

7-11-1914

## Newspaper Clipping, July 11, 1914

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**Spinster  
Aunt Day  
Urged by  
Dr. Shaw**

DR. ANNA HOWARD Shaw advocates a day for maiden aunts, who she says are one of the greatest blessings of life. Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, according to the suffrage leader,

are all right, but the nation should now pay tribute to the spinster aunt also.

"Maiden aunts are the greatest blessing in the world, next to mothers," said Dr. Shaw yesterday. "They are the mothers of the motherless. I don't know one who isn't helping to bring up or educate relatives—nieces or nephews or young cousins. And it has always been so. They have always done all the hard work of the world and got no credit for it.

"The maiden aunt usually begins by taking care of her father and mother. The sons marry and go and so do the sisters, but the most devoted daughter stays on at home. By the time the old people are gone she has got into the way of devoting herself to others.

"Among those women who did not marry and yet did much for the world are Florence Nightingale, Catherine Hirschel, Rosa Bonheur, Maria Mitchell, Frances Willard, Clara Barton and Susan B. Anthony.

"Don't you think we ought to celebrate a list like that once a year, with our own particular blessings in the way of maiden aunts added to it? And anyone who hasn't a maiden aunt should adopt one on that day.

"At 60 every spinster ought to have a gift day when she could get back some of the wedding presents she has been giving away all her life. By that time she would have a whole host of nephews and nieces that she has brought up and educated to rise up and call her blessed. She has more to do with to-day than she had a generation ago—and she does more with it.

"The typical old maid is supposed to be a gossip, but the greatest gossips in the world are men. There is only one gossip mentioned in the Bible—a man.

"A married woman sometimes grows set in her ways and dictatorial from being supreme in her own home, but the maiden aunt who lives in other people's homes never has a chance to be.

"The forcing of women out into industry has been a blessing in one way—it has given the spinster an income. She has less of it than the man who does the same work, and she usually supports more people out of it, but incidentally she has a home. When I was a girl, a woman could not go to the theatre alone, and she would not be taken in at any hotel at night. All that is changed now, of course, and women will get the same pay as men for the same work as soon as they get the vote."

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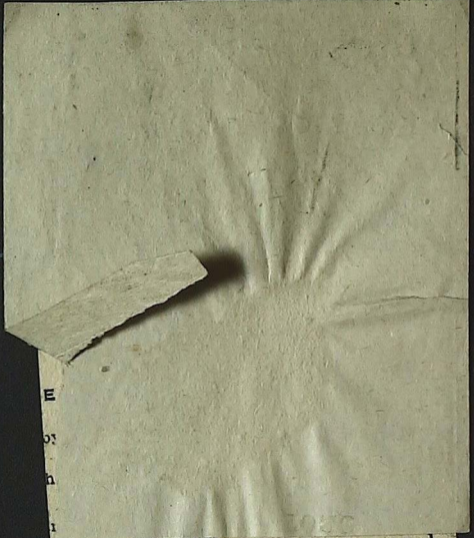
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