

## THE COMING WOMAN.



*A paper read at a meeting of the Dawn Club by one of the members.*

It is with a very grave doubt of success that I commence this paper, for the subject is so broad, so comprehensive, and includes so much, that I can barely glance along the different points.

The Arabian proverb says, "a fig tree looking on a fig tree becometh fruitful," so, looking into the characters of some of the past women may guide to an estimate of what the woman of the future is to be. Some of our mothers were very noble-minded women indeed, and to them we owe much, but they lived in bondage all their lives through fear of "what the world would say," and though many times longing to break the fetters, they lacked the courage, and so passed away to the silent land—unknown.

Every mother who laid the foundation in her daughters' minds of love to God and to all His creatures helped to prepare the coming woman. Now, we are nearer our salvation than when we believed. For the last ten or fifteen years a steady improvement has gone on, both in the understanding of sanitary laws, and, as a consequence, a stronger and better frame, fewer nerves, less fear of working alone, of knocking against her fellow-beings in life's rush and hurry, of being misunderstood, etc., etc.; a long list of sentimental woes has been expunged from her category, her physique generally strengthened and her life made freer and happier.

These are partly consequences of a more intelligent physical training, and partly of being obliged to work.

Yes, we owe much to those noble mothers who have passed away, and so many who now live, work, and grow in the world. Every year women are becoming better fitted to take their places in life so if any privileges are delayed, let them not grow impatient, but work on enlarging their views of life and its avocations.

In "the coming woman," the earnest prayers and longings of humanity will be fulfilled, for she will be a creature "nobly planned, to warn to comfort, to command," not above doing the humblest work of the household if required: washing, scrubbing or cooking, making, or mending, trying to make home the most attractive spot on earth, she will show that a cultivated taste causes a small expenditure of money to go a great way towards making

everything cheerful and homelike, and will so brighten all faces around her.

She will dress neatly and becomingly, always look and feel "a lady," whatever she is about, but she will not compress her vital organs, by tight-lacing, as she wants *all* her heart strength for her duties and pleasure. She will choose in early life whatever calling or profession she feels she is best fitted for, and having chosen, will fit herself so as to do her work better than anyone else ever did it.

She will have no fear, for to the pure in heart, there is no fear. She will get many hard knocks and rubs as men do, she will just smile and say with the Irishman, "Sorrah-may-care."

Having succeeded in life, she will then help her fellow men up the ladder, she will forgive and forget all the obstacles they threw in her way, and standing high up the ladder will reach down a rosy hand to help them up. She will vote pure men and women into Parliament, and being there herself, will purify the atmosphere until they don't know their own selves, there will then be no gouging eyes out, or punching noses, or saying, "You come outside," or calling each other nasty names, oh no, they will be gentlemen then, because woman has tamed them. Then the business of the country will be attended to and carried on properly because time will not be frittered away on these pleasantries.

She will espouse the cause of her own sex everywhere, and in every conceivable way, until woman can go fearless and glad, and childhood be safe and free.

You ask, if she will ever marry? Oh, she may, when she has achieved success and made herself a home and a standing in life, she may then choose some good, pure man like-minded with herself and take him in and do for him, but she will not marry to "provide" a home, because she will have already provided it, nor will she marry for the sake of having masculine protection, for she will be able to protect herself. She can have no motive then unless the right one, pure love, and the man will see this very clearly, for men are usually clear-sighted in these things. But married or single she will be a power for good in every place, and she will conquer error by Truth and Love. Her life will be devoted to the good of all humanity.

## Economical Dressing.

By economical dressing, shabbiness is not meant, but a careful expenditure of money, so as to present a good appearance on a small amount. Do not save on your shoes or gloves, as good articles outwear poor ones of this line, and look well as long as they last. By pulling gloves on and off gently, smoothing them in shape, and laying them away unfolded—not rolled in a ball—they wear much longer.

Rub shoes free from dust whenever they are worn, using a black cloth; keep them in a shoe-bag, the buttons sewed on or ties fresh; and when growing shabby, brush the buttons and heels with black varnish, and rub the shoes with a dressing, of which there are dozens nowadays; but do not use the dressing until needed, as when once commenced, it must be continued. Patent-leather shoes require a particular polish, which can be found at any shoe store.

Hats, bonnets, dresses, and cloaks require the same care when taken off; and hats should be kept in a box too large to bend or crush them. A stiff whisk is best for woollen dresses, a silk handkerchief for silk, and a regular hat-brush for bonnets.

If you come in with wet or damp ostrich feathers, fan the hat over a register or stove where they will get the heat without the flame until dry, and the curl is then retained.

Furs of every description should be well dried and shaken before putting them away. Do not attempt to remove mud from any material until it is perfectly dry.

If your hat and cloak correspond, and are stylish in make, you can wear a plain dress beneath, as it is practically unseen in these days of long wraps. Black trimmings are so much used in millinery and outside garments that they go with all colors. It is a pretty fancy to have a muff to match the hat worn.

When restricted to few changes, do not select "loud" colors or patterns. Some "robe" dresses are exquisite in design, but if worn every time the owner goes out, one becomes tired of looking at it. A ladies' cloth or cashmere in green, grey, blue or brown, trimmed with silk passementerie, will give better satisfaction. For every-day wear, have a plainly made gown of striped or plain cheviot, with stitching for the trimming.

If a third suit can be indulged in, have a nice black silk-warp Henrietta, which is always refined looking for church, visiting, or home wear, and can be brightened with a vest

of Persian silk, and a further trimming of black and Persian Escorial cord, passementerie.

Cashmere and silk blouses are worn with odd skirts; and fancy jacket waists, similar to the Grecque waist, answer for theatre, home, and evening wear with silk, lace, or nice woollen skirts.

A black lace or net dress over black is the cheapest and most convenient evening dress known. It is worn by ladies of all ages and complexions, and, one might say, at all times and places. Young ladies also look well in white cashmere gowns inexpensively trimmed with black, green, lavender, or red ribbon velvet.

## Toilettes for Girls.

PERHAPS the most thankless task a mother has is the dressing of a girl between the age of twelve and sixteen, when they are only half formed, gawky, awkward in looks and feelings. Probably they suffer as much in knowing that they look unlovely as the mother does in attempting to transform the ugly duckling.

By consulting the child's form and complexion many improvements can be made. If slender unto a painful leanness, have the skirts amply full, slightly draped in front, and not too short. Make a round or slightly pointed, basque, with a full vest and revers, jacket fronts or with a fullness from the shoulders.

A round waist with a sash is also becoming to a slight figure, and a blouse tucked at the neck, belted and with full sleeves, is admirable for a slender girl "springing up like a weed." Give them full sleeves and high collars. Baste folds of scrim in the neck and firmly forbid linen collars.

Peasant cloaks, Russian garments, and short, double-breasted jackets are becoming. Toques, and broad hats rolled on one side, are appropriate. If an ulster is worn, have a shoulder-cape with it. Eschew decided stripes and use plaids, checks, and plain colors like Eifel red, mahogany, dark and sage greens, Russian and pale blue, old and rose pink, reddish brown, cream white, bright red, pale green, and yellow.

If the girl is short and stout, dress her in full round or pleated skirts, pointed basques, coat sleeves, rolling collars, tight-fitting single-breasted jackets or ulsters, English walking hats or high toques, and dark colors, using plain vests and flat trimmings at all times. If a blouse is worn, have it laid in long pleats back and front.