

She loses her good name without having committed sin and without having inspired a great love. Her most persistent pursuers forget her quickly, or think of her without regret.

The third and most to be pitied type of girl whose name is marred by association with a married man is the overripe girl. She has lived to pass her twenty-fifth birthday without having loved or married. With more than ordinary mind, with a high ideal of manhood, with strong emotions and intense longing for love, she sees her girlhood's companions mated one by one, while her own dreams and hopes slip farther and farther back into the past with her first youth. Such a girl is liable to be superior to her early admirers, and as she reaches ripe womanhood she finds mental comradeship in married men only. Then comes the dangerous association with some man whose domestic life is a disappointment, and who discovers in her what he misses at home.

It may be her pastor, it may be the family physician, it may be the husband of some old schoolmate whom she visits; but as a streak of lightning sets fire to dry buildings, his glance and touch influence her ripened and craving emotions.

She is capable of feeling and of inspiring a great passion; and, unlike either of the types already described, she attracts and is attracted by men strong in their emotions and of no mean mental endowments, men who have grown beyond their wives, and who have perhaps lived through years of brain solitude and heart hunger before they met this girl.

We speak of a young woman of twenty-five or thirty as old enough to be sensible and well behaved; but, in fact, that is the very time of life when it is most difficult for an unanchored woman to be prudent or reasonable. From fourteen to seventeen a healthy, vigorous girl is in danger of imprudence or folly from ignorance of her emotions; from twenty-five to thirty she is in danger from her knowledge of them.

The blind and cruel judgment of Christian communities on this subject is inconsistent with the spirit of Christ, or with the scientific enlightenment of the present day in other matters.

When I hear of a girl in that period of life who has wrecked her future and lost her good name through some great act of folly, I am moved with the deepest pity and sorrow. She is like the ungathered dead-ripe fruit that bursts in the sun and falls into the dust below.

It is all very well for you, with your satisfied lives, to sit in judgment and say: "But she should have spurned the first approach; she should have been indignant at such a thought; she should have shown womanly pride and strength." It is not so easy to call all those qualities to your aid when, with youth slipping behind, with loneliness before, with a heart breaking for sympathy, a brain on fire with feeling, and veins bursting with unused vitality, you encounter a beautiful and alluring temptation. It is so easy to believe at such a time that the world is well lost for love; that one hour of possession will be worth a lifetime of disgrace. But no more fallacious idea ever dazzled the eyes of the soul. Time has yet to show us the pair of lawless lovers who, having given up the world for love's sake,

did not resent it if the world took them at their word. Love is the light from God's eyes; unless He smiles approval upon an earthly passion it never brings happiness or content.

The weak and tortured girl who thinks she cannot endure life without the companionship of a man who is not free to claim her before all the world would find she could not be happy with his companionship. One or both would regret the step which debarred them from the respect of their kind, so dear to the human heart.

Love of approbation is very strong in most of us, and it is well that it is so. I believe more lives have been saved from wreck on the rocks of passion through love of approbation than through principle. It may not be the best motive for right-doing, but it gives better motives an opportunity to gain the ascendancy later.

One would think the unhappily married man ought to have strength enough to protect the overripe girl against herself; that his wider knowledge of human emotions and temptations should fill him with pity for her. But it never does. Men have not been taught that self-control is necessary to them in these matters. The whole tendency of the world has been toward masculine freedom and self-indulgence, and it is not to be wondered at that he is the tempter instead of the protector.

But it does seem a wonder that he invariably blames the woman when he falls. Such is the fact, however; and many a passion-blinded girl, who has believed that the world was well lost for the love of a married man, lives to hear him recriminate her for leading him astray. It is the man who first and most keenly feels the lash of public blame. Many a case has come under my observation where the husband has returned to his wife who was never able to make him happy, leaving the girl who was in every way endowed to be his companion, so powerful a factor in human happiness was public respect.

It is well for the overripe girl to recall such cases before she yields to the fascinating illusion held out to her by her emotions and her lover. Nothing else in all the range of human experience is so overpoweringly alluring as the attraction of the sexes; and when the imagination and the senses are both on fire, reason lends but little light.

But, alas for those who live to sit by the ashes of the burned-out senses, among the ruins of imagination! and this is an experience certain to follow an unlicensed passion. The only hope of continued happiness in the relation of man and woman is in the strengthening and deepening of the moral and spiritual nature of both; for physical attraction alone is a plant that rarely outlives the season. How frail, then, must be the chances of happiness for the two who violate moral laws to seize the perishing flower of desire! Only those who have been tempted by its perfume and false splendor and lived to wear the royal rose of a worthy love, or those who, having plucked it only to see its leaves wither and die, leaving the ugly thorns, can realize how frail such hopes of happiness are!

ELLA WHEELER-WILCOX.

Santa Rosa is making elaborate preparations for the observance of Memorial day.

OUR STOCKHOLM LETTER.

STOCKHOLM, April 12, 1893.—The People's Riksdag or Parliament, which recently convened at Stockholm, Sweden, was one of considerable importance, and may be said to fairly inaugurate an agitation of much moment to the People of Sweden, and indirectly also bearing upon her relations to Norway.

Representing 200,000 men of Sweden—150,000 of whom already vote—the Parliament met for the express purpose of voicing a demand for universal suffrage.

The Parliament was a representative body representing most fully those numerous classes of the Swedish people now left without a voice in the government of the country. That its deliberations were dignified and worthy of the occasion is hardly necessary to say. The well-known conservatism of the Swedes would vouch for that.

In spite of all this, however, the People's Parliament was treated by the government and the authorities as it had been a mob.

The premier, waited upon by a limited number of members delegated for that purpose to ask if he would receive a deputation, curtly replied that he knew no representatives of the Swedish people, except those elected in accordance with existing laws, and refused to hold any further communication with the Parliament.

The king, to whom thereupon a similar request was preferred, also declined; the upper house of the regular Riksdag was no more courteous, the only courtesy extended being by individual members of the second chamber.

The impression made upon the people's Parliament by this treatment may be surmised.

It shows conclusively that the powers that he will yield nothing to the demand for equal civil rights, and the first result of this conviction was the call for another people's Parliament three years hence. In other words, the disfranchised people are just about waking up, and from this on stirring times may be expected in Sweden.

The other result is no less significant. The Norwegian Storting just then had passed the order of the day declaring the consular question a matter to be settled by Norway alone, independently of Sweden.

Replying to this by way of thanking Norwegian societies and political clubs for their expressions of good will towards the Parliament, this body passed a resolution authorizing its executive committee to call a special session should the inter-state conflict "threaten to be solved in a more or less violent manner."

This resolution will go far towards strengthening the hands of the Norwegians, but more interesting still is the fact, also expressed in the preamble, that the democracy of Sweden as a political organization will brook no policy of adventure that may endanger its demand for equal rights and privileges.

The idyllic peace which so long has characterized internal affairs in Sweden evidently is at the end. The masses of the Swedish people, heretofore almost untouched by political agitations, are realizing their condition, and will soon be in a mood to formulate their desires with telling effect and in a manner which must command attention.