HALF THE CLUBWOMEN IMBECILES, SAYS MRS. SARAH MORRIS CORY

Strong-Minded Members Often Forced Out for Being Intelligent, She Declares.

POOL AND TOADY RULE.

Frankest Woman in New York, Herself a Club Woman, Harshly Criticises Her Associates.

"Why is a perfect clubwoman? Because she is a fool or a toady."

Strange as it may seem, this is not a conundrum of the musical comedy variety. It is a real question propounded to Mrs. Sarah Morris Cory and answered by that remarkably frank woman herself.

There are no doubt a few hundred clubwomen in New York to-day who would like to say a thing or two to Mrs. Cory, or at least about her, for since she made her startling assertion before the Society for Political Study that to be a really popular and sought-after clubwoman one must be either a fool or a toady the clubwomen are probably wondering what else is in store for them.

Mrs. Cory has the distinction of being the only woman in New York who could stand up before a club and tell the members to their faces that they were a terrible mistake. This is just what she did to the Political Study Society and, stranger still, she is a member of this organization herself.

As no one likes to hear disagreeable things about themselves, I approached Mrs. Cory with a slight degree of timidity, but she most cordially continued her knocks at the clubwoman and spared personalities.

Club System Declining.

"I don't mind saying what I think," said Mrs. Cory to-day in her home in West Fortieth street. "The whole club system is on a decline, and it is due to this fact that clubwomen are not intellectually competent to carry on the work they pretend to do.

"The majority of the clubs are made up of mediocre intelligences, fools and toadies. There are strong-minded women in clubs, to be sure, and they forge ahead when their originality does not force them out of the clubs entirely. For the one woman of intelligence in a club there are one hundred foolish butterflies who have joined merely for the social end of it.

"They immediately become supporters of some dominant power in the club and then their individual rise begins through the toady system. The only want mediocre women in the clubs to-day, and when the brainy ones do get in they find they are in trouble and make lots of enemies.

"Don't you consider the woman's club of any benefit, Mrs. Cory?"

"Not a bit. When the first woman's club was established there was a sincerity of purpose, an aim and motive that has become utterly dissipated. The club of to-day is nothing but a chance for cackling and babble. As I said in my talk, one must be without originality or independent speech—every one cackle as the others cackle, talk only well-worn platitudes—in short, just be one card in the pack."

"But what about the great intellectual stimulus given the clubwoman's gray matter by the preparation of her information-giving paper?"

Mrs. Cory gazed pityingly at me.

Don't Write Their Papers.

"The average club woman never writes her own papers," she announced. "There are plenty of places, you know, where these club papers are turned out for so much per word or line."

"But even so the listeners get some benefit," I persisted.

"They never listen, they are thinking about whether or not Mrs. Jones-Smith will invite them to tea if they support her in her election, or whether their names will get in the paper as patronizing some brainy sounding lecture they don't know the first thing about."

"You haven't a very high opinion of the feminine intellect, then, Mrs. Cory?"

"Indeed I have," replied the frankest woman in New York. "But I don't count club women among those who are going to fight the battle for woman's eventual recognition as man's equal, if not his superior."

"Now I'm sure women will be much more interested in that point of view, Mrs. Cory, even the clubwomen of your description. One thing I would like to ask is, why do you belong to clubs?"

"I once belonged to thirty clubs. To-day I belong to fifteen, among them the Society for Political Study, which contains the brainiest women in New York; the Professional Women's League and the Equal Suffrage Club. Well, you see I joined them all a long time ago, and then I don't bother much with the butterflies. At any rate, you will see that my remarks are not prompted by sour grapes.

"It is ridiculous for women to form political clubs and think they can influence the men. As I made plain to the Society for Political Study, men only laugh in their sleeves at women who think they are influencing politics. Women are always striving after the unattainable."

"Doesn't that contradict your views about women's equality with men?"

The Ideal Woman.

"Not at all. Women must strive to be ideal women. The domestic woman of the nineteenth century was nearer the ideal woman of creation than any other type—mother of her children, mistress of her household, basking in her husband's smiles, seeking only to shine in her own home surroundings.

"And do you expect woman to reach the pinnacle of intellectual development by basking in her husband's smiles. Besides, there are lots of women who haven't opportunity for basking. What about them?"

"In my paper," continued Mrs. Cory, "I spoke of the coy maiden, the blushing bride, the loving mother and revered grandmother of many descendants as the ideal woman of creation. Contrast her with the present sequence of the up-to-date college girl, matrimonial purchaser of a foreign title, neglectful mother of unwished-for children, and that twentieth century monstrosity, the would-be-young antediluvian."

"Some women are not fitted for the domestic life. The present century has evolved many such women. In their hands lies the work of emancipating women from the stigma of being man's intellectual inferiors.

Defeat Their Own Ends.

"It is all the fault of mediocrity among women. There are too many of them who can't think for themselves and who are always waiting for John's opinion on this or Tom's decision about that. Women defeat their own ends. They are their worst enemies. The trouble is that there are so few of them fitted to carry out any definite purpose. There are too many gowns and gadding-abouts to interest them; too many club meetings to be attended.

"Woman's intellect is equal to man's, but if he could help it he would prevent her from exercising it."

"Do you think many men are personally interested in blasting woman's intellectual development?" I asked.

"All married men are. Most any wife who has enough sense to recognize the fact could tell you as much.

"I have been married twice, but I am free to say that I would never marry again. I could never make my mind subservient to any man's."

"Then you think woman's intellectual equality with man will be recognized somewhere in the future, but it will not be accomplished by the club woman?"

Club Woman Impossible.

"The club woman will accomplish nothing but tea drinking and tittle-tattling. Why even the patriotic societies, and I am a member of several, are only good to keep the genealogist busy looking up ancestry. They spend time and money trying to have their ancestors located in order to get in the societies, while those who have ancestors want to get out.

"As for philanthropists, of course they do good, but they go sticking their noses in places they have no business to. Woman's salvation lies in suppressing the imbeciles who rush in and try to settle problems they know nothing about.

"Why, clubs that ostensibly have serious motives at stake are composed half of imbeciles. That's the word I use. They will be the downfall of the women's clubs. Look at the executive committees of our clubs—I know, for I've served on many of them. They are composed of one or two brainy women and the rest are fools, proud to be on the committee and reading list of events.

"As for the literary clubs, they are mere social functions or half and half vaudeville shows."

"What will the club women think of your comments?" the frankest woman in New York was asked.

"I think? Those who can think for themselves will think I dare to tell the truth, that is all."

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To Indorse the Candidacy of

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FOR GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK STATE

AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

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AT EIGHT O'CLOCK

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST will be present by invitation and speak.

Prominent Labor Leaders will also address the meeting.

To Organized Labor and Its Friends:

In this spontaneous demonstration for the purpose of showing our sincere appreciation for what William Randolph Hearst has done for our cause, the committee in charge, through its Grand Marshal, herewith extends to every body of organized labor in Greater New York and members thereof a hearty invitation to participate in this reception of the best friend organized labor ever had.

Labor organizations and individual members are invited to congregate and join the parade at any of the four formation points as follows:

First Division—Will meet at Duane and William Sts.
Second Division—Will meet at corner Eighth Ave. and 11th St.
Third Division—Will meet at 49th St. and Ninth Ave.
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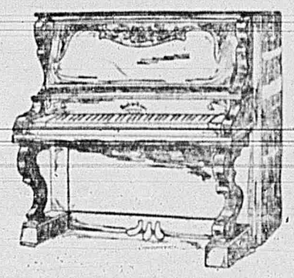

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Boys' Double Breast Suits—Mixtures, and overplaids—double seat and knees—8 to 16 yrs—value $4.98 ..... 2.98
Boys' Knee Pants—made of Tailors' Remnants—Tweeds, Cheviots and Corduroys—4 to 16 yrs—values 75 to $1.00 50
Boys' Bloomers and Knickerbockers—Cheviots, Tweeds and Corduroys—patent bands—3 to 16 yrs.—worth $1.25 75
Children's Flannelette Rompers—pretty stripes with white piping—2 to 8 yrs.—value 69 49
Children's Angora Tams—Black and colors, with double bands—value 75 49
Women's Nainsook Corset Covers—ribbon run laces back and front—value 69 49
Skirt length Chemises—Nainsook and Cambric—value $1.69 98
Women's Flannelette Night Dresses—good colors—well made—value 79 59
Women's Cambric Skirts—dozen elaborate styles, lace and emb'y—value $2.69 ..... 1.98
Women's Pompadette Waists—Entire fronts emb'd and pin tucked—open back or front—usually $1.98 ..... 1.49

WHAT FRIDAY MEANS in Curtains, Rugs and other furnishings.

French Net Bed Sets—large Renaissance centre piece—corner motifs—festooned valance—bolster shams to match—value $7.00 and $8.00 ..... 5.98
Arabian Bonne Femmes—corded designs—3 yds. long—value $3.98 ..... 2.49
Scotch Lace Curtains—real lace effects—3½ yds. long—30 styles—regular $2.98 kinds 1.98
Portieres of Fig'd Armure Tapestry—solid or two toned colorings—fringe or rope edge—value $5.98 ..... 3.98
Fig. Damask Portieres—Gobelin Tapestry borders—all colors—were $6.98 ..... 4.98
Reversible Tapestry Couch Covers—Oriental rug designs—60 inches wide—value $5.98 ..... 3.98
Irish Point Lace Panels—net measurement 36x45—20-inch motif—large assortment—value 79 59

Plain Decorative Velvets—for draperies and coverings—value 79 59
French Net Panels—Renaissance motifs—unique designs—worth $1.25 to $1.75 98
Smyrna Rugs—6x9 ft.—medallion and Oriental designs, usually $5.98 ..... 3.98
Velvet Axminster Rugs—9x12 ft.—large and small designs—value $24.00 ..... 17.98
White Table Oilcloths—1¼ yds. wide—new, but slightly imperfect—20 cent quality 15
Oak Bath Seats—nickel hangers—fit any tub—worth 50 39
Holland Window Shades—3x6 ft.—white and colors—slight imperfections—value 60 39
Oriental Tapestry Couch Covers—fringed all round—value $1.00 59

NO MAIL OR TELEPHONE ORDERS.