of the simple, sweet sentiments which cluster about a home, I would ask, How is a man to fall in love with such a piece of compound, double and twisted, touch-me-not artificiality as you see in that wriggling curiosity?

Secondly—With that wasp waist, squeezing your lungs, stomach, liver, and vital organs into one half their natural size, and with that long tail dragging on the ground, how can any man of sense who knows that life is made up of use, of service, of work, how can he take such a partner? He must be desperate, indeed, to unite himself for life with such a fettered, half-breathing ornament.

Thirdly.—Your bad dress and lack of exercise lead to bad health, and men wisely fear that, instead of a helpmate, they would get an invalid to take care of. This bad health in you, just as in men, makes the mind as well as the body fuddled and effeminate. You have no power, no magnetism! I know you giggle freely and use big adjectives, such as "splendid," "awful," but then this doesn't deceive us: we see through it all. You are superficial, affected, silly; you have none of that womanly strength and warmth which are so assuring and attractive to man. Why, you have become so childish and weak-minded, that you refuse to wear decent names even, and insist on baby names. Instead of Ellen, Margaret, Elizabeth, you affect Nellie, Maggie, and Lizzie. When your brothers were babies, you called them Bobby, Dicky, and Johnny, but when they grow up to manhood, no more of that silly trash if you please.

I know a woman of twenty-five years, and she is as big as both my grandmothers put together, and her real name is Catherine, and though her brain is big enough to conduct affairs of State, she does nothing but giggle, cover up her face with her fan, and exclaim once in four minutes, "Don't now, you are real mean."

How can a man propose a life partnership to such a silly goose? My dear girls, you must, if you would get husbands, and decent ones, dress in plain, neat, becoming garments, and talk like sensible, earnest sisters.

You say the most sensible men are crazy after those butterflies of fashion. I beg your pardon, it is not so. Occasionally a man of brilliant success may marry a silly, weak woman; but to say, as I have heard women say a hundred times, that the most sensible men choose women without sense, is simply absurd. Nineteen times in twenty.

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JOHN ASHWORTH, Mayor.

Beaver, January 28th, 1871.

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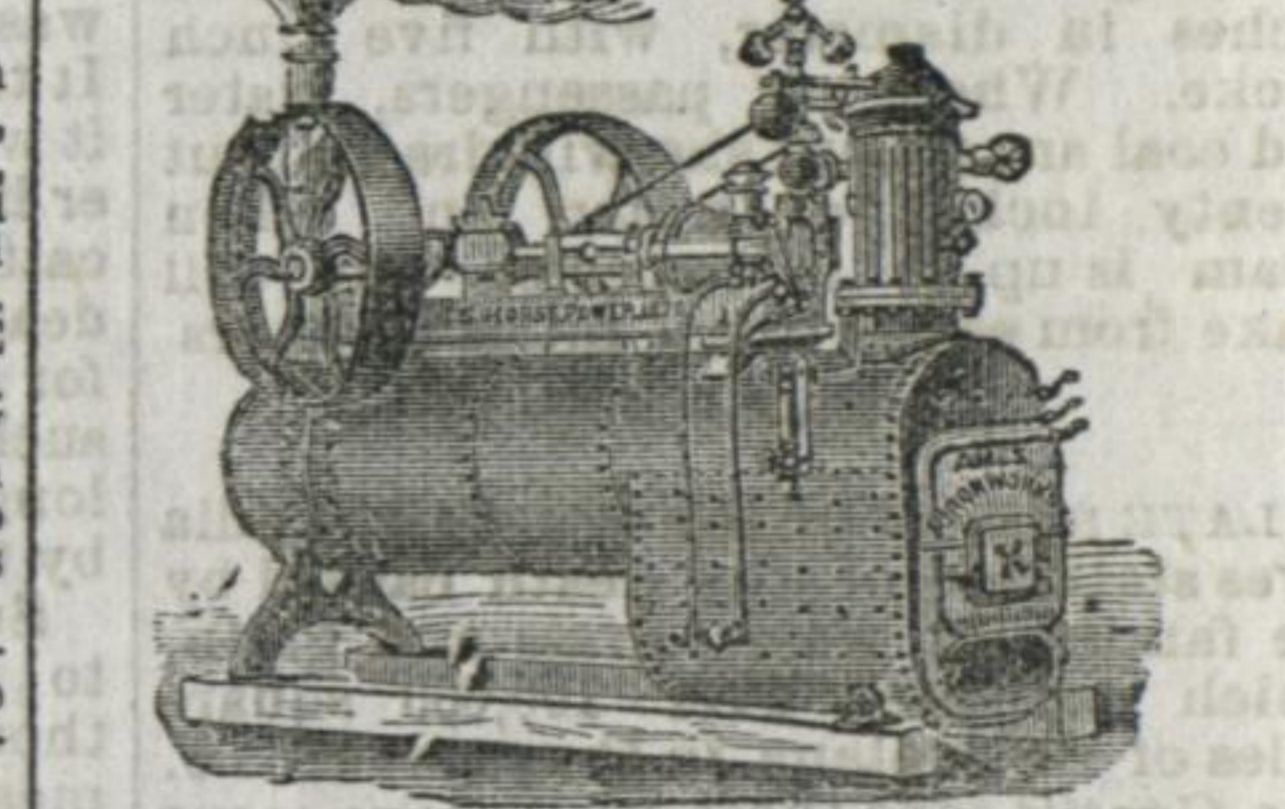
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