

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

MORNING CHIT-CHAT.

TWO or three months ago I wrote an article saying that men did not like forward girls, that the forward girl by her forwardness loses not only her self-respect, but also the very thing for which she is trying to trade it—the admiration and love of the opposite sex.

Since then I have received so many letters from girls who say that their attempts to be self-respecting and nice and their consequent unpopularity disprove my statement, that I am going to take up the cudgels again in defense of my belief.

But, girls, I did not say that the nice girl would be very popular. I did not say that she would be the girl who would have to split up her dances and fill out a dozen extras to satisfy the admirers who crowd around her at a dance.

What I said, and still affirm, is that the self-respecting girl, other things being equal, has the better chance of winning the average man's admiration and love.

Now please do not translate my terms "self-respect" and "niceness" into prudery.

That is most emphatically what I do not mean.

Nobody, man or woman, loves a prude. A prude, moreover, since she is always on the lookout for evil suggestions and insinuations, continually finds them.

Above all things, don't be a prude. Just be a nice girl, thinking no evil and expecting none. When anything with a possible double meaning is said to you, it is far better to appear not to see the allusion than to pick it up and resent it.

Be jolly. Enter into all healthy fun-making with your men friends as much as you can.

A man likes a girl who is not forward, but that does not mean he likes her to be stiff.

Be friendly, be hearty. Be lively and alert and enthusiastic. You can be all that without being in the least forward or bold or improper, but I think that many times the girls who are trying hard not to be improper overshoot the mark and are stiff and formal.

But as to its being necessary for a girl to allow her casual men friends to take liberties with her in order to win their love—absolutely no. The girls who do that sort of thing are often popular, of course, but do you want that sort of popularity?

Do you want to be spoken lightly of when your men friends are speaking of the women they know, or do you want to be the one of whom they will say, "She is the right sort. There is nothing easy about her."

Do you want to be characterized as I overheard a man in the street characterize a girl he was talking about a good deal at the time, as "a good sofa pillow?"

Will compliments and the chance to go about make up for things like that?

And as for the marrying part of it—men sometimes approach girls in this way, and then afterward find the girls have admirable qualities beneath the boldness, and marry them for these qualities, but never for love or admiration of the failure to be self-respecting.

One girl who says she has tried very hard to be a nice girl and stigmatizes niceness as a failure with men, ends her letter:

"I realize that youth is passing quickly by with very little pleasure. I am wondering, does it pay?"

Self-respect does pay every time. Not only good men but all men admire it. I know of a rake, a man about town, almost what we call so glibly "a degenerate," who said, "I shall never marry. The right kind of girl won't have me and I won't marry the other kind."

Don't be too formal, too chip-on-the-shoulder. If you aren't a masculine success, maybe it's a tendency in that direction that's to blame. Try to overcome it without going too far in the other direction.

Don't be a prude, but be a nice, jolly, self-respecting girl, and I believe, with all my heart, your own shall come unto you and that it will be worth waiting for.

RUTH CAMERON.

FROM WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

There are still to be found men who deplore the good old days when women were typical of the clinging vine. I heard one of them confess that the modern woman, with her independence, was a distinct shock. He married a modern woman, however, even if he prefers the kind which finds contentment in her family duties and happiness in whatever attention her lord and master chooses to bestow upon her—and he loves her very dearly.

Conditions have changed, and I doubt if the man of to-day could stand the frail, timid, uninteresting woman of former times. He needs a companion; he proves that by his frank friendship with girls who compete with him in work and play. The companionable wife is a strong element in the success of many husbands. The old-fashioned women were faithful wives, good mothers, and excellent housekeepers, but they had little knowledge of the business world which claimed men or of the sports which amused them, and men had fewer ambitions in those days.

A young woman recently announced her approaching marriage in terms something like these: "It is a little sudden, perhaps, but I know him well and trust him implicitly. He is the kind of man who will prefer to take his wife to the play and little supper rather than spend his time and money with men friends." She is safe in trusting her future in his hands, and he is fortunate in securing an ally to work for his future. Two sets of good-working brains are better than one; they have a double chance at success.

The man who does not make a comrade of his wife misses a great deal. She is bound to economize when she understands why and where economy is necessary. She is generally able to give good advice, approaching as it were, from a different viewpoint, than he. She will do her part toward saving for the future, and perhaps a little more. One need not waste pity on a man who has been ruled by his wife's extravagance if he has never been confidential at home. She had a right to know his financial standing, and, lacking that, to spend as she chose till checked in some way.

I am of the opinion that we will never see a revival of the type of woman who effaces herself. Women are no longer compelled to accept matrimony as a means of existence. They have found themselves to be an important part of the scheme of life, and while an occasional woman may overstep the bounds of reason, the great majority will continue to be real helpmates to the men they choose for partners.

BETTY BRADEN.

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