normally mean making her own clothes – "On a dress allowance even of £20 per annum I think there is little or no room for dressmakers' bills" (1883). Some girls might receive £5 a year with the responsibility of buying only their own boots and gloves.

Among the well-to-do, of course, were some girls who were given very substantial allowances, even as much as £100, but these would have been a very small minority. The usual age of "coming out" for a girl in society was eighteen, and although only those readers in the upper reaches could expect to be presented at Court, articles on the subject appeared from time to time and dealt in detail with every aspect of the ordeal, from walking backwards when wearing a four-yard train, to the number of plumes worn in the hair.

When a girl "put up her hair", it was a sign that she was growing up, and readers wrote to ask at what age this would be proper. "Girls usually put up their hair at about sixteen," the Editor replied to ESMERELDA in 1883. A few weeks later, NAPOLI was told, "Your hair should be turned at eighteen. It would look like a silly attempt to make a child of you for you to wear it down your back later than that." But many of the poorer girls, of course, wore their hair up in a bun, or tucked away under a cap, much sooner than that. They often left their Voluntary or Board schools before entering their teens (not until 1918 was it illegal to leave before the age of fourteen) to earn their own living; and for them the price of their weekly *Girl's Own Paper* represented no small sum. Nanette Mason, in the grim little feature *How Working Girls Live in London*, wrote;

> The average weekly earning of girls engaged in labour of all kinds cannot be more, it has been estimated, than ten shillings.… No wonder that many of them look as if they never had a luxury in their lives. [1888]

But for the girl seeking to improve herself and her lot, the *Girl's Own Paper* must have been reckoned a good pennyworth. It is worth noticing that, in the budget for a ten-shillings-a-week girl suggested in the above-mentioned article, two pence is allocated "if she belongs, as we will hope" to a trade union. The feature, which ran through a number of issues, ended with the statement:

> Were wages raised many good results would follow.… We are confident that a better day than was ever seen before has, in our time, dawned, though it may not yet shine brightly on our sisters, the working girls of this country.

By far the greater number of poor girls went into domestic service, and the *G.O.P.* encouraged this, feeling that young women were safer employed in private homes than in factories or shops. A thirteen-year-old maidservant might start her career at £5 a year, rising later to £12 or perhaps £18. The factory girl's wages averaged £21 to £34 per annum; the shopgirl's slightly more. An article entitled *Bar Maids and Waitresses in Restaurants, Their Work and Temptations* in an 1896 issue gave the average wage of these workers as from 5s. to 10s. a week (£13 to £26 a year), "subject to a charge of from 7d. to 9d. per week for breakages"; hours worked were often twelve to fourteen – and sometimes up to seventeen – a day. An assistant teacher in an elementary school might receive £50 a year, while a Post Office clerk or a trained book-keeper could earn between £65 and £80.

Far right: the opening of a short anonymous feature, A Contrast, *from June 12, 1880. This drives home a favourite* G.O.P. *lesson. The heedless girls who deliberately order their hall dresses at the shortest possible notice care nothing for the overworked girls at the dressmaker's, among them poor Mary, who collapses from exhaustion, and dies in her sleep.*

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THE Misses Saunders were entertaining a select party of four of their intimate friends at afternoon tea. It was a cold bleak day in December, and without the wind was raging and howling, and fiercely driving before it the flakes of thick-falling snow.

It was the sort of day that makes you gather round the warm fire and feel thankful for the shelter of home.

The force of contrast made the cosy sitting-room where the girls were assembled all the more cheerful and inviting. It was a tastefully furnished apartment, abounding in the dead greens and black furniture so fashionable at present, and bountifully supplied with low easy chairs, which the girls had grouped round the hearth, where a glorious fire was blazing, lighting up the room, which was growing dark in the early December twilight.

Miss Saunders—familiarly called Gracie—presided at the little gipsy table, with its silver urn and tea equipage, while Lucia, her younger sister, handed cake and cups of tea to their guests.

They were all pretty stylish girls, but Gracie and Lucia were strikingly handsome, and both dressed in the extreme of fashion "got up regardless of expense" as the others declared.

"I am sure it will be an extremely pleasant evening," Lucia was saying, going on with the subject which had been occupying the little party for the last half hour.

"Sure to be," assented the dark-eyed girl she addressed. "The Brownlows always do manage that sort of thing well. What are you going to wear, Gracie?"

Gracie turned round from her duties of teamaker with a merry laugh. "Don't you wish you may know, Carrie?" she answered; "but I'm not going to tell you. Last time we were at the Brownlows, Clarice got to know that I was going to wear pink, and then the dear good-natured creature wore red herself, and would insist on keeping close to my side all the evening, in an apparently affectionate way, but in reality because she wanted her red dress to kill my pink one. Then another time when I had ordered the dresses for Lucia and myself, what did Charlotte French do but steal the idea, and then appear at the same place in a dress exactly like ours, just for all the world as if a dozen had been made to order. I'm not going to give either of them a chance again; so Lucia and I have held a solemn conclave and have decided what we will wear, but we are not even going to give the order to Madam Robertson until two days before, by which time, I should hope, both Clarice and Charlotte will have made their own arrangements."

"That's not at all a bad idea," replied the girl who had spoken before. "It's awfully annoying to find one's ideas appropriated by some one else. But won't it be rather a hurry for you to get the things in time?"

"Oh no," answered Gracie carelessly. "Madam Robertson is very good, and always manages to let us have what we want by the time we name, and she never makes a misfit."

"But, Gracie," ventured, in a very gentle voice, a fair-haired girl, sitting on the hearthrug, holding a screen of peacock's feathers to shield her face from the fire. "Do you think it is *quite* considerate—I don't mean so much for Madam herself, as for the workgirls she employs? Mamma tells me that the poor things are sometimes almost worked to death because people give such short notices, and she always makes me give as long a one as I can conveniently."

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Above: The Wards of St Margaret's, *by Sister Joan, a serial from 1894, follows the heroine, Constance, through thirty years of nursing, to end her career in spinster contentment sharing a cottage with her friend Hope.*

Requests from readers for advice on their careers were frequent, and the replies always well informed:

KATHLEEN. – Twenty-five is the earliest age to be admitted to several of the most important London hospitals, but in some institutions girls are accepted as probationers at twenty-one. Paid probationers usually receive £10 or salary the first year, with board, lodging and uniform; but many girls nowadays are glad to pay £13 13s. for their training as the competition among would-be nurses is severe. [1896]

CATHERINE L. – Uniform of a hospital nurse is provided. Of underclothing, supply yourself with as much as you can afford, when of sufficient age to be eligible, which you are not till past twenty-one, even in a children's hospital. The usual age is twenty-five – very young people are liable to catch disease. [1896]

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Above: The Marriage Settlement, *from the title page of the issue for September 1, 1894.*

The stage as a career was emphatically discouraged by the G.O.P., which frequently warned readers against the awful dangers awaiting girls in the theatre:

> Once on the stage, those wishing to leave it and live religious lives find much prejudice from prospective employers. [1884]

Too often an "educated" girl faced with the need to support herself thought no further than a post as companion or governess. A reader signing herself DESPONDENT wrote in 1896:

> My father has died, and our comfortable home must be broken up. 1 am told that I may have £30 a year, but this is not enough to live upon. Could I become a companion?

She received the Editor's reply:

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> Situations as companion arc much harder to find than girls seem to imagine. They depend largely on private influence. Ladies take as companions girls of whose qualities they already know something. We cannot blame them for this. If there are any friends of your family who might avail themselves of your services, by all means make your wish known to them. But failing this, we earnestly recommend you to spend some portion of your money in learning a business; what this business should be we cannot suggest until we know your tastes and abilities. But think over matters, and then please give us some idea of your preferences, when we will with pleasure advise you more fully.

Governessing was a career which, although on the decline, still attracted a good many girls – though not all qualified, as a reply to one poor aspirant showed:

> You seem to think that we keep a registry office. You are not sufficiently educated to take a place as nursery governess. You cannot write; and do not express yourself properly. [1894]

An article in 1884 dealt with *The Duties of a Governess*:

> From the time the governess enters a house it should be her grand aim to win her pupils' love.… Continual fault-finding is too trying to a child's patience.

But the governess's patience, too, had long been sorely tried – and for such young women every year brought new options on to the horizon.

In 1888 came The Type-Writer and Type-Writing:

> Just now the type-writer is attracting considerable attention; and though its use in England is far from being so general as in the United States, we feel quite safe in prophesying that even in our comparatively conservative land, for many purposes the pen will be in a few years superseded by this ingenious machine.… Type-writing is doing much, and will do more, towards solving the problem of finding suitable employment for ladies, it being an occupation peculiarly fitted for their nimble fingers. In the United States, lady type-writists are a large and important body, commanding good salaries, and as the instrument comes into general use in this country, ladies who have learnt to work it will have no difficulty in finding remunerative employment, especially if, in addition, they can write short-hand.

The *Girl's Own Shorthand Class* series of articles began in 1892:

> The only requisites are Pitman's sixpenny "Phonographic Teacher", which can be got through any bookseller, a fine-pointed pen or pencil – not too hard to run easily over the paper, or too soft to make a delicate yet firm stroke – some ruled paper (say an old copybook), and a little patience.

Young Women as Journalists appeared in 1891:

> Supposing the young woman to be mistress of all necessary accomplishments, she will still have to decide whether it would be quite seemly for an unprotected girl to travel about London or a great town in the evening until after midnight. The work also has to be done in all kinds of weather. We have seen such a girl at her work, and one who was apparently well fitted for what she was about; but we sympathised with her in regard to the hardships of her lot while we could not but admire her courage. As things are at present, the girl reporter has to assume a bold mien when, with her notebook, she takes her place at a table among perhaps a dozen men, on whose province she is encroaching. It is not an occupation which tends to the development of feminine graces; and this will be as fully realised by the girl herself as by those with whom she comes in contact.…

Far right: The Tennis Players, *written by Sydney Grey and illustrated by Everard Hopkins, October 13, 1883.*

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But an aspiring and talented young woman need not turn her back on journalism because she does not choose to compete with ordinary reporters.… Reporting is only one branch of the profession.… Many accomplished journalists have never been reporters.… A great deal of the most effective work on our newspapers has been done by women; and, could it be told, the public would today be surprised to learn how much of the total is still done by them.

In *A Chat With a Girl Photographer* in January, 1901, the subject of the interview was a Miss Edmonds who had started as a "receptionist and shopwoman" with a Kensington photographer, and worked her way up until she had her own studio. Still a young woman, she attributed the success of her business to her up-to-date ideas:

The monstrosities which make up the usual photographers' "accessories" arc-conspicuous by their absence.… Balconies and pedestals, and pictorial backgrounds, with impossible perspectives, find no place here.

Some interesting figures on women in work were given in reply to a correspondent in 1894:

A BREAD EARNER. – We can give you statistics respecting the number of self-supporting women for the year 1892. There are 288,919 in the United Kingdom who are following various professions; 26,344 engaged in commercial business; and in our various industries and manufactures 2,027,899 more. These are all unconnected with those engaged in domestic duties. In Germany half a million more women are thus earning their living than those in our own country; and in Austria, France and Italy fewer earn their living than is the case here. Altogether, the number of women thus employed exceeds that of men by four and a half millions.

If prospects of advancement for the working girl were poor, those for women aiming for professional careers were brightening. In the field of higher education, major advances had been made. In 1884 the *G.O.P.* published *Education for Women at Oxford*, dealing with the question of admitting women to the University examinations, which was one so vigorously argued that a special train was chartered to bring from London all those who would vote in favour of the ladies. The article ended:

Some twenty years hence, when it has become a commonplace event for women to enter for these examinations, we shall look back with interest and amusement on the great struggle and the triumphant victory of the champions for the Higher Education of Women.

Despite this victory, Sophia F. A. Caulfeild had need to write tartly in 1894:

The justice and magnanimity which would show "honour to whom honour is due" … is not always found equal to the occasion when it involves the granting of a degree.… St Andrew's, and the London Universities, and those of Chicago, Pennsylvania, Brown and Tufts, and Yale, stand by themselves in their fair-dealing with women scholars, admitting them to all their privileges and honours.… Only the other day the Royal Geographical Society refused the admission of women as Fellows, when at least Isabella Bird (Mrs Bishop) and Mrs French Sheldon might certainly have been regarded as well qualified for such an honorary distinction, and both ladies very worthy successors of the wonderful Ida Pfeiffer.

(Ida Pfeiffer [1797–1858] had been the subject of an article, *A World-Wide Traveller*, in an 1885 issue.)

Far left: the title page of The Girl's Own Annual, *1886–1887, drawn by Kate Greenaway. A reproduction of her drawing* Afternoon Tea, *with its characteristic blend of freshness and formality, was one of the presentation colour plates in the same volume. When she died in 1901, the* G.O.P. *published an appreciation.*

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THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER.

"WOMAN'S RIGHTS."

By HELEN MARION BURNSIDE.

Oh, those boasted "rights of women,"—
Rights, of which so much is said!
Yet what are they?—Can you tell me,
Wedded wife, or learned maid?
'Tis a vexed and vexing question,
Which I fain would understand,
Often asked, but never answered,
Oh, my sisters in the land!

In the days lang syne, I'm thinking,
Hearts were just as brave and true;
Woman's work was never wanting
For a woman's hand to do.
'Twas our privilege and duty
To shed light on Earth's dark ways,
Though we never talked, or dreamed of
"Woman's rights" in those old days!

Ah! lang syne, lang syne, my sisters,
There were women standing by
When the Saviour's feet went toiling
Up the steeps of Calvary.
Women soothed the pain and anguish
Of those hours, so dread and dim;
Theirs the right, so sweet, yet awful,
E'en to minister to Him!

Such sweet rights are ours for ever,
Oh, my sisters in the land!
Rights of ministry and mercy,
To be wrought with heart and hand.
Think you that those "rights" you talk of—
Make them whatsoe'er you please—
Can be deemed more honour-worthy,
Or more high and dear than these?

Above: a poem by Helen Marion Burnside, whose verses frequently appeared in the magazine (January 7, 1893).

Not all contributors, however, were so enthusiastic on the subject. In *The Vocations of Men and Women* (1890), the Reverend Dr Tremlett complained:

> There are some who wish … to convert this gentle, yielding, believing mind into the hard, unyielding, reluctant mind of a man. And when they have done it, what then? Have they raised the nature of woman? Nay, have they not rather lowered and perverted it? Depend upon it, man cannot alter what God has designed, and surely it is both unreasonable and unchristian to attempt it.

The gentle, yielding reader was advised in *Thoughts on the Higher Education of Women* by A Man in 1891:

> The subjects to be avoided, save in an elementary manner, are mathematics, and possibly science – certainly, however, the former. The subjects most to be encouraged are classics and history. These two widen and refine, while the tendency of mathematics for women is to make them narrow, and creatures of only one idea.… Depend upon it, ladies, the judgment of the Cambridge undergraduate represents fairly the judgment of English manhood upon your sex; and if there is anything he hates and ridicules, it is a masculine, unwomanly woman.… He wants to find sympathy in his pursuits – true womanly sympathy; a helpmate, not a lady who understands differential and integral calculus, who will discourse learnedly and drearily upon one everlasting subject.

Despite objections such as these, the attitude of the magazine was in general encouraging – although early articles inclined to the traditionally "ladylike". *On Earning One's Living – Fruitful Fields for Honest Labour* in 1880 suggested sculpture in wood, engraving on wood, designing patterns, china-painting, book-binding, painting on panels, mosaic work, flower-making, frame-making and gilding, repoussé brass-work, sewing and millinery, kindergarten teaching, teaching deaf-mutes, dispensing medicine, reporting and short-hand writing, law copying, nursing, painting in water-colours, and oil painting. But in 1883 appeared a series entitled *Work for All*, in the first article of which the anonymous author wrote:

Far right: an illustration to verses by William Luff:

"Am I a lily growing?
Standing still in the light?
Drinking ever the dews of Heaven
All through the darkest night?"

(October 4, 1890).

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