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THE WOMAN WHO TALKS.

St. Cuthbert and Woman.

A consistent and uncompromising woman-hater was St. Cuthbert, who carried his misogynical tendencies so far that, in order to thoroughly eliminate the undesirable sex from the "holy isle of Lindisfarne," he e'en banished the gentle bovine dames. "For," quoth his chivalrous saintship, "where there is a cow there must be a woman, and where there is a woman there must be mischief." Why the introduction of a cow necessarily entailed the following of a woman is another of those unfindoutable enigmas. We doubt if St. Cuthbert explained the mystery to the lady magpies of peaceful Lindisfarne. If he did, they forgot to spread the glad tidings.

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A Womanly Industry.

The next time anyone presumes to express doubts of the inventive powers of woman, in your presence, pray inform them that it was a woman, a Chinese woman and an Empress withal, who first took note of the product of the silkworm and perfected a method for utilizing it. See Heig was her name and she lived some 2800 years B. C. To her persistent, intelligent and indefatigable researches we owe the evolution of that delightful fabric, like unto which there is none other, and the bestowal on the world of an industry without a rival.

It is therefore but poetical and fateful justice that woman should almost monopolize the occupation of silk-designing. A keen sense of color being one of the all essentials of this work, men stand no chance at all in competition with women. "Men," said one of the best-known women designers in New York city, "are apt to have more education and more training, but they are less original. They know all about the Byzantine and other periods of decoration, they can tell you just why and when the crescent is preferable to the chrysanthemum, but they go on turning out the same sort of stuff week after week. A woman rarely understands about the different periods in the various schools of decoration, but she has an originality, an unconventionality, a versatility, that makes her work more interesting, and hence more valuable. The woman who joins her native ability to education and training stands a splendid chance as a silk designer. The trouble is that so few are willing to be systematic and thorough in anything."

Household Inventions.

Nowhere is the conservatism of woman so strongly marked as in the slowness and reluctance she exhibits in availing herself of the many and various labor-saving inventions which are annually patented. With a patience and pertinacity worthy of better objects, she will stick to the methods of her mother and her grandmother as if progress were everywhere possible except in kitchen drudgery. One reason for this curious attitude may be that some devices having been tried and found wanting, all are viewed with suspicion. Another cause may be an unwillingness to place expensive machines in the hands of the incompetent and careless service which is so largely in the ascendant in our blessed country. But these objections fail to fully explain the situation, inasmuch as the woman who does her own work treads the hard old paths of custom and habit as persistently as her more favored sister, upon whom the heft of work necessarily falls more lightly.

It seems amazing that every intelligent woman, who personally attends to her household duties, should not give dishwashers and clothes-washers a thorough and fair trial. It certainly ought to be possible for her to get information regarding the desirability of the various machines for these purposes in the market, and the time thus spent would be well spent. Carpet sweepers, apple corers, potato peelers and slicers, and many other boons to womankind, should be in thousands of homes, where now they are in but few.

Undoubtedly, household inventions are in the rear of the inventive procession. But may that not be attributed to the averseness with which so many really excellent articles now in the market are viewed? We give inventors such miserly encouragement that, in consequence, they turn their thoughts into other, more lucrative channels.

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Excellent Business Advice.

The following advice, which "Lloyds Commercial Guide" gives to its readers, is of as great value to women as to men, and should be heeded by all:

"Never sign a paper without reading it; and if, after reading, you do not understand it, have it thoroughly explained before you put a signature to it. It is best to get some third person, who is not interested in the matter at all, to explain the meaning

of what is not clear, or to point out words that may have two meanings in the document.

“Always make a memorandum in your little book of any contract you undertake for money or any agreement to work. It saves much trouble to keep a memorandum book and put down the dates when you either pay or receive money. Whenever money passes on account, set it down. If any money or thing of value goes through your hands, give a receipt for it and make a memorandum. Your receipt settles the amount that passes, and that cannot be disputed. When you pass it to a third party, get a receipt and keep it. This form is as important in the transfer of income, trust money, or valuables among your own family as with other persons.

“Never allow a person to do any service for you without first agreeing upon the cost to you. This rule, strictly adhered to, will save you many annoyances.”

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Dimples to Order.

A machine for the manufacture of dimples has been patented in the United States by Martin Goetze, of Berlin. It is described as resembling a carpenter's bit stock. “The projecting arm carries a massage roller, which in revolving serves to compress the cheek around the central point or dimple.” But the how and why are of no interest to my readers. Sufficient the knowledge that the most hard-featured face may with half-a-dozen applications become dimpled as a cherub's. Dimples on chin, cheek, or any other portion of the anatomy, may be had for the saying and paying. I trust the manufactured dimples will not be so prone to degenerate into wrinkles as the natural ones are. On this point observations cannot be made until sufficient data is collected.

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Trousers.

Men have so long sported the ungraceful bifurcated garment, and it has so long been regarded as their especial and undisputed prerogative, that it is high time to remind the world that trousers were first invented and worn by women, and that in the unconquerable desire some of us possess to return to them, we are simply suffering a sort of two-pronged nostalgia.

When men first adopted this vestment, about 450 years B. C., they had to run the gauntlet of chaffing and witticism, just like the bloomed female of the nineteenth century.