

OUR WISER DAUGHTERS

WARWICK DEEPING

Forum Table Talk



Drawings by Johan Bull

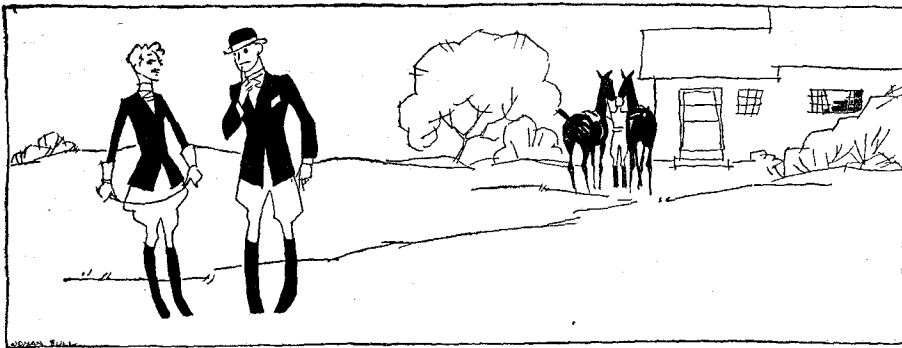
WHAT would the New Eve have said to the Old Adam and the Serpent? How would she have accepted Adam's shirking of the responsibility: "The woman tempted me"? I can see the New Eve handling the situation in a very different manner and allowing Adam to understand he was no sportsman.

In our family it was the tradition that a woman should be adoring. I can remember my little, old, maternal grandfather — dear old autocrat that he was — deporting himself like a bespectacled emperor, and his crown was a stovepipe hat.

I have pondered on the passing of the top hat. Yet women, without exception, seem to approve of the top hat and to regret its decadence. My own wife would lead a revival. I shed the head-gear early, but was not the shedding of it a sign of man's descent from Victorian pomposity, a putting away of the double crown of the Pharaohs, because the Neo-Georgian woman has found him out?

How shall he appeal to the New Eve? As Pharaoh or as Moses among the bulrushes or as a brown rabbit that is easily scared? I have heard a soldier and a man of stout experience exclaim: "These young things frighten me to death. I don't know what the devil to say to them." I have heard a young thing at a dinner table take an eminent diplomat to task over his collars and ties. On another occasion I asked a sprightly young woman if she had any views upon parents. She had. She said, "Parents are better disciplined than they were."

Admirable frankness!

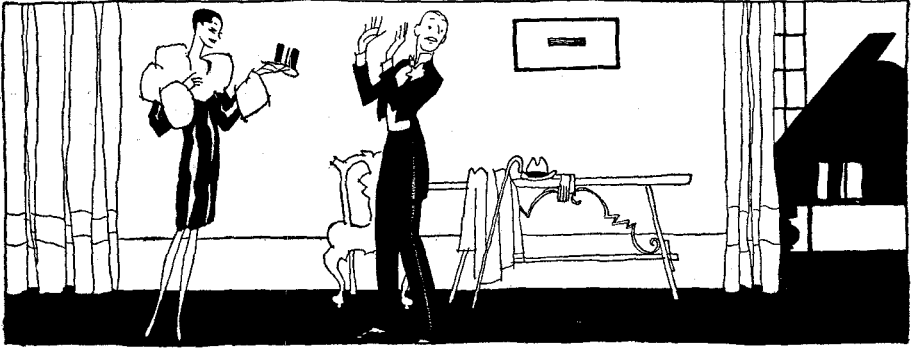


The accusation is that the New Eve lacks mystery and has no reverence. She is apt to say just what she thinks about men and about particular men. She may say very frankly what she thinks about the middle-aged and flirtatious married man. And hear Miss Eve on her brothers! She is more ready to look life straight in the eyes. You do not get so many downward glances and self-conscious posings and flushings. Man does not cause the same tumult, unless he happens to be a Valentino or a Borotra.

But there is a rightness in that. It seems to me that the New Eve is more ready than the Old Eve to cry, "Well played!" I don't think she cheats, as some of her sweet sisters used to cheat at croquet. All youth is apt to be a little raw and dogmatic and aggressive, and sometimes this cockiness conceals an immense diffidence. Sons criticize father's golf and his handling of the family car, because father's maturity brings a nice and balanced cunning — and youth is not cunning.

For generations the world has held up hands of horror over the "New Young Man." Because man insisted on being allowed to be new, woman was not allowed to be new. She was supposed to inherit her mother's chair, cookery book, and knitting. But woman is reasserting her freedom. Her very newness is a symbol. The New Eve causes consternation because of her newness. She is doing just what the young men did and doing it with vehemence. Hence raised hands and questionings, "What has become of womanliness?" Young Eve claims the prerogatives that belonged to her brothers. I don't think it is so much that she is new as that she is a frank, more natural, freer waisted, more free breathing creature, with her skirts sensibly shortened. She does not deign to humbug man as he used to be humbugged.

And isn't it for man's good? Man has to play the game on his



merits now that Eve is playing it to such good purposes. What a tyranny he has exercised for generations, especially the base tyranny of money! What humiliations have been suffered by women who do not own a check book! I admit that lowered eyes and blushes had a charm. So has the frank glance that asks, "What manner of man are you? Stand up and be considered."

But has womanliness ceased? And what is womanliness? We read of viragos to-day stoning the police and screaming to their men to do violent and cowardly things. So did the women of Paris of the Terror and the Commune. It is just the cruelty of young souls, children, and such souls always will be with us.

But is gentleness dead in the New Eve? Is she less of the essential woman because she is better and more reasonably dressed and better groomed and better washed than were her mothers? She doesn't read so much poetry. She can write devastating and ruthless books. She displays her courage and that almost fanatical thoroughness which many a business man will vouch for. She can bring devotion to her work. That she will fail man in the great issues, I, for one, cannot believe. If, in her newness, she has lost a little of that gentleness, as she has lost the crown and clouding of her hair, it seems to me that it is just a phase of her newness, of her exuberant, new youth. Man will have to rise a little higher to reach and touch that gentleness.

Sometimes it would seem that in the stress of modern life, woman is more generous than man. Man is an envious beast. Socialism was the conception of a man. I can never see woman as an out and out socialist, especially a mother. I have never met a woman who was a convinced socialist. I know they exist, but I think woman could produce something more human and vital than socialism. Let her try.

THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE POPE

GINO SPERANZA

THE recent suggestions that the Pope should be given back at least a portion of his former territories and restored to temporal rule over them lends special timeliness to Mr. Speranza's article. The Pope is "a citizen of no mean city," certainly; but is he also citizen of any of the countries of this earth? And if so, what does that mean to the other countries — and to their governments? And if he becomes a temporal ruler, what of his original citizenship then? Is it divided — or is it canceled?

TO ask what is the citizenship of the Pope seems a simple question, but there is no quick, direct road to its answer. Possibly many Americans would say, off hand, that the Pope is, of course, an Italian citizen; which, very likely, both the Duce at the Foreign Office in Rome and the Cardinal Secretary of State at the Vatican would deny. The chances are, as we shall see, that both these high officials would ask to be excused from answering at the present time. The fact is that our question involves some politically sensitive issues of a distinctly European complex which every Chancellery in the world knows and is preparing for, except perhaps, our own State Department. Which makes it more than ever necessary that such issues should be clarified on this side of the Atlantic, and made easily understandable to the average citizen, Catholic or Protestant, in our country.

Heretofore, issues like those involved in our inquiry were largely theoretical for American Catholics. But they have become of practical importance among us through the elevation to the cardinalate of several American prelates.

These new Princes of the Church, our fellow-citizens, are now lawfully in line for the Petrine succession. As good Americans, they as well as the rest of us are entitled to know with exactness and official certitude whether, for example, in the event of their elevation to the pontifical throne, they would have to forego their American citizenship; or whether they would thereby acquire a new and different citizenship from that of their nativity; or, lastly, whether such high dignity would involve a dual citizenship, alien to, and unknown to American jurisprudence.

It has been said that the Pope cannot be a "foreigner" to any Roman Catholic — which is perfectly true but does not enter into the question before us. What is here involved is a matter of law and politics, not of religion; and the issue arises not