

**APROPOS OF WOMEN  
AND THEATRES.  
WITH A PAPER OR TWO  
ON PARISIAN TOPICS**

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Apropos of women and theatres. With a paper or two on Parisian topics by Olive Logan

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**OLIVE LOGAN**

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Harper's Monthly Magazine,	Chapters	XII, XIII.
Putnam's Monthly Magazine,	"	XIV.
Lippincott's Magazine,	"	XV.
Packard's Monthly,	"	I, II, X.
The Galaxy,	"	VIII, IX.

## THE PREFACE.

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SOMETIMES I am in earnest, and sometimes I am in fun.

The difficulty, my friends say, is to know when I am in earnest,—in what I write, of course.

I answer: I am in earnest when what I write is on the *side of The Right*.

When I say anything that does not receive your approval, you will at once conclude that I am in fun.

If you run across a pun anywhere, you will of course be animated with a Johnsonian degree of displeasure. There's the test of it. I am in fun then.

If, apropos of woman's rights, I say it is not my nature to carp — or to fish of any kind — for faults in the other sex: that's in fun.

If, apropos of politics, the remark being in order that consistency is a jewel, I should say that the

consistency of most politicians is gift-jewelry: that's in fun.

If I should remark, apropos of the interference of noisy man at woman's meetings, that there is an old adage about two men he cooks spoiling the broth: that's in fun.

But if I say anything straightforward, steadfast and true, apropos of virtue, honor, decency, intelligence, industry, and THE RIGHT, be very sure that then I am profoundly in earnest. Then I mean exactly what I say, and will stand by it just so long as I believe it, without much regard to anything but the value of Truth.

OLIVE LOGAN.

AUTHORS' UNION, 164 PEARL STREET,  
NEW YORK, JUNE, 1889.





## APROPOS OF WOMEN AND THEATRES.

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### I.

#### ABOUT US.

**B**Y US, I mean ourselves, of course,—  
women.

It is the fashion to write about Us, and it is the fashion for us to write about ourselves; but is it the fashion for other people to read what we write, or what others write about Us?

I mean, of course, on the GREAT SUBJECT,—our political, mental, moral, social, physical, and general advancement.

Anything else that is written about women, particularly if it be anything scandalous or disgraceful, is eagerly perused.

I have watched men narrowly at all sorts of

public places — in the railway cars, in the omnibuses, on the boats — and I have generally observed that when there is an article in the paper about Women's Rights, men skip it quickly, and turn the newspaper inside out.

But if it is some trifling story, derogatory to the dignity of woman, or some stupid scandal about a flirtation, or some hideous relation of conjugal shame, they pore over it as if the reading of it were one of the chief duties of the day.

The fact is, that the woman question is one of those vexed ones for which it is difficult to find a satisfactory answer, which is yet hard to get around, and which is yet again apt to become prosy.

It is the negro in a white face — and petticoats.

But, if the men of our country were able to swallow the black man, I think it a wonder, indeed, if they can't get the white woman at least as far as their lips.

The mistake — or so it seems to me — of most ladies who advocate the "rights" of their sex, and also of most gentlemen who advocate the same for them, is, that their arguments are put

forward in too indignant and aggressive a manner.

The result is, an indignant and aggressive reception of them by *les autres*.

I don't wonder at all (between ourselves) that these ladies are indignant and aggressive. (*Aside.*) But, dears, let's wheedle; you see we are not strong enough to knock them down, and in some respects they *are* useful, so let's gain our point by

COAXING!

Gentlemen, sweet gentlemen, amiable gentlemen, here is the woman question again.

At least, here is one woman's question:

Won't you please, like good darlings as you are, (ugh!) allow us the privilege of supporting ourselves?

Or will *you* support Us?

No, thank you, I don't mean just your own wives, and daughters, and sisters, and mothers.

I mean, will you set aside a fund for the support of the promiscuous female, so that she may not ask to vote any more, nor to enter any profession more elevated than the sewing-machinist's?