

AN UNSUSPECTED LITERARY ANCESTOR

School, and as many at the University, and have no Pains nor Expence spared for the Embellishment of your Minds—how many of you, I say, are there who, after all This, know nothing farther than the bare Names of particular Sciences and the Titles of a few common Books?

“To upbraid us therefore with your Superiority in *Learning* is just as reasonable as if one of us should pretend to be a greater Genius than *Sir Isaac Newton*, because she understands *Lace* and *Silks* better.

“In domestick Affairs, I think you grant us the Precedence. You allow that we are very good *Pastry-Cooks*; that we are perfectly acquainted with the Mechanism of a *Pudding*, or the Structure of a *Pye*; that we can make *Jellies* or *whipt Cream*, and manage a *set Dinner* with great Order and Dexterity. Why even This, as trifling as it may seem, is more than half the Men in *England* can do. But is This all the Business of a good *female Oeconomist*? No; how many Women could I mention who have, by their wise Conduct and domestick Policy, retriev'd the distress'd Affairs of their spendthrift Husbands; snatch'd them from the very Gates of Prison, and rescued them from the last Extremities of Hunger and Infamy? Does not This shew some Wisdom? Does it not bear some Resemblance to redeeming the Miscarriages of a weak Government, and settling the Disorders of a convuls'd State?

“Yet such is the Ingratitude of Mankind; and so jealous are you lest we should come in Competition with you for Conduct and good Sense; that whenever any Woman, for the Sake of her Husband and Family, takes upon herself the Administration of Affairs, she is immediately branded by her Neighbours with the Character of a *She-Tyrant*; and the good Man is call'd *Hen-peck'd*; as if a Woman could not be prudent and discreet without being a Termagant and a Vixon. From hence comes that witty Saying, *the grey Mare is the better Horse*; and that approbrious Imputation of *wearing the Breeches*; which can imply no more than that a *wise Woman* is obliged to supply the Place of a *foolish Husband*.”

I have hitherto spoken of Women only in a *private Character*. The principal Objection is to be answered still; which is, that

they are unequal to *publick Business*, and incapable of managing the great Concerns of *Government* and *War*.

Whereupon the lady says she will not cite “Exploits of *Camilla*, *Thalestris*, and divers *Amazonian Ladies*, whom we read of,” because “perhaps you will reject them as fabulous.” Neither, she says, “will I mention other Heroines of remote Antiquity, however well attested, either of our own or foreign Countries; because it will be inconsistent with the Conciseness of a Letter, and I have instances nearer at Hand, sufficient for my present Purpose.” The examples she mentions are Queen Elizabeth of “ever glorious memory”; Queen Anne “in whose auspicious Reign the British Arms and Name were carried to so great an height”; the “present Empress of Russia” of “noble Magnanimity and princely Wisdom,” and finally great Princess of her own day and nation.”

Thus spoke, in England, in 1727, a forerunner of one of our most significant modern movements—a pleader for “Justice to the whole Body of Womankind.” So was the “shadow of a coming event” cast beforehand upon the page of history.

A CRAFTSMAN CALENDAR FOR 1913

IN response to many requests we are getting out our first Craftsman Calendar. In it we shall reproduce six of our most popular cover designs, and no expense will be spared to make it as beautiful and as typically “Craftsman” as possible.

The calendar will be printed in rich colors on a heavy brown antique paper, and each leaf will carry a quotation expressing Gustav Stickley's point of view about life, work and art.

The pages will be 10 by 15 inches, loose-leaved, and tied with leaf-green raffia.

The calendar may be obtained in combination with a subscription to the magazine at \$3.00, or with our special offer of the magazine, house-plans and “More Craftsman Homes” at \$3.75, or separately for 50 cents. For a holiday gift it will be especially appropriate, and we feel sure that every Craftsman friend and reader will give it a welcome place on desk or wall.

