

THINGS WOMAN CAN DO.

HOW SHE CAN EARN MONEY AND MAKE A LIVING.

Her Field Is Growing Wider Every Day,
and New Opportunities Are Thrown
in Her Pathway—Marriage
Is Not Her Only Sal-
vation — As a
Shopper.

[Written for The American.]

By SELENA.

Miss Juliet Corson, the talented editor of the *Household Monthly*, has asked me in a personal letter the vital question. "How can an intelligent, untrained woman earn money?" or, in other words, How can she gain a support? My sister scribe, "Ayesha," declares that matrimony is the only safe goal for a woman who is the unfortunate possessor of unlimited intelligence, without either training or money. We would immediately vote Ayesha a cynic were she alone in her opinion; but, when remembering the advice given a young lady by the thoughtful and amiable Bayard Taylor, we must hesitate ere condemning her suggestion as wholly without merit.

An ambitious young woman wrote to Mr. Taylor, asking him to tell her how to succeed in life. His reply was: "My young friend, get married." But to her mind matrimony and success were not necessarily synonymous; so she wrote again, this time to Mark Twain, putting the same query.

The humorist took a serious view of the question, and encouraged her to never be depressed by rebuffs, but to work on with faith and hope, and success would eventually be hers, and so it proved. Her ambition was to gain success in the world of letters, which, no doubt, explains Mr. Bayard's advice, as he likely spoke in the interest of sorely afflicted editors.

But there are really very many persons who think with Bayard Taylor and my friend "Ayesha," that a woman's marriage means her success.

For many of our girls are reared in this belief; the creed of Hymen is early instilled into their minds and hearts; then, if, perchance, the blind little god passes them by, they are left desolate and helpless upon the shores of life, untrained in all save the extravagances of society, with no money to gratify their expensive tastes, and many times not enough to buy them the daily necessities.

These come under the class indicated by Miss Corson in her question quoted above. There are, however, many others included in the same category of "intelligent and untrained."

It is a deplorable condition for a woman to be in, and yet it is by no means a hopeless one, for there are women all around us who, from one cause or another, find it desirable to increase their incomes, and who, without training or experience, adopt a vocation and pursue it with invariable success.

There are such various avenues now open to women of fallen fortunes that it is not a difficult task to point out several desirable ways of earning money. Notably among these is the Woman's Industrial Exchange, an organization exclusively for the benefit of ladies who are untrained in any other than the domestic accomplishments. Every city now has its industrial, where the wares of the needy are sold at fair prices. All kinds of cakes and breads, pickles and jellies find ready sale at these rooms, while large cases of fancy novelties and useful articles are displayed in a way to attract the notice of the wealthy customers who patronize the exchange. All are the handiwork of intelligent, untrained women in need of money. But there are women whose capabilities are not limited to brewing and baking, or even fashioning dainty articles of use and beauty; the women who cannot be tied to a rolling pin or a crochet needle, who have nothing in common with recipes or worsteds. These must look for their sphere of usefulness outside of the Woman's Exchange.

If they are of an artistic turn, there is the Decorative Art Society ready to receive specimens of their skill. One need not be either a finished or trained artist to successfully decorate saleable articles. There is one opening to young women in our city to which I have never seen any reference in the papers—that is the decorating department in the Chesapeake Pottery. While visiting the pottery with some friends a few weeks ago, my attention was particularly drawn to the room full of well-bred looking girls, whose deft fingers gave the finishing touches to the beautiful wares turned out in such abundance from this factory. I have been told that the part done by these girls is very simple and rapidly done, as the decorative figures and patterns are stamped on the porcelain, after which the lady decorators put in the shading with mineral paints before the articles are placed in the great kilns for firing. A certain amount is paid for each piece decorated, so the receipts of the day depend largely upon the efforts of those doing the work. It seems that notwithstanding its inconvenient location, not a few girls of excellent social standing have passed many days in the decorating room here. Conspicuous among these was Miss Fannie Haynes, daughter of the owner of the pottery, who, it will be remembered, designed a vase which took the hundred dollar prize at

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So far I have not heard of one in Baltimore, where there undoubtedly is an excellent opening awaiting some energetic woman who has not the aversion to shopping characteristic of most of her sex. The professional shopper in New York fills orders for persons residing out of the city in any part of the country; she will also receive city orders. She attends to every detail, and charges a small commission to both the customer and the merchant. The merchants are glad enough to allow her a reduction in the goods to secure her patronage, while the party for whom she is buying is willing to pay the trifling commission for the sake of the comfort and convenience to herself. Most persons who live at a distance from the city impose this laborious task of shopping on some uncomplaining friend or relative in town, without realizing what an imposition it becomes when the orders increase and multiply, as they sometimes do. No doubt it seems a trifling request to the party off in the country who sends the list to be filled, but it does not so impress the city friend, who must tire herself out to get the things just right and in time to ship by the next boat or train, as is invariably the instruction. Let us hope, for the sake of our city cousins, that a professional shopper will soon announce herself in our midst, for she will be even more of a blessing to them than to the country friends who need her services many times a year.

These are but a few of the ways in which intelligent untrained women can earn money, for as my time draws to an end many other practical suggestions crowd into my mind, but I will have to leave them unmentioned until another day.

THE BRACELET IN HISTORY.

Saul Wore One When He Died—Different Styles—Very Ancient.

[From the Chicago News.]

The history of the bracelet is a chapter of the history of coquetry. It is one of the most ancient of jewels. Among the Israelites the gold bracelet was used alike by the two sexes; when Juda encounters Tamar the latter asks in exchange for favors his staff, his ring, and his bracelet. When Saul had perished by his own sword a warrior despoiled him of the bracelets with which his arms were covered. "For the construction of the tabernacle," it is said in the Exodus, both men and woman offered their jewelry, among which were quantities of rich bracelets.

The Greeks and Romans also wore bracelets, says the *Jewelers' Circular*. After a time the latter abstained from wearing them daily; they were conferred as a mark of distinction, as a souvenir of some great act, and the possessor guarded them consequently as glorious decorations, and contented himself with suspending them upon his breast on days of ceremony and triumph in the same