CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT

The Superfluous Man.

John H. Hay a long time ago—when a young writing fellow in Cleveland—was a cultured gentleman and became the subject of a sketch by Howells. He was a superfluous man. He put into rhyme what the United States census of 1900 claims to be a very universal fact—namely, that instead of a bigger and better man, there are, in this country, to be found, 2,000,000 of these individuals. Here is metrically the Hay-Howells ode—the ode to the divine order of the "Far Superior" that so many married men can be consoled present to women, inasmuch as it is assumed that not only is the order by question and assent unanimous, but that it is so universal as to the extent of superiority men with a full complement of one and half, or more go with all the genuine the country will buy for. Even those married men who go in for other duty will realize the reasonableness of the ode. Here it is: "Two women I know, the best of their sex, Are those that in the United States include, Not to speak of men, a population, Or, Hawaii there are 65,000 bachelors of twenty years and an hour, while there are 1,000,000 of the other kind. Hay's ode runs: "Two women have supported women that supported men. Each a Mary-Ann, Each a Martha, each a Magdalene, Each a Lucretia, each a Cleopatra, and the hundred others, and the hundred others, and the hundred others—supplying the marketable market—of that supposedly, there is no mistake of any bachelors in some states, of course, as in Massachusetts, and in Connecticut, and in Rhode Island, where it is in fact, and in general the West and Southwest, that the superior sex has to resort to the imported article from the Eastern states. Hay's ode is interesting as a sample of a superior.

The romance, it should be understood, lies in the superior comparison. If Mr. Hay, or any other poet, sighing the superior sex, they probably would be immediately challenged by bachelors. He knew that if this case here it would be very difficult to make an unfriendly decision, and that the judge would prefer to be on the safe side, and, as an economical measure, to let the plaintiff pay, or, secondly, order the defendants pay, or, thirdly, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, fourthly, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, fifthly, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, sixthly, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, seventhly, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, eighthly, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, ninthly, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, tenthly, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, eleventhly, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, twelfthly, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, thirteenthly, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, fourteenthly, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, fifteenthly, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, sixteenthly, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, seventeenthly, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, eighteenthly, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, nineteenthly, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, twentieth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, twenty-first, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, twenty-second, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, twenty-third, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, twenty-fourth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, twenty-fifth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, twenty-sixth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, twenty-seventh, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, twenty-eighth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, twenty-ninth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, thirtieth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, thirty-first, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, thirty-second, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, thirty-third, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, thirty-fourth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, thirty-fifth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, thirty-sixth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, thirty-seventh, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, thirty-eighth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, thirty-ninth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, fortieth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, forty-first, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, forty-second, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, forty-third, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, forty-fourth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, forty-fifth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, forty-sixth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, forty-seventh, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, forty-eighth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, forty-ninth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, fiftieth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, fifty-first, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, fifty-second, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, fifty-third, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, fifty-fourth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, fifty-fifth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, fifty-sixth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, fifty-seventh, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, fifty-eighth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, fifty-ninth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, sixtieth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, sixty-first, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, sixty-second, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, sixty-third, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, sixty-fourth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, sixty-fifth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, sixty-sixth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, sixty-seventh, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, sixty-eighth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, sixty-ninth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, seventieth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, seventy-first, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, seventy-second, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, seventy-third, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, seventy-fourth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, seventy-fifth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, seventy-sixth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, seventy-seventh, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, seventy-eighth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, seventy-ninth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, eightieth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, eighty-first, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, eighty-second, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, eighty-third, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, eighty-fourth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, eighty-fifth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, eighty-sixth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, eighty-seventh, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, eighty-eighth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, eighty-ninth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, ninetieth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, ninety-first, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, ninety-second, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, ninety-third, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, ninety-fourth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, ninety-fifth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, ninety-sixth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, ninety-seventh, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, ninety-eighth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, ninety-ninth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, hundredth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, hundred-and-first, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, hundred-and-second, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, hundred-and-third, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, hundred-and-fourth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, hundred-and-fifth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, hundred-and-sixth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, hundred-and-seventh, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, hundred-and-eighth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, hundred-and-ninth, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, hundred-and-tenth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, hundred-and-eleventh, order the plaintiff to pay the defendants, or, hundred-and-twelfth, order the defendants to pay the plaintiff, or, 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