

THE RIGHTS OF THE MEN.

THE WOMEN DO NOT POSSESS A MONOPOLY OF WRONGS.

How Many Men are Down-trodden by Women, but Nevertheless Enjoy It—Other Men who do not Enjoy It—The Kind of Men Mr. Strange Pities.

I cannot understand how it is that we never hear anything about the wrongs of men! Of writers and speakers who sing variations on the threadbare theme of woman's rights and woman's wrongs there seems to be no lack, and the moment one champion falls in the fray two or three arise to take her place, so there is never a breach in the ranks. But so far, man has been without a defender; not one of his sex seems to have enough courage to rise up and proclaim to the world the oppression under which man has groaned in silence for so many years, and it begins to look as if he would have to go on groaning unnoticed, for an indefinite number of years to come.

In vain I have waited and hoped, feeling sure that some of my downtrodden brothers would pluck up enough spirit to talk back some day, and stand up for his sex. But with a patience that is almost divine man has persisted in his determination to suffer in silence, and my sense of justice has forced me into the field in his defence at last, much as I dislike notoriety, and greatly as I shrink from the storm of abuse which I know too well will be directed at my devoted head by the lovely enemy whose stronghold I am about to assail.

"The down-trodden sex" they love to call themselves, but is seems to me that if the truth were known the shoe is very much on the other foot, and the iron heel of despotism is not hob-nailed now-a-days, but shaped on the model known as French, which tapers very much towards the middle of the foot, and it very frequently supports a foot which is rather too large for the shoe which encloses it. How we married men laugh, or else jeer, when we read about the wrongs of woman, but somehow we don't say very much about the subject to each other, we prefer to keep up the pleasant fiction that we are lords of creation and do just as we please. But each one knows in his heart that he really belongs to the abject sex, and somewhere in the world is a woman to whom he owes allegiance and who lords it over him to such an extent that he dare not say his soul is his own. He probably enjoys the tyranny immensely, especially if he is a very manly man, but all the same he has his neck to the yoke with all possible meekness, and goes just where his conqueror leads him.

I wonder if there is a man in the world (of course I am not speaking of the brutes one reads about, chiefly in the English papers, who gouge out their sweethearts' eyes, and make a common practice of dancing on their wives' heads with hob-nailed boots) I mean the men who are decent citizens, and worthy to be called men—I wonder if there is such a one in the world who is not under petticoat government of some kind, who does not acknowledge the sway of wife, or sweetheart or daughter? I think not, and even if he does not acknowledge it, the sway is there all the same.

Did any of those writers who bewail the wrongs of woman, ever stand by and watch a man mending a hen-coop or patching up the garden fence, under the supervision of his wife? I doubt it very much, because if they did the information they would acquire on the subject of men's supremacy, that would surprise them. No journeyman ever bullied an apprentice as that woman bullies her husband, and the amount of advice and instruction she gives him is enough to make his head turn. If he happens to be a carpenter she can tell him more about his own trade in ten minutes than he has acquired by a practical experience of ten years, and the less she knows about the subject in hand the more exacting she is about it, and the more information she gives him. She can't even let him sharpen a pencil without telling just how to do it, and adding that if he is not careful he will cut himself.

In fact woman loves to rule, and she is never so happy as when she has some big good-natured man to tyrannize over, the bigger the man the better. I suppose there is not the same pleasure in bullying one of your own size, as there is in making something very much bigger "mind" when you speak. The mere fact of the way women take care of men, tidy up their dens till the unfortunate owners cannot find anything, and destroy all their most valuable possessions as useless litter; the way they force him to change his suit, and make him smarten up against his will; insist on his wearing his overcoat and thick flannels, when he prefers taking cold in his own way, and take him out calling when he wants to stay at home: all these trifles only serve to prove beyond the possibility of a doubt that woman is really the oppressor and man the humble victim.

And to pass from individual cases to the world at large, what is man's portion in society and even in his own house? Why, he cannot so much as invite his own friends to dinner without his wife's consent, for everyone knows that a man's invitation counts for nothing in society. His name does not even appear on her invitations unless for a formal dinner; and yet she can

invite whoever she pleases without consulting him. From the moment he is married, or which occasion he is regarded as a sort of blot on the proceedings, he is a little more than a necessary adjunct in his own house, useful but of not of much account, something to be taken care of and kept in order, but not consulted much. And then to pass on from the social, to the legal aspect of man's wrongs, look at the laws, which were made by men, and should aim at their protection! The manner in which those laws discriminate in favor of womankind is perfectly amazing. A woman can run in debt to an almost unlimited extent, and her husband must pay her bills, she can get a divorce from him, and still keep his children whether she is the injured party or not, she can leave him, take the children along, and still force him to support them, and last, but not least, she can poison her husband comfortably when she gets tired of him, and feel comfortably certain that even if she is found out, no judge in the country will hang her, for the simple reason that she happens to be a woman.

And in the face of all these facts woman still has the nerve to talk about her wrongs, and clamor for her rights, while man, the down-trodden sits by in silence and lets her do it. It is a strange thing, but I think the reasons are not far to seek. One is, that in spite of what is said to the contrary, there is a good deal of chivalry left in the world after all; and the other and most potent is that man is too contented with the state of affairs to wish them changed. He hugs his claims, and enjoys being taken charge of by something so much weaker than himself that to compare the two always seems to him like pitting the ant against the elephant. He knew what he was about when he framed the laws, that the weak must be protected against the strong, and he is willing to abide by them, even if they seem to discriminate against him sometimes and make things pretty hard for him.

Perhaps he may be right after all, for though I consider that man, viewed collectively, has much to complain of in the treatment meted out to him by the other sex, individually speaking, the man who has not some woman to bully him and take charge of him, tyrannize over, and pet him, is, of God's creatures, the most to be pitied.

GEORFFREY CURTHER STRANGE.

A ROWDY BANDSTAND.

How Two Leading Halifax Regiments Fell Out.

HALIFAX, Feb. 28.—There was some friction last week between the bands of the King's Regiment (imperial troops) and the band of the 66th P. L. F., the militia regiment of this city. Happily what threatened to be a serious storm blew over without any memorable evil consequences. The little difficulty occurred at the exhibition rink. It was a carnival night, and the rink management had engaged both bands to play alternately during the evening. The 66th band had been in the habit of using the eastern and more convenient band stand. On this occasion the King's band arrived at the rink first and took up their position in the old 66th quarters. They were ready for the first number when the 66th appeared on the scene, and were informed by the King's bandmaster that his band would play from the stand thus taken by them. Bandmaster Carlton replied: "All right;" thinking that the King's men would vacate the stand and allow the 66th to play their number, when they in turn would retire, both bands to occupy the same stand alternately. So the 66th waited.

The 66th consented and migrated across the ice, where they stayed.

When the King's band finished, the 66th made a start towards the stand, but were much amazed when Bandmaster Sanders gave the order to his men, "Stand fast!" Colonel Stone was then informed and the order was issued by his directions. Even the bayonet would have been insufficient to dislodge the King's men after that mandate, and bandmaster Carlton was naturally at a loss. He appealed to the rink management for redress. The only thing they could do was to urge the 66th men to keep the peace and to take the other side of the rink for their performance. What riled the 66th band more than anything else was that at the "private afternoons" when society exclusively uses the rink, under an arrangement with the management, the King's band had been in the habit of using the 66th music-holding stands, thus saving themselves the labor of bringing their own from the Wellington barracks.

It seemed ungracious to be so arbitrary about the position they took while under obligation for the music stands. Bandmaster Carlton decided that the anomaly should no longer continue. Accordingly, contrary to usual custom, the 66th music stands were locked up when the carnival was over.

This was done in order that the King's men might be prevented from using them at the "private afternoon" next day.

The plan worked, for sure enough the King's band came to the rink without their stands, and those belonging to the 66th were missing. The King's were in a fix. This time it was bandmaster Sanders who went to the box office. But the officials there could do nothing. It would have meant an hour and a half to send for them to the Wellington barracks. Finally a bright idea struck some one who remembered that Captain C. C. Hole was on the ice. He is a member of the 66th band committee. He gave verbal permission to the King's band to take the locked-up stands. The verbal order was not considered sufficient by the rink people to deliver up the stands, and Captain Hole gave a written order which filled the bill, and the King's men were once more playing from 66th music stands.

Thus runs the story of this little difference. It is pleasing to know that the trouble has blown over and that the 66th band has cheerfully accepted the inevitable, and agreed to live in peace and harmony with their musical "regular" brothers of the sword. They have forgotten all about the trouble, in the meantime.

ST. JOHN WOMEN'S WORK.

THEY LOOK BACKWARD; BY REQUEST OF LADY ABERDEEN.

Lady Tilley's Place of Honor—The Homes That They Have Founded—Their Right to Vote—The Women's Franchise Club Studies Political Economy.

When the ladies begin to consider what they have accomplished as women and what there is that they might accomplish, it is a pretty sure indication that there is an awakening among them. During the past few weeks the women of St. John have been considering their past more than they have for some time, and while they have of late always had an eye to the future with its possible reforms and openings for work, it is likely that they will henceforth pay more attention to this than usual.

The reason of their turning their eyes backward was because Lady Aberdeen requested them to do so. She is obtaining reports from the sixteen local councils of women throughout Canada respecting the work of women. This is to be sent to the proper authorities to be embodied in the report of the women's congress of the world's fair.

A committee of ten of the St. John council looked after this and that they did their work well was evidenced from the fact that the secretary of the national council congratulated them upon having sent in the best report that she had received. The women in St. John compared favorably with those of other cities, for there were reported from here no less than three industrial establishments conducted by women, while Toronto can only produce one.

The place of honor among the women workers of the province goes easily to Lady Tilley, who has always been industrious in the promotion of good work. She founded two or three charitable institutions, including the Victoria hospital and boys' reformatory, and organized other women's effort as well, including the ladies' committee of the Y. M. C. A. She is vice-president for New Brunswick of the Canadian national council of women and is president of the St. John council.

There are quite a number of charities in the city that owe their existence to women, and in which women are actively interested. The Women's Christian Temperance Union, which is perhaps the most active of the women's societies now, established a Little Girls' home. It may also be remarked here parenthetically that the union accomplish much by means of their coffee rooms, kitchen garden, relief fund and jail and prison work. At the general hospital there is a nurse's home in connection that was established by Lady Tilley. Mrs. McNichol established an infants' home which is doing good work. The Home for Aged Females is another of these institutions. Another which is now closed, the Sailors' Home, was founded by Miss Nicholson.

Women have also had something to say about the administrative affairs in the past. They have obtained the right to vote in municipal elections and they are eligible to serve on the school board. Mrs. Atkinson, of Moncton, has the grand distinction of being the first and only woman who enjoys the latter privilege so far. Among things that are now engaging their attention is the obtaining of the right to vote in provincial elections and also the right to appoint two members to the St. John school board. The latter agitation had progressed so far that the city council had been prevailed upon to memorialize the government making this request but the government appeared to overlook the matter. When the women obtain the coveted position they have ready two excellent ladies for the position, Mrs. R. C. Skinner and Miss Murray. The W. C. T. U. have formed a franchise department and a Women's Franchise club has been organized to study political economy and prepare themselves for the time to come.

These are some of the things in which the women of the province have been to the front in combined effort. There is another, the attempt to obtain the appointment of a jail matron here. This is also another line of effort for them to follow in the future. A thing that the city needs very much just now and which the ladies could obtain if they would is a building for the public library, historical collections and museum. Let them put their shoulder to the wheel.

Turning to individual effort it will be found that a number of New Brunswick ladies have become prominent in art and letters and other branches of human endeavor. In journalism Mrs. John E. Logan, Miss Helen Leah Reed and Mrs. Scovil have become very prominent in the United States, Mrs. Logan as a literary critic and historian, Miss Reed as a racy magazine writer and Mrs. Scovil as a department editor on the Ladies' Home Journal. These are only some among many who are worthy. In art Miss DeBury, in music Miss Carritte are among names which might be mentioned.

It is the intention of PROGRESS to speak more particularly of women and their work in later articles and to describe the women who have become prominent through their connection with charities,

philanthropies, reform work, literature, art, etc.

For the Horticultural Association.

The Bicycle Minstrels have kindly offered to repeat their entertainment at the Opera house, for the benefit of the above Association, and the Opera House managers have tendered the use of the hall for that purpose, free of charge. PROGRESS understands the Horticultural association has already incurred considerable expense in connection with their greenhouse and public garden on Seely street, and that they intend to go ahead with the work of laying out the ground the coming spring. The public will have an opportunity of showing their appreciation of the work of the Horticultural association is going by giving the Bicycle boys a bumper box. Monday, 11th March, is the date fixed upon.

Rare Birds Driven Inland.

Some extraordinary captures of Arctic and other rare birds have been made in the Cambridgehire fens. A specimen of the Arctic bird, Brunnich's guillemot, was found near Wisbech St. Mary's, not far from the frozen waters of the River Nene. It is stated that probably this is the first specimen of this bird ever captured in Great Britain, and has, no doubt, been driven southward by the severity of the weather. No fewer than four specimens of the little auk have also been captured in the same district.

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