

Is Man A Luxury?

(From the New York Tribune)

"Is woman a luxury?" Well I like their nerve! Isn't man a luxury? So they talked us all over behind our backs, did they, at their old stag dinner and decided we were expensive? It never occurred to them I suppose that we had to pay dearly for the pleasure(?) of their society."

The speaker punched a soft pillow savagely as if mistaking it for one of those masculine luxuries of which she was discoursing. She other bachelor maids at the Sunday morning breakfast party leaned back in their armchairs and stirred their coffee lazily.

"Go on, Polly. We're with you," they murmured.

"Luxuries! Humph! We're not costing any man anything just now, but a man would cost us a lot if he were here. We couldn't make a feast of coffee and fruit and rolls. We'd have to have eggs at 50c. a dozen, and steak and mushrooms at Heaven only knows how much, and the man would probably expect whichever one of us was his wife to have risen early and baked biscuit for him. We couldn't sit here in kimonos, either, if we had a lot of men around; and we couldn't talk about the things we wanted to do, because the men would be doing the all talking. If that isn't paying dear for the privilege of masculine society I don't know what it is?"

"But men really do cost a girl a lot of money, too," protested the young and pretty one of the company (who had had experience). "The kind of a man who complains that it costs him \$10 to take a girl out for the evening is just the one who won't look at a girl unless she is hobble-skirted and patent leather-pumped and long-white-gloved, and usually he prefers the kind that is false-haired and painted. Even if he isn't quite so particular as that, he'd rather die than go to restaurant with a girl in a shirt-waist. Which means that if a girl wants to be invited out by young men she must own an evening gown, and an evening wrap, a picture hat to match and three or four pairs of gloves at \$2.50 a pair during the season. If it is only once or twice a year that she is invited out that makes it all the worse, because she probably doesn't have the necessary things on hand. If it costs him \$10 it may cost her \$20 or more."

"Not only money, either, my child," said the older sister. "It costs her mental anguish. A man jumps into his dress suit or goes and hires one for the occasion, but the girl likely as not, remembers only too well that her party frock won't do for such an occasion as this. So she has to buy material for another, sitting up nights and rising with the milkmen for two weeks beforehand to make a pretty dress. Consequently she is tired all the time, doesn't work well and loses her reputation as—temporarily, we hope—as the best little stenographer in the place."

"Yes and in the meantime, maybe she has to give up her suffrage lectures the glee club at the settlement and her before-dinner walk in the park with the other girls. All for one theater party with one stupid young man. She could see that same show with some girl on Saturday afternoon and have just as good a time at half the price in money and in effort."

"Then maybe, he wants to call Sunday afternoon. She has to let him of course, though she is nearly dead for lack of sleep and had just been looking forward all the week to a good long nap. Sunday morning she had planned to wash her hair, but you can't have a man when your hair is flying in all directions. So there is another day spoiled all for a silly man."

"Yes," interrupted another bachelor girl, "and she's lucky if she doesn't have to feed the man too. Of course a chafing-dish supper doesn't cost as much as a restaurant dinner but it makes a big hole in a poor girl's purse. And men are so fussy! They won't eat store cake! You have to buy homemade cake at 60c. a loaf at some woman's exchange, or else make it yourself which is even more expensive, especially if your landlady charges you for the use of her gas range and stands staring in the doorway until you get so nervous you drop her best mixing bowl, which cost her 50c., but it is the associations for which she values it, it belonged to her husband's mother, so she'll only charge you 60c. for breaking it, and is sorry to do that because she knows what money means to a girl that's working for a living, but times have changed so: you can't get

mixing bowls like that now in these degenerate days. She supposes you won't mind, perhaps, after all, if that young man that came home with you, so late the other night—

"Oh, mercy! stop that flow of words! She'll choke herself!" A sofa pillow flew through the air, then another and another. The company rose as one woman depositing its coffee cups on the bookcase and smothered its hostess in her own drygoods and upholsteries. Presently she emerged, chastened in spirit.

"A man's a man for a' that," she murmured, and they all fell to washing dishes.

Bryan's Bag Of Schemes.

Baltimore, Md., June 14.—Although William Jennings Bryan has not arrived for the democratic convention, democratic leaders who are on the scene, and who are closely watching developments here and elsewhere in advance of the convention, say he will come with a bag full of schemes.

First they declare, he will make a desperate effort to repeal the unit rule in force in several state delegations.

Second, he will attack the two-thirds rule if he finds it stands in his way.

It is the general opinion of visiting democrats that Bryan is veering to Gov. Wilson, and that when the psychological minute arrives he will be found to be in the camp of the New Jersey candidate, all the time hoping and scheming that lightning will strike him.

It is declared that the unit rule is in Bryan's way because in several state delegations, including that from Ohio, are Bryan's friends who are tied up, and who cannot follow him. It is declared that Bryan is anxious to abrogate this rule in order that, as he expressed it in the national convention in St. Louis, in 1904 he may free his supporters, from "the fetters of local bosses."

Without his followers whose hands are tied Bryan realizes, it is asserted, that he cannot dominate the convention. Whether Bryan will be, or will not be, a candidate in the convention, later events will have to determine, prominent democrats declare. With the unit rule out of the way he would have a formidable following.

Taft Sign Bills

Washington, June 14.—The act of Congress appropriating \$300,000 with which army transports are to be equipped with lifeboats and rafts to accommodate all persons and members of the crew transported on them was signed today by President Taft.

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to secure the payment of a certain note therein recited, default having been made in the payment of said note, and the holder, thereof, having applied to us to make sale of the real estate therein conveyed, in accordance with the conditions contained in said deed in trust, we will expose to public sale to the highest bidder for cash, at the Court House Door of the County of Alamance, N. C., on Saturday, the 13th day of July, 1912, at 12 o'clock M., the land conveyed in said deed of trust to wit:

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THE FRUIT GROWER (Chicago, Illinois) Edited by JAMES M. IRVINE. Is an illustrated National Farm Magazine for progressive farmers in all agricultural communities. It is authority on fruit culture and should be read by every farmer and gardener in America. If you expect to make a success of raising fruit it is necessary to have the best ideas of those who have succeeded. These will be found in every issue of The Fruit Grower.

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