

Written for THE JURY.
Woman's Work.
 BY PRISCILLA LEA-
 FLHEAD.

The few remarks which I beg leave to offer concerning this popular subject will radiate from the question. What is woman's legitimate sphere of labor?

Surely woman was not designed to coal steamers at St. Thomas, or dig potatoes and mow buckwheat in Westmorland. No, it was never meant that woman, who was placed in this world as a thing of beauty, should walk in paths that the feet of man alone are fit to tread. Woman's proper sphere of labor encircles only those of life's avocations as she can follow without loss of womanliness. Womanliness includes all those attributes which can be qualified by the adjectives gentle, graceful, charming,

refined, tender, beautiful, loving, and so on. Now, my dear sisters, what a catastrophe befalls woman's beautiful form and graceful carriage when she gets down on all fours to shampoo the kitchen floor! Statistics tell us that in the Dominion of Canada alone there are no less than ninety-five thousand square feet of kitchen floor! This immense area of kitchen floor is laundried, every inch of it, by woman! If a kitchen floor was ever scrubbed by a man, history, so far as my researches go, does not record the fact. Now, I maintain that men should either do the scrubbing, invent an automatic scrubbing machine or buy a carpet for the kitchen.

How suddenly woman's bewitching ways take flight when she becomes a salutation amazon of the poke bonnet and tambourine order! How expeditiously her gentleness yields up its ghost when the dear little creature undertakes to put up the stove-pipes! How trying it must be for

woman to remember that she is the very embodiment of refinement while she happens to be deeply absorbed in the work of chopping wood or pulling off her husband's boots! I have my own opinion of the man whose wife is his boot-jack. A man has no more right to convert his wife into a boot-detaching apparatus than she has to install him propellor-in-chief of a perambulator. But the poor perambulator-man is not the only one of his sex who does not manage to keep out of woman's field of labor. There are others who do not keep off the grass of woman's rights. For example, male milliners and male cooks and male dry-goods clerks and male etceteras. But I have cited sufficient to serve my purpose, namely, to point out that women occupy positions which they should not occupy and do not occupy positions which they should occupy. As I have remarked I am simply pointing this fact out. It is nothing new, and I would

bake sufficient brick to meet the diminished demand. And lo and behold, the women thereupon turned their attention from bricks unto pine boards; and verily this is about the time that the art of scrubbing came to light. This fragment of history reveals to us the why and wherefore of woman's association with scrubbing.

Having spoken of the uncongenial pursuit which have fallen to the lot of woman, let me now direct your attention to some positions which are inviting to woman and yet not to a satisfactory extent filled by her. In the United States, mercantile and governmental positions, to which great responsibilities are attached, are held by women, who discharge the duties connected with their offices as efficiently as they could be discharged by any man. And why should this not be so? Is not woman endowed with keener perceptive faculties, and is she not

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THE MODERN LOCHINVAR CARRYING OFF THE BRIDE.

impress upon you, my dear sisters, that I do not come forward in this article as its discoverer. It is an old fact, as old as Egypt. Yes, it is an old fact that has been knocking round the world since the time that Pharaoh's national policy placed such a high duty on chopped straw that the brick-makers had to get along without it. You know they used to make bricks with mud and straw. Bricks are not stuffed with straw now-a-days. Therefore, when the citizen who contributes three or four hundred dollars to the woman's rights fund is likened unto a brick, the similitude is intended to convey that he is not made of straw. In those days the women as well as the men were engaged in the brick manufacturing business. By and by there came over the brick trade a very dark cloud, for clapboards and shingles came into fashion; and the brick circulation fell off so much that the issue had to be reduced one-half. And it came to pass that the men alone could

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