A Phase of the Servant Question

By ELINOR MARSH

I married an old bachelor who thought he knew more about women than any man in the world. He was constantly making deductions with regard to them. For instance, if he saw a woman pass a mirror, glance at her reflection, ad just her hat or some other portion of her apparel he would assume that she was vain. When he married me he took especial pains to discover whether I was popular with my own sex. "I wouldn't give a fig for a woman whom women don't like," he said in telling me of his precaution after we were married, and in doing so paid me the compliment to say that in my case the report was favorable. I didn't consider it a compliment, for my very best woman friend had never been popular with women simply because they didn't understand her.

We lived in a town on the Pacific coast where the only servants to be had were Chinese. We went to housekeeping as soon as we were married, and I hired a cook named Charlie Lee. Charlie agreed to give me a month's notice before leaving, but some one offered him $2 a month more than I was paying him, and without either giving me the stipulated notice or the privilege even of raising his wages he left me the day before I was to have friends in for dinner. More than this, he demanded wages for two weeks when he had been with me only eight days. I paid him for one week and told him to go, and go quickly, and never show his face in my house again.

When John came home and I told him what had happened I saw by the wrinkle in his forehead that he considered me in some way to blame, but he said nothing. I secured another Chinaman as cook, but was astonished when he told me at the end of the first week that he would stay with me no longer.

"Are you sure," asked John, "that you have said or done nothing to ruffle him?"

"I'm sure I've neither said nor done anything that should ruffle him."

John turned to the evening paper that he had brought home with him, and I knew he considered there was something wrong with me or I would not have lost two servants within a month. The third Chinaman stayed with me just two days.

John had refrained from speaking his mind on the servant question till this third cook left me. Then we had our first spat.

"You must admit, my dear," he said, "that there is some reason for the departure of all your servants."

"You mean that I don't treat them kindly."

"Not that, but perhaps your manner may be a trifle dictatorial."

"I should have supposed," I retorted, "that you would have inquired before marrying me whether my manner to servants was deferential enough."

"You misunderstand me. Our manner is something for which we are not responsible, being born to it. I can readily understand how these simple Chinese, exiles from their homes, may have a sensitiveness to kindness that—"

I heard no more, for I went out of the room, and I fear I shut the door after me a trifle harder than was necessary. I determined that I would find out what was preventing my keeping a servant if I had to send to the Flowery Kingdom for a native detective. I went to a friend, told her the circumstances and asked her advice.

"These Chinese are very clannish," she said. "What one does they all do."

"But how do they all know enough to do the same thing? Those I have had surely were not acquainted."

"I have had one of them for years," she said. "I'll ask him if he can explain."

Chang Wing, her servant, was called in and the case put to him. He said he would go to see me the next day after his work was finished. He came, as he agreed, and walked straight into the kitchen, where he commenced to examine the furniture and cooking utensils. Then he looked into every crevice and corner. It struck me that he was searching for evidence of the presence of mice in the house for I had heard of the Chinese appreciation of this delicacy and informed him that there were none and I wouldn't have them on my premises on any account. He paid no attention to the information, keeping on with his ransacking. He looked on the bottoms of the chairs and the pots and kettles, turned up the oilcloth on the floor, removed every article in the kitchen closet and examined it as well as the walls and the shelves. Finally he took down the clock and looked at its back. Then I knew from the Celestial look on his face that he had found what he had been searching for.

"What is it?" I asked eagerly.

He pointed to some Chinese characters chalked on the back of the clock and translated them.

"Very bad woman. Doesn't pay the wages."

Charlie Lee, my first cook, was the only one of the lot I had had any difference with about money, and, of course, it was he who had passed the word to his successors.

When John came home that evening I told him that I thought I had discovered the cause of my trouble with cooks. "I wounded poor Charlie Lee's feelings," I admitted. John looked pleased that he should have been right in his diagnosis of the case. Then I took him into the kitchen, showed him the inscription and translated it.

John has never since interfered with any suggestion as to my natural unfitness to manage servants.

African Elephants.

Nearly every one has seen an elephant, and nearly every one imagines he knows what one looks like. But this popular impression and most of the beliefs about the elephant are erroneous.

In the first place, the elephants we see here in America are Indian elephants. They are undersized, even the largest of them.

A full grown African elephant is nearly three times the size of Jumbo, which was the largest elephant ever brought to America. "I have," said a hunter, "shot several specimens which stood over thirteen feet and which weighed at least twice as much as Jumbo.

"Next to the monkey, the elephant is the wisest and most intelligent of all animals. I am not saying this of the domesticated Indian elephant but of the African elephant in his native state. And the African elephant is always a huge, wild beast. He is never domesticated."

Uses For Alcohol.

Speaking of the little known uses of alcohol, a recent writer says that few men who wear the so called "derby" hat know that its stiffness is due to a gum that is dissolved in alcohol. Transparent soap owes its transparency to alcohol. The increasing demand for leather and the inability of the market to meet this demand from natural sources have led to the production of artificial substitutes for the material. These are possible through the use of alcohol. The same is to be said of the artificial silk that now finds a large and increasing sale. Alcohol is a practically indispensable servant in the varnish used on woodwork. It is used in preservatives, in disinfectants, deodorants and shoe polishes, in dyes and in lacquers and in a long list of chemicals with more or less unfamiliar names. One of its important uses is in the manufacture of smokeless gunpowder and other explosives.

Sirius and the Dog Days.

The dog days are reckoned about forty and are set down in the almanacs as beginning on July 3 and ending Aug. 11. In the time of the ancient astronomers the remarkable star Sirius, called also Canicula, or the dog star, rose heliacally—that is, just before the sun—about the beginning of July, and the sultry heat which usually prevails at that season, with all its disagreeable effects, among which the tendency of dogs to become mad is not one of the least disagreeable, was ascribed to the malignant rays of the star. Owing to the precession of the equinoxes the heliacal rising of Sirius now takes place later in the year and in a cooler season, so that the "dog days" have not now that relation to the particular position of the dog star from which they obtained their name.

Artificial Milk a Complex Mixture.

To show what an arsenal of chemicals has to be employed when we want to copy nature the Paris Nature prints the formula for artificial milk as patented in England. It is as follows:

In 500 pints of water at 85 degrees C. dissolve 600 grains of phosphate of potassium or the equivalent quantity of phosphate of soda. Add sugar sufficient to make 4.5 per cent of the final product and mix in twenty kilograms of extract of nuts. Boil, then distill and treat with a culture of lactic ferments until the desired acidity is obtained. Pasteurize at 60 or 70 degrees C. and finally add a small quantity of citric acid. This can be dried and sold as a powder.

A Distinction.

"The world is divided into two classes," said the village oracle oracularly, "those who borrow and those who lend."

"No, it ain't," contradicted a member of the corner grocery audience. "It orter be, but it ain't."

"Indeed! And how do you think it is divided?"

"Inter two classes—them that wants ter borrer an' them that won't lend."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Ethiopia.

Ethiopia was described by the Greeks and Romans as the country which lay to the south of Egypt. Shortly before the birth of Jesus a native dynasty of women holding the official title of candace held sway in Ethiopia and even resisted the advance of Roman arms. One of these is the queen noticed in Acts viii 27.

A Slight Misapprehension.

"What became of your pretty cousin who married that actor fellow?"

"Oh, he's now a star, and she is supporting him."

"Supporting him, eh? That's what comes of marrying these stage folks."—Baltimore American.

Very Helpful.

"When a congressman makes a monkey of himself he can have it stricken from the record."

"What about it?"

"I was just thinking that would be useful in ordinary life."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

His Company.

Her Father—I judge a man, sir, by the company he keeps.

The Suitor—Then I'm all right, for I've been keeping company with your daughter for over two years.

Practiced What He Preached.

Hills—Grimes says that he believes in keeping in touch with his fellow men.

Mills—Well, there aren't many of them that he hasn't touched.

If you can speak two languages you are lucky; if you speak one honestly you are wise.

A Brave Man Under a Cloud

By WARREN MILLER

A large amount of silver plate and jewelry had been taken by burglars from a rich man's house. The burglars escaped without being seen. The police got busy and tracked some of the plunder to a pawnshop. The pawnbroker declared that it had been brought in by a respectable looking man who represented himself as a man of business who had been well to do and had met reverses. The pawnbroker was suspicious of him, but he told so straight a story that the pawnbroker was hardly convinced and bought several hundred dollars' worth of articles from him. The next day the purchased goods were identified as having been stolen.

That is as far as the police got in the matter till one day the pawnbroker met a man on the street who resembled the broken down merchant who had sold him the stolen goods. He followed the suspect and on coming to a policeman turned him over. The captive showed a great deal of indignation at his arrest and threatened the pawnbroker with suit for damages as soon as he had been acquitted. He said that he was not a merchant and had never been a merchant. He was a seafaring man and had been ashore only a few weeks. He gave his name as Patrick Dugan and was a native of Ireland.

When the trial came off the prisoner claimed that on the date of the theft, or, rather, the sale of the plunder to the pawnbroker he was not in America at all. The prosecuting attorney asked him where he was at that time. Before replying he asked the date and was reminded that the pawnbroker's entry in his cash book of the payment for the goods he had purchased was Aug. 13. The prisoner scratched his head thoughtfully, but could not remember where he was on the date named. He thought he was at sea, but was not sure. Asked if he kept no record that would prove his case, he said that he didn't even know how to write.

This statement threw doubt on his accuser's statement that he had palmed himself off as a merchant in reduced circumstances and gained sympathy from the jury. Even the prosecuting attorney tried to help the poor man to get evidence to prove his alibi.

"If the captain of the Mark Hutchins was here," said the prisoner, "he could tell where I was on that day, for all that summer I was sartin with him."

"Where is the party?" asked the prisoner's counsel.

"He was here for two weeks till yesterday. I seen him in the street and tried to speak to him, but I lost him in the crowd. I seen by the papers that his ship was to sail last night when the tide served."

"What's that yer sayin'?" said one of the spectators. "I'm cap'n of the Mark Hutchins and I haven't sailed neither. I sail tomorrow. One o' my crew told me that an old messmate Pat Dugan was to be tried today for sellin' stolen goods. Dugan was a good man, and I thought I'd come round and see if the man bein' tried was him. But that feller isn't Pat Dugan. He's a fraud."

"Cap'n," cried the prisoner, almost in tears, "don't say that. I'm Pat Dugan sure enough. I've cut my beard since you saw me. Don't you remember that night when we was roundin' Cape Cod with the wind blowin' a gale out o' the north and fo'castle covered with ice and the main jib had to be lowered?"

"Are you the man that went out on the bowsprit at the risk of slidin' overboard and lowered that jib?"

"Why, sartin, cap'n. Don't go back on me now. I stood by you and the crew that awful night."

"I reckon you did stand by me. That was the bravest deed in my reckonin'. It was purty nigh sure death. There was nothin' but slippery ice to hold on to."

"Let the witness take the stand," said the attorney for the defense. The captain having been sworn the lawyer proceeded to question him.

"Was the prisoner a member of your crew in the summer of 19—?"

"He was."

"Where was your ship on the 15th of August of that year?"

"Well, now, if you'd asked me where I was on the 1st of that month or the last of it I couldn't have told you without lookin' over the log. But I can never forget the middle of that month of that year. We run aground on the coast of Africa and couldn't get off. A party of cutthroat niggers came off in boats to murder us and take the ship before the tide rose and let us off. Pat Dugan there suggested that we fight 'em with hot steam from the boilers. He took one hose and I the other. We beat 'em off, and if it hadn't been for Pat's suggestion we'd have all been heaved overboard as dead men."

The prisoner was the center of the admiring vision of the court and spectators. He bore his honors modestly, and no one would have taken him for a hero had it not been for the witness' story. The jury acquitted him without leaving their seats.

A few days later a policeman, who had been on duty in court at the trial, saw the captain of the Mark Hutchins and the man for whom he had proved an alibi getting into an automobile. The policeman had seen the owner get out of it and, suspecting that something was wrong, stopped them. They were tried for attempted theft and sent up for a term of years. They were both old crooks.

MODERN WARSHIPS

And the Brave Old Wooden Fighters of a Century Ago.

THEIR BIG GUNS COMPARED.

The Old Constitution's Twenty-four Pounders Were Great Cannon, but a Modern Monster Gun Could Fire One of Them Bodily Ten Miles.

The frigate Constitution, fighter of thirty-nine battles and winner of every one of them, today offers the student an exceptional opportunity to compare the naval fighting machine of a hundred years ago with the superdreadnaught of the hour. Peacefully floating at a wharf in the Charlestown (Mass.) navy yard, "Old Ironsides" speaks volumes to the thoughtful visitor who has perhaps just a few minutes before stepped down the gangway of a modern ship.

Aside from the vastly different methods of placing the guns, perhaps the most striking contrast between the naval architecture of a century ago and that of today is seen in the actual structure of the hull and superstructures. The warship of today has not a piece of wood visible, with the possible exception of the deck, which is wood over a steel foundation. Stripped for action, the modern fighting craft presents a positively naked appearance with every movable object cast overboard or stowed away.

The Constitution, on the other hand, presents a bewildering array of rigging and spars, and she is wholly constructed of wood. A single modern shell exploding under her or on her deck would do as much damage probably as an entire broadside from a ship similar to the Guerriere. This vast change in the design is, of course, due in large measure to the introduction of steam as a means of propulsion. Following this the all steel hull was introduced.

The gun deck of the Constitution stirs the imagination perhaps still more than does the spar deck. Topped by a low ceiling which makes one want to stoop as he walks, this deck savors of a prison dungeon. Glancing at the row of long twenty-four pounders, thirty in number, one can readily picture the smoke filled atmosphere, the terrible din, the sweating half naked figures straining to reload the clumsy pieces of ordnance and ever and anon a shot crashing through the futile wooden wall, sending splinters in all directions.

Stepping from the gun deck and the turrets of the Rhode Island to this old time chamber of horrors, the visitor cannot fail to wonder how in her famous engagement the Constitution suffered a loss of but seven killed and seven wounded out of a crew of 456 officers and men. Perhaps the answer is found in the inaccuracy of the guns and poor marksmanship of the gunners. More likely, however, it is due to the fact that the explosive shell had not then been invented. Aside from the splinters a twenty four pound shot through the hull stood little chance of doing really great damage unless it struck a mast, a gunner or the gun carriage itself.

The guns of the Constitution's day had an effective range of possibly a mile, although history tells us that the real execution was done at ranges of from one to three hundred yards. Think of the engagements of modern warships, wherein naval duels are fought at ten miles' range and where the opposing ships are actually out of sight from the gun deck and barely visible from the fighting tops! Think of guns aimed with the aid of mathematics! What marvelous strides science has made in times of peace and in the short space of a hundred years!

As an interesting comparison of the guns of today with those of 1812 we may call attention to the fact that, while the total broadside discharge of the Constitution's battery would amount to 684 pounds of metal, a single projectile from one of our coast defense mortars weighs half a ton.

Even more striking is the fact that the projectile from a modern fourteen inch piece of ordnance such as that carried by the superdreadnaughts weighs practically as much as one of the big guns of the Constitution. In other words, instead of hurling a small ball of iron at its enemy the modern fighter of the seas could actually throw one of the Constitution's cannons itself at the opponent were the cannon of suitable shape and form.

And, furthermore, the explosive charge in the projectile would be greater by far in power than the entire charge used to fire the old cannon. This means that the modern engine of destruction actually takes a mass of steel equal in weight to the old gun loaded with high explosive and lands this entire mass on the deck or inside the hull of the enemy's ship, where it explodes.—Thomas Stanley Curtis in Popular Science Monthly.

A Huge Dinner Can.

"What's that?" asked the visitor, indicating a gasometer.

"Plans ken," replied the Scot.

"Some can, too," was the astonished rejoinder. "You must have communal dinners in this town."—Youth's Companion.

Within the Limit.

Bilton—Aren't you spending too much?

Mrs. Bilton—No, dear, you don't make enough for me to do that.—Life.

Folly is the one thing that all persons wish to cover up and that none can conceal.

TURKISH "JUSTICE."

Curious Case of a Man Who Was Guilty of Having a Daughter.

Dr. Clarke, a famous traveler of about a century ago, tells of the following remarkable case, which was tried at the Greek island of Cos: A young man desperately in love with a girl of Stanchio eagerly sought to marry her, but his proposals were rejected. In consequence of his disappointment he bought some poison and destroyed himself. The Turkish police instantly arrested the father of the young woman as the cause, by implication, of the man's death. Under the fifth species of homicide he became, therefore, amenable for this act of suicide.

When the case came before the magistrate it was urged literally by the accusers that "if he (the accused) had not had a daughter the deceased would not have fallen in love; consequently he would not have been disappointed; consequently he would not have swallowed poison; consequently he would not have died. But he (the accused) had a daughter, and the deceased had fallen in love, and had been disappointed, and had swallowed poison, and had died."

Upon all these accounts he was called upon to pay the price of the young man's life, and this, being fixed at the sum of 80 plasters, was accordingly exacted.

Another instance was related to Dr. Clarke, which occurred at the island of Samos, as a characteristic feature of Turkish justice—that is to say, a sophistical application of a principle rigidly founded upon this fifth species of "homicide by implication." The Capudan Pasha reasoned with the people of Samos on the propriety of their paying for a Turkish frigate which was wrecked upon their territory and the crew lost "because the accident would not have happened unless their island had been in the way."—Case and Comment.

FOUR TYPES OF MEN.

French Method of Picking Soldiers For Special Lines of Work.

"A good judge of human nature is born and not made," declared Dr. G. Stanley Hall, president of Clark university. "Baseball scouts are not able to tell how they pick men; neither can any employer tell how he picks his men."

Dr. Hall described the French system of dividing men into four general types and selecting them for particular positions in the army accordingly. He said:

"First.—The digestive type. It is characteristic of the heavy jaw, broad abdominal region. Such men require more food, need it regularly, must be well fed. Such men are best on the defensive. They are hard to dislodge from the trenches.

"Second.—The respiratory type. Nostrils and ears are large, large, long chest; demand plenty of pure air; get restive under confinement. Such men are selected for work on high mountains. They are good in the charge, in making an attack. Such men exclusively are selected for the aviation corps.

"Third.—The muscular type. Head is square, limbs long and strong, body short. This type is good for the bayonet charge in the artillery service.

"Fourth.—The nervous type. Large head tapers down to a sharp jaw. Such men have power to draw upon their reserves. They can get their second wind. The really great are men of this type. Along with this type is closely associated a willingness to sacrifice self for the good of others.

"Children and animals are guided by the desire to gain pleasure and avoid pain. As they grow older they should learn to bear present pain for future pleasure."—Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.

Hard to Hear Airplane at Sea.

While it is widely known that an airplane can be heard for some distance off on land, on water the lapping of the waves and the whistling of the wind through the rigging and superstructure of a vessel make it almost impossible to hear the power plant of an approaching seaplane until it is almost overhead; hence the submarine plying the surface has slight warning of an impending seaplane attack until it is often too late to escape.—Scientific American.

Heart and Lungs.

The action of the heart, lungs and digestive system is involuntary, for the reason that it is indispensable to life and must be carried on under all circumstances. If a man had to think of his heart or had to remember that he must breathe or that his food must digest he would have no time to do anything else, and if by chance he should forget to keep his heart going or his lungs in operation he would fall dead on the spot.

The Most Accurate Frontier.

As an instance of the jealousy existing in the relations between Norway and Sweden it may be noted that the boundary line between the two countries is the most minutely exact in Europe. In every parish touched by the line there is deposited an elaborate plan which is renewed every ten years, the whole of the work of surveying, etc., being carefully repeated each time.

Local Pride.

"What is the name of this street?"

"This is Broadway," replied the proud citizen of Pulbsville.

"Ah! Named in honor of the famous thoroughfare I presume?"

"Why, sir, this is the famous thoroughfare!"—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Save Their Breath.

Alice—I wouldn't marry a lawyer. He would always be arguing with me.

Marie—Nonsense! Lawyers don't argue unless there's a fee in sight.—Boston Transcript.

Promotions in Business.

In the American Magazine Thomas E. Wilson, the Chicago packer, says:

"I often ask a man why he is doing a thing a certain way. If he tells me that he does it that way because it has always been done just like that I am inclined to be somewhat dubious about his ability. Not infrequently the fact that custom has been in force for thirty years is sufficient proof that it is wrong. We should be constantly on the lookout for better ways of doing things. Any business not showing constant advancement usually deteriorates. Individual positions are no exceptions.

"One of the great foes to a good organization is the practice of promoting by seniority alone. John Smith is moved into a vacancy because he has been in the department longer than some other fellow. This plan permits an inferior man to block the way of a good man. There should be no rules about promotion which can in any way hamper the selection of the best man for a place. In fact, I do not like to have too many rules about anything. Rules tend to make people follow custom without knowing why and without using much initiative."

Origin of the Dahlia.

By a curious irony the dahlia flower, popular at the flower shows, is of very humble origin. It has been developed from a Mexican tuber. Some century and a half ago this plant was introduced into Europe by the Swedish botanist, Dr. Dahl, for the purely commercial purpose of supplanting or supplementing the potato. But they did not prove popular, and the dahlia dish soon disappeared from the dinner tables of Europe, but the gardeners saw the latent possibilities of the flower, from which they have evolved the double dahlia and other popular floral fancies. It would thus appear that the dahlia had reversed the fate of the red clover, which was originally introduced as a garden flower, but was found to be much more desirable as a fine forage. The tubers of the dahlia, though bitter, are still eaten in some parts of France.

Beyond Human Control.

Children were discussing "what we'll do when we get big." One wanted to be a milkman and ride around. The second wanted to ride on freight cars and "make the round things go." The third could not decide whether to be a minister or a grocer. The fourth child, a girl of eleven, did not care to tell.

"Aw," cried he for whom the ministry and confectionery had equal attractions, "yur want to get married."

When the boys had run off, the girl's ambition was confided to her favorite aunt. "I wouldn't tell them," she said scornfully. "They couldn't understand. But, aunty, I want to be a justice of the supreme court and"—her voice became solemn—"beyond human control."—Christian Register.

Might Is Right.

"Effie," said the timid highland lover, "I wad kiss ye, but I'm feart ye wadna let me."

She blushed as red as the sunset, but did not answer.

"Effie," he repeated timidly, a little later, "I said I wad kiss ye, but I'm feart ye wadna let me."

At the third repetition she asked:

"Dae ye min', David, yesterday I couldna lift a bag of potatoes intae the cairt an' ye lifted them for me?"

"Oh, aye," he replied.

"Weel, that shows, David," she murmured, "that ye're far stronger than me!"—London Globe.

Principles of Action.

There are five good principles of action to be adopted—to benefit others without being lavish, to encourage labor without being harsh, to add to your resources without being covetous, to be dignified without being supercilious and to inspire awe without being austere.—Confucius.

As a Bad Job.

"What made young Howler give up the practice of the law?"

"He didn't give it up exactly. So far as I am able to understand the situation, the practice of the law gave young Howler up."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

A Gentle Hint.

He—Then you are not interested in my welfare.

She—No; but if the two syllables were transposed I'd not only be interested, but enthusiastic.—Boston Transcript.

PRACTICAL HEALTH HINT.

When Baby Cries.

Well babies do not cry. When a baby cries and cries it is invariably an indication that it is ill. When a baby cries himself to sleep find out why he does so. An infant may be so uncomfortable from frequent handling that he is made nervous, feverish even and ill. The nervous system of the young child is exquisitely sensitive, and profound systemic disturbances frequently result from irritation of a child's nerves. It is the mother's duty to insist upon having her baby treated with courtesy. When he is lying down to rest or contentedly playing with his toes no one should be allowed to touch him. Letting him alone saves his nervous system from being irritated. "Naughty, fidgety" babies are made so by their well meaning caretakers and visitors. Infants are good when they are well, and they cannot be well if they are unnecessarily handled.