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エリス夫人著作集：
ヴィクトリア朝初期の家庭生活指南書
THE EARLY VICTORIAN CONDUCT BOOKS
OF MRS ELLIS

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19世紀前半のイギリス中流階級に強い影響力のあった女性向け指南書

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「家庭の天使」指南書か「亭主操縦法」か?

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『イングランドの女たち』(1839年)は、ヴィクトリア初期の代表的な女性向け指南書である。「女たち(women)」という言葉が示すように、著者セーラ・スティックニー・エリス(1799-1872)の対象としたのは上流の「レディ」ではなく、産業化の波に乗り富を蓄えた商工業者や下層専門職の家庭の女性たちであった。新興の不安定な立場にあるこの階層を対象とした指南書は多いが、なかでも同書は出版後たちまち大成功をおさめ、24版を重ねている。エリスは続けて同書の主張をより詳細に記した『イングランドの娘たち』、『イングランドの妻たち』、『イングランドの母たち』の3冊を出版した。今回復刻されるのは、この4点である。女性に良妻賢母として男性への服従するよう説くエリスの著作は、エリス自身の姉妹をも憤慨させたといわれ、その後もフェミニストの間では不評であった。しかし現在、フェミニズムの「読み直し」が盛んに行われ、これまで軽視されてきた保守層の主張や著作にも目が向けられている。エリスの著作も、新たな目で読み直すときではないだろうか。

一連の指南書では、女性が社会的にも法的にも男性に劣ることが繰り返し強調されるが、一方で家庭に閉じこもることで世俗的誘惑に晒されない女性は、道徳的な優位性を得るとされる。家庭が神聖視され、女性の家庭への「囲い込み」が起こったこの時期、エリスは男性と女性との領域の区分を支持する立場から、女性の立場の強化を図ったともいわれる。この立場は、自分の主張に女王による統治と帝国拡大という時代性とも巧みに結びつけられる。『イングランドの妻たち』は新婚のヴィクトリア女王に献上されたが、誕生したばかりの若き女王は、その道徳性と家庭性により、とりわけエリスが対象とする中流階級に圧倒的な支持を受けた。エリスはイギリスという国家の道徳的特性を称賛すると同時に、女性をその源と位置づけ、帝国の未来に家庭内における女性の道徳的影響力が持つ意味を強調した。こうした時代を生きる女性キリスト教徒として「義務」を果たすため、女子教育を改善する必要も強調される。

女性の場として家庭を礼賛し男性への服従を説きながら、著者エリスは、実はかなり独立心の強い女性であったようである。裕福なクエイカー教徒の家庭に生まれ、当時の女性としては恵まれた教育を受けている。父親の財政悪化に伴い、反奴隷制や禁酒をテーマとした文筆で身を立てるが、宗教的・道徳的作品の範疇に留まりながらも「売れ

る」作品を心がけていたようである。その後、会衆派牧師ウィリアム・エリスと結婚。一連の著作での知名度を活かして非宗派の女子校経営にも乗り出した。晩年に夫妻が移り住んだ屋敷は、ほとんど彼女の稼ぎで購入したものであった。

こうしたエリスのビジネスウーマンとしての顔を考慮すると、指南書も顔面通りには受け取れまい。当時の『パンチ』誌は、エリスの指南書を「男性操縦法」と読んでこよう揶揄する。「男性陣が私たち女性の弱さと呼んでいる点は、我々の最大の強みです。夫にあなたが世にも繊細

PUNCH, OR THE L

PUNCH'S COMPLETE LETTER-WRITER

LETTER XXXV.

FROM A MATRON TO A NEWLY-MARRIED YOUNG LADY, ON THE TREATMENT OF A HUSBAND.



MY DEAR CLARIBEL,

Your honeymoon being over, I feel it my duty—as, indeed, it will be my pleasure—to instruct you in the serious purposes of marriage. I have had my trials, my dear, in what is called the blessed state, and could if I chose write this letter in the tears of widowhood. Three times have I been bereft of the tenderest of husbands—for every one of the dear men was really so—and now am I left like the lonely dove, to murmur alone. I have, however, this satisfaction, to know that I managed them all to my heart's content, whilst they—dear, simple lambs!—believed they managed me.

Men in their extreme ignorance call us the weaker sex. The weaker sex! When—and they know it—we can pull and play with their hearts'-strings as little children play with toy harlequins. However, never disabuse them of the fond conceit. Our weakness, as they are pleased to call it, is our best strength. Continue to make your husband think you the most delicate of creatures, and he will treasure you accordingly. We all of us seem pretty well to know and follow out this truth in days of courtship, but forget it almost as soon as the clerk has said amen. This, my dear girl, is the great error of our sex: it is this that makes wife the slave and husband the master. Now it has ever been my plan to perpetuate the privilege that courtship gives us, throughout every day of wedlock. And very properly. What! is your lap-dog that obediently fetches and carries—is he suddenly to refuse to obey you, and only because you have put a collar round his neck, and hold him by the ring of a chain at your third finger? Therefore, my dear, let your nerves be always delicate: hence, your husband will treasure you like a precious piece of china. Be foolish enough to appear robust, and, on the contrary, you will have no more care bestowed upon you than a red clay pipkin.

There are, I know, brutes in the human form, not to be deceived; but your husband is, I trust, not of them. As a girl, I remember a monster of the sort. My own dear mother—from whom, let me confess it, I learned many precious lessons—she made as much as



にできていると思わせ続けなさい。そうすれば大事にしてくれるでしょう(Punch, vol. 7, 1844)」（※編集部注：下記⇒部分参照）。実際、言葉のうえではへりくだっているものの、男性に対するエリスのまなざしは、かなり「上から目線」である。既婚女性には法的・経済的人格が認められず、財産は持参金も結婚後に自分が稼いだものも含めてすべて夫のもの。ミドルクラスの女性には就ける職種も限られ、夫には妻を監禁する権利さえある——こうした状況下で「うまくやっていく」にはどうしたらよいか。エリスのテーマはこの辺りにあったのかもしれない。

LOVE OF MARRIED LIFE. 183

In connection with this subject, there is one consideration to which I do not wish to allude. It is seldom given; and that is, the importance of never trifling with affection after the joyful hour is dead. To do this at any time, or in any way, is scarcely consistent with the feelings of a deeply sensitive and delicate mind; but leaving the display of superior courtship, it cannot be too deeply impressed upon the female mind, that with the days of courtship is the most end.

There are innumerable tests which might be applied to the love of married life, so as to ascertain the degree of its intensity, or the progress of its decline; but who would wish to make so critical an experiment? If there be any cause for its existence, the consciousness never sees enough, that the wife is not all to her husband which the flattering promises of early love prepared her to expect; and if there be no cause for the slightest shadow of suspicion that her star is beginning to set down, why trouble her own repose, and that of her husband, by questioning the reality of what it would be worse than death to doubt?

All testing, all spying, all acting for the purpose of receiving an agreeable effect, are therefore fatal to the love of married life.

How often have I seen a restless, weary, discontented being, craving from dawn to dusk, finding comfort in noise, and tired of every employment; with contracted and uneasy brow, complexion dry and gray, and eyes that looked as if their very vision was scorched up. How often have I seen such a being come in from a winter's walk, with the countenance of a perfect Hebe, and the energy of an invigorated mind, bearing forth from eyes an beautiful as clear, and with the homeliness of a young warm heart reflected in the dimpling freshness of a sunny smile. How pleasant is it then to remain the half-finished work—how refreshing the social meal—how inviting the seat beside the glowing hearth—how frank and free the intercourse with those who form the circle there! And if such be the effect of one single walk, how beneficial must be that of habitual exercise, upon the condition both of mind and body!

Were it possible for human calculation to sum up all the evils resulting from want of exercise, the catalogue would be too appalling. All these disorders which in common parlance, and for want of a more definite and scientific name, are called biliousness—and, truly, these evils in legions—are mainly to be attributed to this cause. All headaches, want of appetite, pains under the shoulders, colds, cold

LONDON CHARIVARI.

after poked the fire as if the poker was really his own. And this is as it should be.

Hence, my dear girl, cultivate your nerves: you can't pet 'em too much. Something will always be happening in the house,—and unless your husband be worse than a stone,—every new fright will be as good as a new gown or a new trinket to you. There are some domestic wounds only to be healed by the jeweller.

I don't advise you not to love your husband very much,—but never show the abundance of it. How men impose upon what I call a superfluity of affection, it is dreadful to think of! No; there is a decent sort of tenderness—a sort of tepid love—that is the safest. It never permits a wife to commit herself; it never shows to the man that he is supreme in her affections, and so enables him to sport with them. However, do not let him think himself indifferent to you: certainly not; at least, let the poor man have the benefit of the doubt.

In the slightest case of sisterly frailty, be all indignation. It is the very easiest and cheapest way of airing your own excessive goodness. Now and then, too, you can—with great pain to yourself, of course—hazard suspicions of some of your acquaintance. Suspicion, skilfully used, is an excellent thing. Like a little dust of rouge, if very tenderly laid on, it throws out in fine relief the natural beauty of the wearer. Rouge is a darling little fib, that lies, as somebody says, like truth—and so, I take it, is if properly applied, a slight suspicion. They may both colour false modesty.

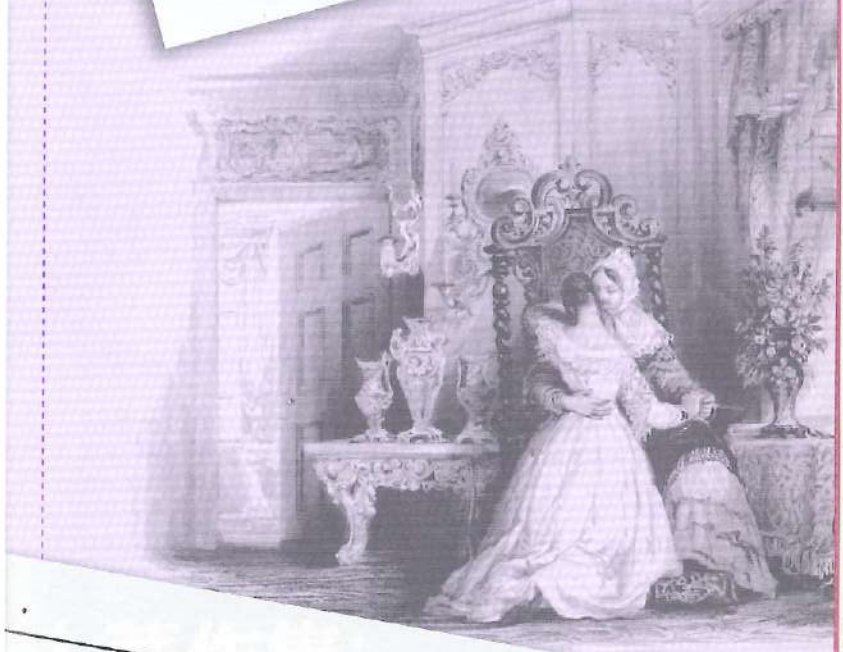
There is, too, a sort of side-wind way that will enable you at once to please and tease your husband. Jealousy—that is, a happy affection of the passion—is a wonderful weapon in a skilful hand. Therefore, when walking with the poor man, declare that he looks at every woman he meets, and sulk accordingly. Sometimes, however, vary the accusation, and declare that every woman he meets looks at him. From this assumed fact, you can make any deductions, and endeavour in a torrent of words to declare how very, very miserable you ought to be. The man, of course, must think himself dear to you, or wherefore such fantastic jealousy! He must feel, though with a feeling of wretchedness, that you love him; or wherefore show the love with so much misery to him? Does not puss love the live yet wounded mouse she bites and scratches!

Again, as to temper, never let it be certain. Husbands—I know them—presume upon evenness of temper. No, let your husband feel that he is never safe. He will accordingly be gentle, watchful, in this manner. Hence, be at times in the most exuberant spirits; and then, with a thought—at some unconscious look of your husband, some playful word—have a mute tongue, and brows of threatening thunder. In your very gayest moments, let your helpmate feel as if he is called upon to admire some curious gun—very beautiful, but to be most carefully handled, lest it go off, and destroy him.

If your husband wishes for music, declare you have a sudden headache, and add this, he ought to have seen as much, and not have asked you. If, on the contrary, he has a book, or would doze by the fire, immediately play the "Battle of Prague," with all the cannon accompaniments.

If he wish you to go out with him, say he always asks you when he knows you can't go; and then, on the contrary, desire that he shall take you to the opera or play, when you are well aware that he has some previous engagement.

On this point, too, be particularly obdurate. When your husband goes out with a likelihood of returning home late, insist upon sitting up for him. He may urge, that he can take the key; that, in fact, it will annoy him to keep anybody from their bed. Meet all this with a cold, decisive assurance, that you will sit up for him. If he come home late, what a delicious triumph for you! There you are, my love—I always was—in your nightcap and wrapt in three shawls, making up yourself for the picture of a very much wronged woman.



PUNCH, OR THE LONDON CHARIVARI.

—she sat up guarding the fire-
vouch it. The fire went out; it
triumph, only known to such a
nforting herself that "They'd

n only a few hints; but I can
nd you worthy of my teaching.

our affectionate friend,
TABITHA TALONS.

I.
SWER.

ny husband should leave
availing myself of your
hey could not but very

YOURS &C.,
CLARIBEL SMITH.

PUNCH, OR THE LONDON CHARIVARI.

THE COMIC BLACKSTONE.

CHAPTER THE THIRTEENTH.—OF TITLE BY OCCUPANCY.

INCE we began writing the present elaborate we
we have made it a rule never to sit down to
fresh chapter without reading through the whole
the Statutes at Large, to see what the law originally
was; and we then turn to the recent acts to see
what the law is on the subject we are about
to treat of.

Title by occupancy appears to have been a
sort of title that a man acquires to a place in the
pit of a theatre, which he takes by the mere act of
jumping into it. We had arrived at this conclu-
sion when we lighted on the 29th Car. II., c. 3;
and we gradually kept reading up to the 14th
of Geo. II., when, having got as far as chapter
20, we discovered that the title of common occu-
pancy is utterly extinct and abolished. We there-
fore considered it useless to put the match to that
mine of learning with which we were ready to explode, and batter away
the barriers to legal knowledge, for, as title by occupancy was semi-
abolished by the 29th Car. II., and received the finishing blow from the
14th of Geo. II., it is not quite consistent with the plan of this work
to say anything more upon the subject.

In accordance, however, with the quaint practices of the old law-writers,
we feel justified in beginning to talk about something else when we find
there is nothing to be said about the matter which nominally forms the
subject of our chapter. We, therefore, rush precipitately from title by
occupancy to the consideration of islands rising in the middle of seas and
rivers. These belong to the king, if they start up suddenly, like ghosts
through stage traps; but if they collect together by slow and insensible
title degrees, like the building of the Nelsons, or the gradual accretion
owner of the land adjoining. In some cases, however, the title belongs to
sometimes belongs to the crown.

本・書・に・つ・い・て

エリス夫人 (Sarah Stickney Ellis, 1799-1872) は、様々な種類の著作を多く残した人物ですが、その中で最も影響力のあったものとして、中流家庭における女性の役割を示した一連の指南書が挙げられるでしょう。

その中でも、指南書として初めて書いた *The Women of England* (1839) はすぐに好評を得て、続けて関連書3点を1842年から43年にかけて出版しています (*The Daughters of England*, *The Wives of ~*, *The Mothers of ~*)。これら4タイトルが今回復刻出版されます。産業発展に伴って力をつけてきた新興ブルジョワジー層に向けて書かれたこれらの著作は、ミドルクラスの家の内外での女性のあり方について論議を呼び起こすきっかけとなった著作であり、当時の

「女性問題」考察の場に極めて意義深い関わりを持つものです。保守的な立場から「家庭」が重要視され、そこで女性が手にする高い道徳性が強調されて、特に1840年代から50年代にかけて強い影響力を持ち続けました。生活する上で実際に考えなければならない細々とした生活手法に絞り込んで実践的に書かれている点も特徴で、アメリカでも広く刊行されました。このように、本復刻書は、ヴィクトリア朝初期の女性像の解明を目指す研究者にとって重要な資料です。

この「エリス夫人」著作集は、1843年に刊行されたuniform editionを底本としています。

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