

WHY BACHELORS SHOULD BE TAGGED



By
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THE other day I received the following letter from a girl of 20: "I have been going with a man of 45 for more than two years. He has told me that he likes me better than any other girl he knows, and he is popular with the girls."

"He calls once a week, and sometimes several times, and he seems to enjoy my company. He takes me to the theater and to dances, and shows me other nice little attentions. Whenever he gets the chance he tells me how much he thinks of me and loves to enumerate my many good qualities, real and imaginary."

"His attentions tend to keep other young men away, but he does not seem to be worried by this fact, nor has he ever asked me to become his wife. I hesitate to tell him that our friendship must cease, because my mother thinks that he likes me, besides he is interesting. He is a man of culture and means. I really do not know how to act in this matter."

This is a typical letter, for I have received others similar to it. They are complaints that come from nice, sweet girls who are being bothered by confirmed bachelors, and my reply to all is one and the same:

Let bachelors alone, for they are parasites looking for all the pleasures that society can offer them, and unwilling to accept any of the responsibilities.

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Bachelors Thoroughly Selfish.

Bachelor girls may be foolish, but bachelors are thoroughly selfish. A man who reaches the mature age of 50 and is still unwed should be taxed—yes, heavily fined—for refusing to do his duty to society. Until the right legislation makes this possible bachelors should be marked.

This can be done by making them wear some peculiar button, similar to the red ribbon of France, but which should stand for selfishness instead of ability and nobility of character.

On this tag should be written these words: "Here is a man who has refused to listen to the dictates of society, and even refuses to listen to the appeals of his own heart."

This sounds most unkind, but in reality the punishment is mild compared with the enormity of the offense. We all know that the purpose of every man's life should be to have a happy home, a helpful wife, and loving children. The home and the family ties that go with it are the corner stone of society, and when these weaken and fall into disuse society must retrograde and fall into decay.

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Hope of Nation in the Home.

Valuable as are industry, science, and art, they are of small importance compared with mother, father, children, and the home in which these find comfort and shelter. Priceless as are the telephone, the wireless, banks, commerce, great masterpieces in art and music, they are worthless compared with the customs and relations which civilization has built around the home. It is because of this sweet, tender, and ennobling family life that men and women have struggled to raise themselves from savagery into barbarism, and from barbarism into cultured society.

These are facts, not futile words, and civilizations understood this many, many hundred years ago. The Romans insisted that their sons should marry as well as their daughters. They explained to them that they belonged to the state and were refusing to meet their obligations when they did not marry. When these young men refused to take the counsel of their parents, their fathers made it a business to find suitable wives for them.

Then, if the sons still objected, the state

stepped in and assisted the troubled fathers. They levied a heavy fine on the sons, which was increased from year to year. As a result of this tax a man found life none too easy unless he had a large fortune. But it is not to be forgotten that the tax was also made proportional to a man's income.

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Natural for Man to Love.

The Romans were right, for they knew it is natural for every man to love at least once in a lifetime. An honest confession from bachelors would show that some have had so many romances that they have trouble in remembering them all. If you ever get a chance to see one of their bedrooms or dens you will see the walls decorated with a gallery of lovely girls.

Every year of a bachelor's life from 16 to 60 is marked by one or more romances, which may mean little to him, but is full of meaning to some disappointed girl. Some of these bachelors are so vain and foolish that they keep diaries recording these love affairs, which run something like this:

"At 16 I had my first love affair; the girl was charming and lovable, but she was 25, and after a serious flirtation I discovered that it was wiser for a young man to love a girl somewhat younger than himself."

"Between 16 and 21 I had many harmless flirtations, but my second real love affair came when I was 21. She was certainly charming, beautiful, and fascinating, but a terrible flirt. She had so many beaux it was impossible to count them all. I was determined that she was to love me, and me alone. By hard work, plenty of plotting and scheming I won my point. I showered her with all kinds of attention, and when I was sure that I had won her love, I gave her a dose of her own medicine."

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Debutante the Most Pleasing.

"Passing by the endless romances which took place between 21 and 35, which number fifty or more, I must recount this important one: Of all the girls I knew, that shy, dainty debutante of 18 pleased me most. She was so pretty, gracious, and lovable, she had family and wealth in her favor and I was about to ask her to become my wife when I decided that it took too much courage to ask this modest young miss, fond of society and dances, to love a staid, blasé man like myself."

"Since then my only excuse for being single is that I know so many lovely girls I could not choose if I would. To look for the girl is impossible, for I know a half dozen at least who are beautiful, gracious, and lovable. Besides, I prefer different types and temperaments when in different moods. When I am serious I want the companionship of dark eyed, earnest Kate, but when I am happy I love merry, blue eyed Mary with her bewitching smile. Then, when I am in a romantic mood, it is some girl with deep

THIS IS WHY—
Bachelors evade their natural duties. The Romans recognized this fact, and handled them accordingly.

They know what love is, but would rather flirt than love.

Society gives them the right of choice, but they will not accept it.

They are as jealous of their comforts as they are of their affections.

They are men of the world, and therefore popular.

When brought to task they are ever ready to plead some excuse.

They ease their consciences by entertaining from time to time and giving something to charity.

Their chief pleasure consists in keeping their friends guessing if they ever will marry; if they don't, who are their possible heirs?

They are not altogether responsible for their egotism. Foolish girls and more foolish mothers are more to blame.

Society should bring both to their senses by marking bachelors, thus taking them out of the pales of society.

gray eyes that glow like tender violets that I love better than any girl in the world."

The more girls these bachelors admire, and the more they have to choose from, the more are they to be condemned, for society gives them the privilege of choosing. Now, a bachelor maid may also have many admirers, but conventions decree that she cannot go hunting for the right lover; she must wait until her Prince Charming comes along and claims his sweetheart.

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Girl Must Give No Sign.

If he chances along and does not understand that she is the right one for him, she cannot by word or sign help him to understand. Should he never divine by her glance and smile, she must either take some lesser lover or resign herself to a lonely old age—and all because some stupid or selfish man refused to speak the word.

As a rule bachelors are as jealous of their comforts as they are of their affection. They want all the luxuries of home life, with none of the responsibilities, and the worst part of

it is they usually get them. If they have means they may have a choice of rooms in some men's club, one of the fashionable hotels, or bachelor apartments. By giving their housekeepers a small gift they can get her advice about furnishing their apartment, with as much taste and care as the average wife could possibly exercise.

By feeling a maid their rooms are kept in order, their mending and washing are looked after, and, however badly they litter their rooms in the morning, everything is set to rights by the time they return in the evening. This fee is small compared with the wages they would have to give two or three maids if they were married and keeping house.

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Popular Bachelor "Wined and Dined."

However much of a gourmand or an epicurean bachelors are, they can get an excellent dinner, table d'hôte or eat à la carte, and for a modest sum, whether they live in a fashionable hotel or at their clubs. The best part of this arrangement is when they get tired of one kind of cooking they can

remedy this readily by trying some other hotel, club, or restaurant.

It is hard to find a bachelor who is not invited to dine out among his friends two and three times a week. As one popular bachelor looking over his engagement book says: "I have not had a dinner at home in a month; I must decline some invitations just to get acquainted with my own apartment and kitchen."

Strangely, but unmarried men of a certain age are popular with women of all ages, from the debutante of 18 to the charming hostess of 60. This is largely because they have seen enough of the world to understand all the little niceties that are appreciated by society. If they accept invitations to dinners they are sure to acknowledge their acceptance by boxes of flowers or of candies.

A man of 50 or more who is not bound by home and family ties is usually much traveled. At least he has seen enough of the world to be well informed and to make his conversation interesting. A young man can afford to act blasé, but a man well along in years makes it his business to conceal his years by lively repartee and plenty of amusing anecdotes. Besides he has the tact which age usually brings, and knows just what to say and do at the right time.

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No Hardships in Store for Wife.

Then mothers always reckon that though a man stands at the dividing line of 50 there is still a possibility of his marrying, and if he does he is sure to make a good and indulgent husband. He has been putting money aside for many years, and if he ever thinks enough of a woman to ask her to be his wife he will make up for lost time, and indulge her in many whims and extravagances.

In the meantime the bachelors ease their teasing consciences by entertaining those to whom they are especially obligated, and when they are afraid society may condemn them they make haste to give some liberal donations to some well known charity.

But their chief pastime is to keep their friends guessing if they will ever settle down and get married. A bachelor can never be seen with some charming matron and her pretty daughter but he must surely have some serious designs. The slightest attention has

some hidden meaning, and he extends them in enough quarters not to bind himself to any one.

Let some straightforward, honest, and hard working young man show a girl considerable attention, and immediately her ambitious mamma will take her to task in some such way as this: "Now, look here, Helen, if George is really serious he will have to consult your father and me before making overtures to you. What do you know of his family, his present position, and future possibilities?"

If his credentials are not better than what the parents expected the sensible young girl may have a hard time convincing her ambitious mother that she is choosing the right one.

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Mother Flattered by His Calls.

But let some flirtatious bachelor be attentive, and the mother will be much flattered by his calls and invitations and rack her brain wondering if there is anything more to it than mere friendship.

I want to make myself clear on this point, that I do not blame these bachelors as much as I do some foolish girls and more foolish mothers who are flattered and won by a bachelor's tact, subtle flattery, and charming company. If girls and mothers would devote themselves to sensible, eligible men they would understand unmarried men of mature age to understand that their life is not so sunny and carefree as they imagined it would be. They should make these selfish men realize that they must pay the price of their folly.

But the relatives of a bachelor are often more foolish in their attitude toward him than are even his friends. This is sure to be the case if he is a bachelor with a good sized fortune. He keeps everybody guessing, including sisters and brother, aunts, uncles, and cousins even three and four times removed as to who are the favorites and whom he will select as his chief heirs.

Because of this, if John or George, as the case may be, is ill his entire family are solicitous about his condition. If a family dinner is to be given and all the relatives cannot be invited to the one dinner, because of limited space in the dining room, whoever else is to be left out, it cannot be John or George.

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Time to Bring 'Em to Task.

It is high time that society should bring bachelors to task by letting them realize that they are living narrow, selfish lives, and are failing to do their duty toward society and to themselves. I admit that there are men as well as women who for one reason or other are better off single than married. If a man honestly and conscientiously feels that he cannot make some woman happy, let him, as far as he can, make amends to society.

It is he should do by adopting one or more children and in this way give them the opportunities and the comforts they would not otherwise know. He will be a richer and better man for knowing what a home is bright with laughter and sunny faces. His money will bring far better returns than by flitting his time away with society and making foolish girls and more foolish mothers believe that he is eligible when he has made the vows of a celibate. Let him make it his business to see that his name is on every worthy charity that has for its purpose the raising of worthy mothers and children.

But if he is too selfish to realize his obligations, then society should tag him and brand him as a man who asks much of society and his friends, but is willing to give little in return.

Oldest Mummy in the World

THE oldest mummy in the world has been found. It is the body of a reptile said to be several millions of years old, a relic of the reptilian sea. The skin of this creature shows a marked resemblance to the skin of the present day lizard. It has a wonderfully sheeny surface, decorated with tiny pockers and fine lines running through it. This suggests a color pattern in life, which may have been a shagreen, displayed in a color design. It is not unlikely that when seen from in front these reptiles presented a darker appearance than when viewed from behind.

The skeleton is equally well preserved and shows that the animal was between fifteen and sixteen feet in height and some thirty feet long. Besides being in an excellent state of preservation, the skin is stretched over the skeleton in much the same way as it was in life. This reptile belongs to the "dinosaurs" and was designated "duck beaked" because of its form of toothless muzzle. This mummy was found by Mr. Sternberg, a collector who has worked for many years for the American

Museum of Natural History. He says that it is a mummy of one of those giant reptiles which at that time took the place of elephants, rhinoceri, giraffes, and other animals common today. It has been sent to the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Prof. H. F. Osborn, the president of the museum, says that after the death of the reptile the carcass lay for some time on the bank of a river, where it was exposed to the sun until it was mummified; then it was washed down stream by a flood and buried in some deep pool, where it was covered up with a layer of sand which was fine enough to preserve the outline of the animal.

Prof. Osborn says that this is a most important discovery for a number of reasons. It is the oldest mummy in the world and shows what terrifying looking animals were associated with man and closely related to him in those early prehistoric days. Most important of all, Prof. Osborn, Mr. Sternberg, and other scientists interested in this mummy hope to find in the same region a mummy of a man or woman, which will prove that early man was as large and strong as those terrible sea monsters they met and combated.

"Bureau of Brains" Latest

BRAINS sound so small that it seems impossible to create a bureau of brains. Still this work is being done by a society in Munich called "Die Brücke" or the Bridge.

All important experiments will be recorded in this bureau, and all important work done in science, art, and literature will be kept in the library, so that students in undertaking any important work in any special line can find out what has already been done in their special subjects. There will be no duplication of work, thus saving needless labor and wasted money.

The Bridge is to be a great central brain, with thousands of nerves and arteries that will contribute ideas and facts to men and women at work in all parts of the world.

They say: "The Bridge is a universal inquiry office. It will put every one in touch with every one about everything. It will compile a world register of individuals and associations engaged in intellectual work, and collect important data as to what has been done in all branches, bringing out a world dictionary and a world museum catalogue;

found a museum of its own, giving a unified view of everything achieved by humanity so far; and even create a parliament of brain workers to represent common interests. That will be the first half of its work. The second half concerns the simplifying of brain work in the future by organizing the mechanism of knowledge and by getting rid of all arbitrary standards which at present impede brain workers or waste their time."

The latter half of this work, though less interesting, will have great value. It will make world maps of statistical, historical, and geological subjects. It will try to make a scientific nomenclature, and a numerical language, on the lines of the decimal system, which will be used and understood by all countries.

The society has already published a dozen different works in fifteen languages. Before another year this work will go into the hundreds and will include every printed language. Prof. Wilhelm Ostwald of Munich, who has just won the Nobel prize in chemistry, is so interested in this work that he has given \$25,000 of the Nobel prize to advance the work of the organization.