

# ∴ Gossip for Women ∴

We are all as a rule too easily influenced. There is too little individuality in human beings.

The young mind leans with implicit faith upon the statements of elders, never venturing to dissent or to have a contrary opinion. Why keep your mind in this condition of dependence?

No one knows any better than you yourself whether you are honest with yourself. No one is more fitted to be a confidant and guide than your own mind and heart.

Learn to make your own decisions and abide by them.

There has lately been organized in Pittsburgh a woman's club which is working in connection with the W. C. T. U., and which is known as "The Protective League for the Families of Drunkards." As a means of making its work effective, it has petitioned the city council to appoint as regular police officers women who are to be assigned regular "beats" in the section of the city where women and young girls frequent the back rooms of saloons.

These policewomen are to use all their rotherly influence in an endeavor to win to better ways of living the girls whom they find in such places.

If they refuse the counsel and kindly advice, they will be liable to arrest. The policewomen will also keep a strict watch over the dance halls and other places where young girls congregate.

Mrs. Stella B. Masters, who is head of the league, has made a careful study of conditions in Pittsburgh and says that such special officers are very necessary, as the ordinary policeman considers such cases distinctly outside his jurisdiction, unless they develop into disorderly conduct cases. The policewomen are to wear the white ribbon badge of the W. C. T. U. and also a special badge designed for this new service.

Virtuous and well satisfied wives are those whose jealousy masquerades as a sense of justice, who taunt husbands with misdemeanors which were better forgotten. They suspect evil and voice their suspicions. The less complacent woman would condemn herself for her doubts, or if certain that they were well founded would appreciate that in talking of them and saying bitter things she

was but making a bad matter worse.

Virtuous fathers are the ones who insist that the collegian son shall report at home at "10 o'clock sharp or find the front door locked." Many wives have been forced into the sin of deception by such husbands—for what mother would not creep downstairs quietly after the house is dark to unlock the door and wait for the boy returning late from an evening of innocent fun? Of course, theoretically, she should not do this, for it shows the boy that she and his father do not "pull together" and alienates him from the sterner parent. But the mother feels that this is better than to have him turned from his father's house at midnight to seek shelter she knows not, and the lad cares not where.

And if the wife is wrong and if the boy aids and abets her in her deception, whose fault is it primarily? Should not the blame for the condition of affairs rest upon the father, who, secure in his faith in his own virtue sleeps, while the mother suffers for his mistakes?

Some one must suffer for the errors of the self-satisfied, as someone must pay for everything in this world.

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I once knew a girl who said openly that she would rather meet engaged men than any other kind—they were more fun—and it always made the girls they were engaged to so furious to see how devoted she could make them be to her.

Now, you may think what you please of that girl, but I say she is a cat and a horrid person.

A nice girl doesn't even think such things, let alone say them. I'm afraid I used to wish that she herself was engaged and that some infinitely more attractive girl would come along and just set her fiance's head to twirling like a top.

Perhaps she would have awakened to a sense of her own delinquencies then. As a matter of fact she wasn't a particularly attractive girl, but she was most wonderfully pleased with herself and her attainments as a coquette, and she fancied that every man who ever paid her a silly compliment was in love with her.

The men used to laugh at her behind her back and took a perfect delight in giving her the most ridicu-

lous flattery. But that gets us away from the subject.

Girls, it's a pretty safe rule that old golden rule of ours and when you meet a nice engaged man just think of the girl he belongs to and don't try to make her unhappy.

An engaged man is next door to being married.

Treat him then as you would any other property of another woman.

You wouldn't steal Miss Henderson's silver chain purse, would you? Well, then, don't try to steal her fiance.

There was a saying current among the boys of our set when I was about 15. It is a trifle crude in expression, but forcible:

"It's the girl who can't get a fellow who's always trying to steal some other girl's fellow."

There's a great deal more truth than poetry in that sentiment.

There's no question about it, an engaged man belongs to another girl, and it may be pretty generally assumed that he wants to belong to her.

Why, then, should you try to get him away from her?

Why, I've known girls to send notes and telephone messages over and over again to some man they know to be engaged the moment his sweetheart went out of town for a little visit.

They'd ask him to come and see them, they'd ask him to take them somewhere, anything at all so that they could get the town to talking about the attentions which were being paid them by a man who belonged to another girl. They fancied it gave them a reputation for being quite irresistible.

The man in such a case is always helpless.

Of course he can decline invitations, but sometimes they are put in such a way he might just as well try to put in the time some way so that it would be positive rudeness to do so.

And he thinks hopelessly that since the one girl in the world is away he might just as well try to put in the time some way so that he won't be too lonesome.

And he never can understand why she is angry when she comes back and he tells her innocently where he has been and with whom.

Some quarrels have resulted from mischief making girls who thought it was funny and clever of them to get an engaged man to pay them attentions.

What a pity that the legal penalties for "malicious mischief" cannot be extended to silly girls who do just this sort of thing.

They need the lesson.

It is a great deal safer all around to leave engaged men severely alone.

Don't try to keep up your chummy friendship with Frank after he is engaged to Bessie.

Drop the readings that you and Tom had planned when he buys a solitaire for Maud.

In the language of the rihald youngsters mentioned above: "Get a fellow of your own."

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